

Chairman's Announcements - 4 May 2011

Digital Inclusion

Wiltshire Council's business plan for 2011-15 has prioritised a number of areas for investment, of which Digital Inclusion and supporting the rollout of superfast broadband for both business and home users is a key area. The Council has set the ambitious target of enabling 85% of all premises to be able to access superfast broadband (possibly 95% with additional funding) and for all premises able to receive standard broadband by 2015.

To help understand existing coverage and the requirements for the future, Wiltshire Council will be launching a superfast broadband survey for home and business users between 26 April and 3 June. This will allow people to say what types of services they can currently access over internet and how well their service performs. The survey will also ask about their views for getting superfast broadband in their community in the future. This information will allow the Council to better understand the demand for this service and where it will need to prioritise investment.

The survey will have a link within it to an on-line speed checker so that you can check your current broadband speed, www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk.

The council is keen to get as many responses as possible to help inform its rollout plans over the next 4 years.

The survey will be available on-line and also available as a printed document. Details are available from:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/digitalinclusion.

Printed versions can be requested by calling and asking for the digital inclusion survey from the start date of the survey - 0300 456 0100.

Results of the survey will be shared on the Wiltshire Council web site in July, via the same link.

The Fosse Way at Whitewalls Avon Crossing, Easton Grey

The Roman settlement at the Fosse Way at Whitewalls Avon crossing is a significant Scheduled Monument considered to be of national importance. The site is also of ecological importance.

The abuse of this section of byway open to all traffic is a consequence of irresponsible vehicular drivers using it to access the river and surrounding privately owned land. Past attempts to prevent misuse at the site have failed, barriers have been breached and the river crossing has continued to be used as a vehicular playground.

Wiltshire Council and other interested parties have been looking to find a workable solution to this issue.

The proposed actions include two permanent traffic regulation orders to be made to limit the use of the highway to the main track and away from the river and to prohibit motor vehicles, except for solo motorcyclist from the full extent of the byway. Whilst these orders are being processed temporary orders will be made. Gates and barriers will be placed on the route to prevent access with surveillance cameras at each closure point installed and maintained by Wiltshire Police. Information and interpretation signs will be provided to educate users about the significance of the site and English Heritage and Wiltshire Council will work jointly to restore the site.