

## **Chairman's Announcements - 19 January 2011**

### **Public Protection Enforcement Policy**

The Public Protection Service is reviewing its enforcement policy, and is seeking views from interested stakeholders.

The policy deals with the entire range of legislation administered by the Public Protection Service covering all environmental health and trading standards powers, as well as any relevant community safety and emergency planning laws.

The policy addresses the practical application of Public Protection enforcement procedures and aims to provide a fair and effective approach to any enforcement action taken by officers of the authority. It seeks that any enforcement action must be compliant with all relevant legislation and guidelines, and must be fair, clear, transparent, consistent and robust.

The draft enforcement policy is on the council's website.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/publicprotection/publicprotectionenforcementpolicy.htm>

### **Waste Consultation Results**

Those of you who attended area boards during the summer will recall the presentations about the council's proposal for changes to Wiltshire's Waste collection and recycling service.

The consultation finished on 20 August 2010. We would to thank all the area boards for their support throughout the consultation period.

There is a report on the full results of the consultation that can be seen on <http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/environment/> . There is a link from the council website or if preferred, hard copies can be made available.

In brief over 10,000 people responded and just over 70% were in favour of the proposal. However the results show that support was varied across the county, with some areas showing a lower level of support.

A report on the consultation was considered by Cabinet on 19 October 2010. Cabinet resolved to go ahead with the proposal, subject to the detail in the Comprehensive Spending Review. In approving the proposal Cabinet acknowledged that support levels varied and that major and targeted communications will be essential to inform and reassure those residents that have concerns.

The proposed service changes are planned for summer 2011, and residents will be kept informed throughout the process. We hope that, as with the consultation, you will continue to work with us as we develop the detailed design of the services and

the programme for service commencement. We will be putting together a plan for communicating the service change roll out which will be relevant for the communities of the individual area boards. We will share this with you all in due course.

### **Local Flood Protection**

In the event of flooding the Council's priority is to the elderly or infirm when assisting people and the protection of commercial property to prevent environmental pollution. Although we will do what we can for affected householders we urge those in areas of risk to take precautions themselves.

In order to help communities protect themselves from flood risk, Wiltshire Council is introducing a scheme to supply gel sacs, these are similar to sandbags but inflate when in contact with water. The sacs are filled with a gel that expands when wet, but when dry they are virtually flat. This means they are simple to store and far easier to distribute in an emergency. They inflate when immersed in water, allowing a protective flood barrier to be built quickly to protect doorways and airbricks. When the flood has abated they can often be emptied, dried and reused.

In some places where there is a known flood risk, the Parish or Town Council may already hold a limited supply of sandbags for distribution in times of emergency, and the gel sacs can be used to augment these supplies.

Local communities are encouraged to appoint a local Flood Warden who can co-ordinate their response and be the main contact with the council's duty officers. Those parish and town councils with flood wardens or local flood working groups can seek advice from them on the numbers of gel sacs likely to be required for specific locations.

Parish and Town Councils will be able to:

- Purchase a stock which they can hold in the community for distribution during a flood event or
- Having identified properties that are at risk, or are known to flood, purchase the gel sacs on behalf of the householders

By buying in bulk Wiltshire Council was able to negotiate a discount which would not be available to individuals. The gel sacs are available to Parish and Town Councils for £2.50 each.

Town and Parish Council's wishing purchase gel sacs should complete and email the attached form to Sarah Peterson ([sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk), telephone 01225 713377).

**COMMUNITY ORDER FOR GEL SACS**

<b>From</b>		<b>Parish/Town Council</b>	
<b>Contact Details</b>			
<b>Name;</b>			
<b>Phone Number:</b>			
<b>E Mail:</b>			
<b>Quantity required:</b>	<b>@ £2.50</b>	<b>Total: £_____</b>	
<b>Cheques should be made out to Wiltshire Council</b>			
<b>Point of Contact for Delivery</b>			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Phone Number:</b>			
<b>E Mail:</b>			
<b>SIGNED:</b>			
<b>DATE:</b>			
<b>NAME IN CAPITALS:</b>			

Return to: - Sarah Peterson, Department of Neighbourhood and Planning, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JD

[sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **Invitation to Comment on Proposed Dog Control Orders in Wiltshire**

Dog Control Orders can be made by the Council regarding any land to which the public have a right of access:

1. Requiring the person in control to clean up after a dog has fouled
2. Prohibiting Access by dogs
3. Requiring dogs to be kept on leads
4. Requiring dogs to be put on a lead when required by an authorised officer of the Council
5. Restricting the number of dogs that can be in the control of one person on certain land.

In exercising its powers, the Authority is required to adopt a fair balance between the needs and aspirations of dog owners and non-dog owners. It is also essential that any orders should be capable of being enforced within reasonable resources.

Currently, there are a variety of inconsistent Orders covering the areas of the four predecessor Districts. It is intended to replace all existing Orders with one consistent set. The proposals are summarised in the table below:

Order Proposal	Comments
Dog Fouling	Make generic County Wide order Aim to cover most land.
Dog Exclusion	Make generic County wide order Enclosed Children's play areas only plus land covered by existing orders
Dogs on Lead	No Generic Order Confirm existing order, discourage further use.
Dogs on Lead on request of authorised officer	No Generic Order Discourage use
Maximum number of dogs in control of one person	No Generic order Discourage use

In order to help frame the proposals which will go to a formal consultation process comments on behalf of Area Boards, Council Members, Parish Councils and other interested bodies and individuals are being sought. The consultation paper, including full details of the proposal can be accessed at the following link, together with a questionnaire for making comments, by 7 February 2011.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm>

Further information is available from Simon Cleaver, Pest Control and Dog Warden Service Manager, 165 Bradley Road, Trowbridge, BA14 0RD, [simon.cleaver@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.cleaver@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **Carshare in Wiltshire - Introducing carsharewiltshire.com**

Wiltshire Council's dedicated internet based car sharing scheme, [www.carsharewiltshire.com](http://www.carsharewiltshire.com) is a FREE service that helps match people travelling for whatever reason with others going the same way. This might be on a daily basis to and from work, on an occasional basis once or twice a week to the sports centre, on a regular Saturday basis for shopping trips, or one off trips to festivals, events, or outdoor concerts.

The idea is simple - by pairing up people that would have otherwise have driven separately, 1, 2 or even 3 cars can be taken off the road and hence reduce congestion. The journey will then be quicker, without undue delay, and it will also save all those pairing up money, as the cost of the journey can be divided equally up!

For work trips, more and more organizations are offering their employees who share journeys to and from work dedicated parking spaces, relieving them of the hassle of driving around and around full car parks looking for that elusive space. It also means they can arrive at any time that they choose, rather than have to worry about getting to the car park as early as possible to find a space.

**Warning Beware of imitations!** - there is an internet site called 'www.wiltshirecarshare.com' that is **not** run or approved by Wiltshire Council! What is more, you have to pay the private organisation that is responsible. There is only one site Wiltshire Council recommends, and it is free: [www.carsharewiltshire.com](http://www.carsharewiltshire.com) - visit it today for more information and to register.

Over 9000 Wiltshire residents and workers have done just this, and combined with the thousands of other people who are part of the "Liftshare.com" network across the South West, your chances of finding a car share partner to drive or be driven by has never been greater. With petrol prices going up and up, now is a great time to cut your fuel bill in half or even more!

The system is designed with safety in mind, and there is absolutely no obligation to proceed with any car share arrangement. All contact occurs by e-mail, and users are warned neither to reveal any personal details nor too many too early. Once you register your details, including journey information securely on line, the database searches for any near matches. You will receive an e-mail outlining potential suitable matches, and this includes right down to your individual requirements concerning smoking (or not), for example.

It is entirely up to you whether you e-mail any of those suggested to you - and likewise, should you receive an e-mail from someone else, following the database suggesting you as a potential suitable match, again, you choose whether to make contact by replying.

There are simple safety steps to take when proceeding with a potential match, including arranging to meet in a public place, preferably accompanied by a friend. With regards proceeding with the car share arrangement, once you have satisfied yourself that the person you met is who they say they are, for example with a passport, drivers license, etc, and also that they have a license and appropriate tax and insurance, the car share arrangement operates simply and effectively. You decide where to meet - we suggest either at or near to your home, or a bus stop or train station, so just in case the other party cannot make it, you can still proceed with your journey by other means. You should always make sure that someone knows your arrangement, who you go with, when, and where.

For added peace of mind, schools, colleges, and even organizations can organize private groups on the [www.carsharewiltshire.com](http://www.carsharewiltshire.com), whereby ONLY people from that

organization are linked together, if desired by the individual. For more information on private groups, email [transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk).

Students attending or planning to go onto Higher Education often need to travel further distances and at different times to when buses may be available. So car sharing does offer a real, safe, and convenient way of continuing on in further education, and students can save money too, splitting the fuel costs between all those in the car.

**Contact Details:**

**Email:** [transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Invitation to Comment on a Proposed New Council-wide Street Trading Scheme**

Wiltshire Council's Licensing Committee considered a report on the future of street trading at its meeting on 30 November 2010.

There is currently no harmonised street trading policy for the Wiltshire Council area. This is because the former District Councils controlled street trading in different ways.

The Licensing Committee agreed to introduce a new harmonised consent street trading scheme across the Wiltshire Council area. This will provide a flexible means of controlling street trading activity and allow greater scope for local involvement in decision making through a thorough consultation process for all applications for Street Trading Consents.

A new scheme needs to be introduced to ensure:

- all street traders in Wiltshire have the same rights, pay the same fees and are subject to the same application procedure, terms and conditions
- the council has adequate powers to remove illegal street traders and protect legal street traders and local businesses.

Council officers have produced a draft scheme for formal consultation with all interested parties (including area boards, street traders, members of the public, local businesses, town and parish councils, farmers markets organisation, chambers of commerce and MPs) and would like to invite general comments and feedback on the proposed scheme.

An executive summary of the proposed scheme is available in the agenda and a full copy of the proposed scheme and consultation survey will be available on the Wiltshire Council website from 17 January. All interested parties should return written responses to the Wiltshire Council Licensing Team by 17 March. Any responses received after the closing date will not be taken into consideration by council officers.

If members of the public or interested groups would like to complete the survey form, paper copies are available at the area board and the survey will be available on the

Wiltshire Council website at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm>.

Written responses should be emailed to [alissa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:alissa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk) or returned to the Wiltshire Council Licensing Team at Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 1ER.

For further information or to request a printed copy of the proposed street trading scheme and consultation survey, please contact Alissa Davies on 01249 706414.

### **Fairtrade and the Wiltshire Fairtrade Coalition**

Fairtrade is based on the idea that small producers in the developing world should be paid a price for their produce that covers the cost of production and gives the family a living wage. The producer makes a long term agreement in advance with the Fairtrade purchasing company that ensures a guaranteed minimum price.

In return the producer commits to working to progressive standards of production and environmental protection. Under the agreement children are not forbidden to work but bonded labour is prohibited and children must go to school.

As a result, producers are able to plan ahead and achieve a degree of stability.

In addition, a specially formed local co-operative receives a social premium that can be spent on projects to benefit the whole community. These are decided by the co-operative not imposed from outside and may include such projects as building a classroom or clinic, starting a small business to help diversify the local income or providing a safe water supply or sanitation. The social premium is often of particular benefit to women because it can give them more of a stake in the decision making of the community. For instance, by using the premium to buy sewing machines, village women can create a sewing business that brings in income.

The Fairtrade mark on products is a guarantee that adherence to the agreement is being monitored. It has been in existence for 16 years and is now widely recognised though not necessarily widely understood.

The success of the Fairtrade movement so far is due in large part to the efforts of small local groups with the support of larger organisations. There are nine towns in Wiltshire which have achieved the status of Fairtrade town awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation.

The Wiltshire Fairtrade Coalition is an association of local Fairtrade town groups, businesses, other organisations and individuals working to promote understanding and uptake of Fairtrade produce. The coalition offers mutual support and encouragement to members and aims to make Wiltshire a Fairtrade county.