

Rural Facilities Survey 2012

The rural facilities survey maps the services and amenities available to rural communities within the Wiltshire Council area. The survey has been carried out since 1976, painting a picture of some 233 rural settlements in the county of Wiltshire across 35 years. This gives us a wealth of data to support local communities in rural parts of the county and allows us to track changes in facilities including education and childcare services, local health facilities, food shops, spiritual and leisure facilities and public transport. In recent years, the survey has also examined access to services such as broadband internet connections and mobile phone coverage. There has been a significant decline in a number of basic facilities since 1976. The number of settlements with primary schools has decreased by around 30%, while around two thirds of villages have lost their general food shop. Less than half of settlements in 2008 retained the Post Office they had in 1976. Public transport, however, has improved vastly over the period of the survey. The most recent survey was carried out in 2008 and a report outlining the results and trends revealed can be seen on the intelligence network website¹ along with an update taking into account the changes to the Wiltshire County Community Area boundaries that occurred in April 2009.

The survey is repeated around every three years and the latest survey is scheduled to be carried out during Spring 2012, (surveys went out on the 13 April). Over the coming weeks, the survey will be posted out to the parish clerks for the settlements included in the database and their input is critical to making the survey a success. The results will be analysed for all 20 of Wiltshire's Community Areas and the overview report published in the autumn. The results will also form part of the evidence base that will be used to refresh the Joint Strategic Assessment for Wiltshire.

For more information, please contact: Knowledge Management Team, Public Health and Protection Services, Wiltshire Council. Tel: (01225) 713186 or E-mail: research@wiltshire.gov.uk

Paths Improvement Grants Scheme (PIGS)

Do you have an idea to improve access to the countryside or to create new links between settlements in your area?

The Paths Improvement Grants Scheme aims to help local people to make innovative improvements to countryside access in their area. In 2012 around £60,000 will be made available for community led projects.

If you have an idea for a scheme please contact Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way and Countryside Team Michael.Crook@wiltshire.gov.uk or Tel: 01225 713349.

Further details of the scheme are available on the Countryside Access Forum website - www.wiltshirelaf.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 13 July 2012.

Your say on local waste and recycling sites

Following the success of the new improved waste and recycling collection services in Wiltshire, some of the other recycling facilities in Wiltshire are being used less and therefore we are looking to save around £250,000 by making changes to these services. This will help the council to spend more on priority services, such as those for vulnerable adults and children, and roads.

We are now looking for your views on how you use your local recycling facilities and how these savings can be achieved.

Thanks to people in Wiltshire using their blue lidded bins we now recycle more than 700 tonnes of plastic bottles and cardboard every month.

Household recycling centres – summer opening hours

Everyone in Wiltshire can now ask to have a free garden waste collection from the kerbside, making it easy to recycle garden waste from home. During recent summers the household recycling centres have been open until 7pm on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, to help residents to recycle their garden waste in particular. As the new free kerbside collection service will soon be in place it is proposed household recycling centres will go back to normal summer opening, until 5pm, 7 days per week. (This change will affect all sites except Salisbury household recycling centre, Churchfields, where current opening hours are different and will not alter.)



Local mini recycling sites

Paper, glass, cans, clothes, foil, plastic bottles and cardboard are now collected direct from every home in Wiltshire and the use of local mini recycling sites has significantly reduced. In particular we expect sites with plastic bottle and cardboard bins to be used much less, due to the popular new blue lidded bin collections. We therefore propose to remove some local mini recycling sites, whilst keeping a good network for you to use in addition to kerbside collections.

We are proposing to review local mini recycling sites on the following grounds-

- How much recycling is collected from each site
 - Distance from the nearest alternative recycling sites
 - Number of homes the site is serving
 - Ease of use (eg access and parking)
 - Ease of emptying the bins
 - Condition of the site
-
- Amount of flytipping or non-residents' waste dumped.

Have your say

If you would like to comment on these proposals, please complete an online questionnaire at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations or call 0300 456 0102 for a paper copy. **Please reply by 28 May 2012**

Helping People To Live Safely In Their Own Homes

Following extensive consultation and considerable planning, the care and support service is now in place throughout the county provided by Leonard Cheshire, Aster Living, Enara Complete Care and Somerset Care.

This service is now available to over eight hundred Wiltshire residents and is already delivering some really good outcomes for people, some examples of which include:

- Mrs A, who was able to return home after a period in a care home.
- Mr S, able to manage without support following a period of intensive support from a Help to Live at Home provider.
- Mr P was able to return home from hospital, with an intensive support package from a Help to Live at Home provider rather than take the previously traditional route of a nursing home.
- Mr G was withdrawn and uncommunicative, with the implementation of a flexible care package from a Help to Live at Home provider, within two weeks Mr G started referring to his carers by name and holding short conversations. He has now requested to go shopping with a carer once a week, and is able to manage some personal care.

All services are available to everyone in Wiltshire, not just those eligible for support from the Council and contact details for each Help to Live at Home providers below:

Leonard Cheshire Disability
North and east Wiltshire
Tel: 01225 781126

Aster Care Services
East and south Wiltshire
Tel: 01380 829000

Somerset Care at Home
West and north Wiltshire
Tel: 01225 792925

Enara Complete Care Services
West Wiltshire
01225 791015

Wiltshire Medical Services
Tel: 01249 454000

Medequip UK
Tel: 01249 815052

Further service improvements:

- ✓ The **Help to Live at Home telecare response and community equipment services** are being provided by Wiltshire Medical Services (WMS), Medequip UK and Aster Living. These services have already been implemented in West Wiltshire, as part of the Help to Live at Home pilot test and will be introduced across the county in April.

Medequip UK is now the provider for all community equipment aimed at assisting customers to remain independent in their own homes. Community equipment ranges from the more traditional aids such as chair raisers, continence products, hoists etc. to more specialist technology including pendant alarms, fall sensors and pressure relief mattresses.

With an aim to make equipment more accessible Medequip is working closely with the Independent Living Centre in Semington to equip a demonstration suite for customers to visit and will be opening a number of retail units across Wiltshire. In addition Medequip will implement a mobile demonstration and assessment unit, able to visit the whole of Wiltshire.

Telecare customers have specialist equipment in their homes which, in an emergency, triggers an alarm at the Wiltshire Medical Service call centre in Chippenham. This can be responded to in a number of ways; a conversation with the customer via the Telecare equipment, contacting a key holder, or a WMS responder visiting the customer.

A telecare service without the ability to visit customers has restrictions. When an alert is triggered, a standard call centre may be able to do little else, except call an ambulance and which can lead to an inappropriate hospital admission. The benefit of the new telecare response service is that it allows customers to receive the most appropriate response, when they need it.

- ✓ **Specialist financial advice** to people seeking assistance with paying for their care is now available.

Around 40 percent of individuals, who go into residential and nursing care in the county have to finance care themselves as they have savings and assets (including their home) worth more than £23,250. Unfortunately up to 25 percent of these individuals run out of funds, leaving little or no inheritance for loved ones. This may be avoidable in some cases.

Paying for care can be an expensive and open-ended commitment so the council would strongly recommend that customers seek specialist information and advice before making any commitments.

If a customer is currently in receipt of care it is still advisable to seek specialist information and advice as there may be options available to you to protect your interests.

To support people who pay for their own care, Wiltshire Council is working with two independent care fees specialists to help customers make informed choices about their long term care and specifically how they can fund it.

Both of these Specialists are accredited by SOLLA, (Society of Later Life Advisers) through the Later Life Accreditation Scheme:

Ashton Rowan

Care Fee Investments Limited

Telephone: 01225 475359

Telephone: 0845 077 5655

Email: wilts@ashcourtrowan.com
wilts@carefeesinvestment.co.uk

Email:

Web: www.ashcourtrowan.com/financial-planning Web:
www.carefeesinvestment.co.uk

- ✓ The **Customer Reference Group** now has 40 members, 20 of whom have received training and are shortly to hold two coffee mornings for Help to Live at Home customers to hear their views on the service.
- ✓ A **dedicated customer helpline** has been set up for Help to Live at Home issues, this number is staffed 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday on 01225 712553.

Locally Themed Agenda Items

The Tidworth Area Board are keen to bring more locally themed agenda items to their meetings. If you have something that you feel needs to be discussed then please contact Mary Cullen (Community Area Manager, Tidworth Area Board).

Telephone: 01722 434260 or E-mail: mary.cullen@wiltshire.gov.uk