



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Briefing for Community Area Board & Localities November 2015

Fire & Rescue Service confirms move to community campus in April 2016

The new Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service will occupy part of the Five Rivers Community Campus in Salisbury, following the signing of a lease with owners Wiltshire Council.

The campus will be home to the Service's 'strategic hub', providing:

- A central workplace for its management team and some support functions;
- A number of flexible working options for the new Service personnel, as part of the wider approach to working across Wiltshire and Dorset; and
- A meeting place for teams, departments and the new Fire Authority.

Darran Gunter, Chief Fire Officer (Designate) for Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Since we started on the road to combination, we have been clear that we would need some sort of central 'hub' in the Salisbury area to serve the new organisation. We are delighted to have reached agreement with Wiltshire Council over the use of Five Rivers, and we can now focus on getting the accommodation ready for 1 April 2016, when the new Service comes into being."

He added: "The costs of establishing the new hub are being met from a Transformation Grant from the Government, which is also covering other set-up costs such as consolidating our ICT systems. It is important to state that the hub is not a new headquarters; we want to change the way that we work, to reflect how we will have staff across two counties, and that means moving away from the traditional structures of the past."

Alongside work to progress the new Salisbury hub, a detailed review of the whole Service estate across Wiltshire and Dorset is underway. As such, no decisions have yet been made about the long-term futures of any existing premises.

Mr Gunter said: "It is important to emphasise that we are still in the process of determining which members of staff might be relocated to Salisbury from other parts of Wiltshire and Dorset. It is not a case of just moving a set of offices from one place to another. As the new organisational structure is agreed, it will become clear which functions will need to be based at the hub and where we will be able to explore alternative ways of working, such home working or focused team office days."

Stay safe this Bonfire Night

With Bonfire Night fast approaching, Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is warning people not to take risks with fireworks.

While most people treat fireworks with respect, a small minority treat them as toys and forget that they are actually explosives. To stay safe this Bonfire Night, always remember the following advice:

- Keep pets indoors and ensure that children are kept safe.
- Make sure that fireworks are kept in a closed box and use them one at a time.
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if necessary.
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators. Be particularly careful if you are anywhere near thatched properties.
- Never put fireworks, even those which are fully spent, on a bonfire.
- Safely dispose of fully spent fireworks.
- Soak misfired or partly spent fireworks in a container of water in an area where they cannot be tampered with (preferably away from the display site) and contact the manufacturer or supplier for advice on disposal.

Bonfires present additional hazards so, if you must light a bonfire in connection with a fireworks display:

- Site well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs, and always away from fireworks.
- Before lighting the fire, check that no pets or children are hiding inside it.
- Build the stack so that it is stable and will not collapse outwards or to one side.
- Never use flammable liquids such as paraffin or petrol to light the fire.
- Don't burn foam-filled furniture, aerosols, paint tins or bottles.
- Keep everyone away from the fire, especially children, who must be supervised all the time.
- In case of emergency, keep buckets of water, the garden hose or a fire extinguisher ready.
- Pour water on the embers before leaving the bonfire.

For further safety advice in the run-up to fireworks night, visit www.wiltsfire.gov.uk/safetyoutdoors

For the latest up-to-date information on fires; operational incidents and community safety advice visit <http://www.wiltsfire.gov.uk>

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