

Malmesbury Area Board 10 November 2010

Mobile Phone Safety

Immobilise, the UK national property register, are running a scheme to help protect your mobile phone and other property in the future. Please visit their website, www.immobilise.com, to register your mobile phone for free. This will help Wiltshire Police to recover your property and to catch the thief. If you would like a poster to display or further information about this scheme, please see the Immobilise website.

Awards for Local Volunteers

I am delighted to inform you that two local volunteers from the Malmesbury community area won awards at the first VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) Awards ceremony, organised by Wiltshire Council with NHS Wiltshire last month.

The purpose of the awards was to recognise and celebrate people who have worked on exceptional or innovative schemes that help to transform the lives of people in the county.

The local winners were:

Community leadership: David Sheppard.

David is secretary and chair of Ashton Keynes Village Hall and he has been on the committee since 1987. His volunteer work has ensured the village hall now holds the Hallmark quality status award one and two and he has organised the booking system so that it can now be carried out electronically. He has also set up a website for both the village and the hall, is a member of the local school's PTA and has organised the local annual fireworks display since 1981.

Volunteer of the year: Iona Pinchis

Iona was a carer before she retired and she continues to help people in the community. Her voluntary work includes shopping, collecting medication, cooking lunches and arranging trips for people and fundraising for local groups. Many people rely on her help and one elderly lady would not be able to remain in her own home without Iona's dedication.

Best community initiative nominated by an Area Board.

An additional award was voted on by members of the audience, who were asked to decide which project they wanted to see win the best community initiative nominated by an Area Board. I am delighted that Malmesbury Youth Development Centre Skate Park steering group came second.

Community Area Network (CAN)

Over the last year or so contact details have been collected at meetings to enable local people to be contacted with electronic information about the Area Board and associated activities. Those with only a postal address were contacted in the summer to request an email address if they had it and provided with details as to where paper copies of information about the Area Board could be found. In addition some of the email addresses have either been illegible when provided and so do not work or over time addresses are changed and we are not told. As a result many people who perhaps have requested information do not receive it. If you do not receive information about the Area Board, through the Malmesbury Community Area Network (CAN) or the 'Just a Minute', the 'easy read' version of the Area Board minutes, please send your email details to the Malmesbury Community Area Manager, Miranda Gilmour Miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk

Capacity of the Activity Zone, Malmesbury

Following a question at the Malmesbury Area Board meeting on the 15th September, Wiltshire Council leisure representatives have discussed the capacity levels of the Activity Zone with the operator DC Leisure Management Ltd (DCL) and we can report that the facility is operating within comfortable capacity limits and that there is sufficient spare capacity to cater for growth in all areas of the business. This translates as between approximately 20-25% growth in the fitness area, 25% growth in swimming and around 15% capacity is left available for casual sports hall activities. In addition there is significant capacity in squash as this sport has seen a national decline in usage over the past few years.

The Council's view is in strategic planning terms this represents an acceptable level of usage as there is sufficient capacity for growth when considering future demographic fluctuations but the figures also demonstrate how well used the facility is.

Adverse Winter Weather – Call for Partnership Working

Wiltshire Council is looking to expand its partnership working with the city, town and parish councils should problems be caused by adverse winter conditions.

Wiltshire Council is encouraging local Councils to record their interest in working with us to help provide services during adverse weather conditions. This could involve being a local agent for storing salt, or refilling salt bins, or mechanical salting of footpaths and roads.

This partnership working will help us jointly to provide a better and more extensive coverage at a time when resources will be fully stretched.

The local councils are asked to register their interest via their Community Area Manager before 30 November 2010.

Help Tomorrow Take Shape – The 2011 Census

The 2011 Census is coming:

- The census has collected information about the population every ten years since 1801 (except in 1941). The next census in England and Wales is on 27th March 2011
- The 2011 Census will produce a high quality estimate of the population. It is a count of the people and households in England and Wales. The census is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of Parliament
- Everyone is asked the same questions in order to take a snapshot of the population at one moment in time
- The census tells us how many people live where and the types of people they are, for example whether they are young, old, married, single, etc. This means decisions, like working out who needs facilities in the future, are focused on accurate, relevant details
- You can find out all general information about the census at www.census.gov.uk

The 2011 Census is vitally important for Wiltshire and its communities:

- Census data is used to ensure that all the required local facilities and services needed across Wiltshire can be accurately identified
- Central funding allocation for Wiltshire is heavily influenced by the census data – it is estimated that Wiltshire Council will potentially lose around £500 per person per year for 10 years for every person not counted

What Wiltshire Council and ONS would like local councils to do:

- Publicise and promote the 2011 Census in your community
- Use your expert local knowledge to let us know about potential areas that may be hard to count in your community such as travellers, communes, religious establishments, migrant workers for example
- Promote locally that there are around 250 Census jobs being created across Wiltshire in 2011 and, as well as getting paid, that this is a great opportunity for knowledgeable local people to be part of something that will benefit their

community. You can find out more information and apply for all available jobs at www.censusjobs.co.uk.