

## Melksham Area Board 2 February 2011

### Chairman's Announcements

#### i. 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
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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:

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## **ii. 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.

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 have produced a draft scheme for formal consultation 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. Surveys 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](mailto: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.