

Update from Calne Town Council – 22nd July 2015

Hills Waste Site – Lower Compton

At a Council Meeting on 13th July 2015 some of the matters discussed included Wiltshire Council's recent refusal (overturning the case officer's recommendation for approval) of the application to expand and make permanent the Hills site at Lower Compton. Whilst Hills have the right to appeal this decision, it is understood that they have not submitted an appeal to date. Members heard that Hills have been operating a Waste Transfer Station on this site for the last five years without permission. In light of the refusal of this application, it appears that Wiltshire Council is now in a position to be able to enforce the closure of this unauthorised facility if they were minded to do so. Members strongly agreed that the Town Council should be pushing for such action to be taken and for this activity to cease as soon as possible, with a consequent reduction in the number of HGVs moving around the local area and through the town. Such an action would improve the air quality within the AQMA and in the whole community area. Council requested that the matter should be addressed by the Calne Area Board with a view to causing Wiltshire Council to ensure that Waste Transfer operations at Hills' Lower Compton site should cease as soon as possible.

Council was also informed that the adopted Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Site Allocations Document identifies the site at Lower Compton as being a Strategic site. Whilst the Landfill Site may be classed as strategic, the other operations conducted at the site should not be and this should be re-worded from strategic to local in the Site Allocation Document. It was unanimously resolved that this matter should also be taken to the next Area Board Meeting so that the Community Area as a collective can register their concerns. Council felt strongly that the Calne Area Board should ask Wiltshire Council to remove the reference to Lower Compton as a strategic site in the Adopted Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Site Allocations Document.

Town Centre Masterplan - Calne

Members discussed the next steps for the Masterplan and the need to drive this development plan forward as quickly as possible. Funding is now required to be used as pump-priming to take the Masterplan to the next stage. Council resolved to approve the allocation of no more than £10,000 towards the next stage of the process.

Proposal by traders for first 2 hours of Parking in Church Street Car Park

Town Council officers have been in discussions recently with local traders in Church Street who expressed concerns that the fact that the Church Street car park is the only one in Calne that charges for parking is putting people off from visiting local shops and the adjacent Heritage Quarter; it is also very badly signed. A meeting was arranged between representatives of the traders, Town Councillors and Jo Pattison from Wiltshire Council's parking section. It was a very productive meeting once Jo found her way to the car park due to the poor signage!! The possibility of revising the parking charges was discussed at length with the 'first 2 hours free' option being favourite. Jo suggested ways that this might be possible; Councillors will be pressing for action regarding this matter and are seeking the support of the Area Board.