

Agenda Item No.5

Chairman's Announcements, Marlborough Area Board, 8 February 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 like 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, telephone 01225 713377).

Advance notice of Area Board consultation on Street Trading

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

Currently there is no harmonised street trading policy for Wiltshire Council, this is due to the former District Councils choosing to control street trading in different ways:

- The North and West areas operate two different consent street trading schemes with different fee structures and different conditions.
- The East operates a prohibited street (trading) scheme for a limited number of streets in the town centres.
- There is no street trading scheme in the South area as Salisbury District Council did not adopt the powers in the 1982 Act.

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. There is scope for the fees charged for a street trading consent to cover the costs of administration and enforcement. It would also be possible for Wiltshire Council to generate income through the introduction of a new harmonised consent street trading scheme. A consent street trading scheme would allow greater scope for local decision making.

Council officers will produce a draft scheme to formally consult on with external stakeholders (area boards, street traders, members of the public, local businesses, town and parish councils, farmers markets organisation, chambers of commerce and MPs), and invite general comments and feedback. Survey/ focus groups will be used to ask specific questions on controversial aspects.

Formal consultation with area boards will be taking place in January and February. Due to the priority that Wiltshire Council has attached to the introduction of a new street trading scheme, this project is operating on an accelerated timescale. Therefore, council officers will be unable to attend area boards in person, but will provide an executive summary of the draft scheme and a consultation document accompanied by a complete draft of the scheme.

Please return **written responses** on the draft scheme and consultation document to the Licensing Team as soon as possible. Written responses should be emailed to alissa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk.

If members of the public would like to complete the survey form individually, paper copies will be provided at the area board and can be found on the Wiltshire Council website at

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm> from the middle of January.

Outcome of the Leisure Facilities Review

Wiltshire Council's cabinet has considered the results of the extensive consultation exercise undertaken between July and October and approved a refined proposal which shall;

- Retain a strategic view and ensure that the indoor leisure facilities are a key component of the emerging community campus programme.
- Ensure that the indoor leisure facility service in Wiltshire will be enhanced which creates more opportunities for local people to actively pursue a healthy lifestyle.
- Give a clear message about the Council's commitment to providing high quality and efficient local services.
- Deliver a refined proposal that has been directly shaped by local people.

The refined proposals as set out in the report will provide;

- The specification for new leisure facilities in Trowbridge, Melksham, Warminster and Durrington/Amesbury as part of the wider campus development project.
- Improvements to Devizes Leisure Centre, Five Rivers in Salisbury, The Activity Zone in Malmesbury, Marlborough Leisure Centre and Tidworth Leisure Centre as part of the Workplace Transformation Programme.
- For an indoor Bowls facility to be included as part of a Campus facility in Melksham.
- For the provision of a grant of £400K to the Wiltshire School of Gymnastics in Melksham.

The Council has been clear about its proposals to transfer some of the local facilities to the community to manage. The Council will now consider the proposal to transfer these facilities in a wider strategic context to enable it to assess the impact of a potential transfer alongside other council buildings and services. This will enable the Council to consider the practicalities and options for wider campus developments.

Whilst the investigations into campus opportunities are completed, the Council will not be looking to alternative management arrangements for indoor leisure facilities as a single service. The Council's approach is intended to retain community involvement in the campus development project as it is recognised that local input is critical to success.

This refined proposal for leisure acts as a pre-cursor to a report that the Workplace Transformation Team shall present to Cabinet in the early part of 2011. This report will set out the high level principles behind a sustainable and affordable campus development project and consider the financial implications associated with this refined proposal for leisure.

The Council will continue the on-going dialogue which has already been established with local community groups regarding the local management of facilities.

