

Chairman's Announcements:

Item No.01

Northern Operational Flood Working Group

The new flooding legislation means that Wiltshire Council has the responsibility for putting in place local strategies for managing flood risk.

To this end Wiltshire Council has set up two operational flood working groups one in the north and the other in the south of the County. As part of the work of these groups they have been collating information on flooding and drainage issues from highways and drainage teams around the county which are currently being loaded onto our GIS system.

The operational flood working groups are concerned that Parish & Town Councils may have additional information of which they have little or no knowledge of and are hoping that the town and parish councils will assist with gathering this information. They would welcome information on ALL types of flooding within their areas highway, agricultural and residential both inside and out.

The Area Board would like to invite each town and parish council to identify areas which flood or have previously flooded and any documentary evidence (preferably photographic) to support this.

You are invited to collect the packs of information this evening and return them to the Community Area Manager.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Wiltshire Council is preparing a plan that will identify land for gypsy and traveller sites and include a policy for assessing the suitability of other sites the Council is asked to consider through the planning application process.

Wiltshire Council has a responsibility to plan for the housing needs of everyone in the Wiltshire community. This doesn't just mean providing a range of types and sizes of houses available to rent or to buy. There is also a responsibility to plan for the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people.

The number of gypsies and travellers in Wiltshire has been increasing in recent years.

The consequence of not addressing this growing accommodation need could be increased tension between the settled and travelling community and discrimination towards the gypsy and traveller community.

An 8 week consultation on the issues and general approach to identifying land for new gypsy, traveller and showpeople sites is to start on Tuesday 6th April until 5pm on Friday 4th June 2010. This is the first stage in the process of preparing a Gypsy & Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- Discuss the ISSUES around providing new sites.
- Develop a METHOD for assessing what is a good location for new sites.
- Invite LAND to be put forward to be considered as possible new sites.

All information relating to the consultation will be available from the end of March on line at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gypsyandtravellersitesallocationsdpd , in the main Council offices in Chippenham, Devizes, Salisbury and Trowbridge and available at local libraries.

If you would like to discuss the issues involved in this consultation in more detail drop in events are being held at the following locations between 4pm and 8pm:

Neald Hall, Chippenham	Wednesday 5 May 2010
Wessex Room, Corn Exchange, Devizes	Tuesday 11 May 2010
Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury	Thursday 13 May 2010

Review of Special Educational Needs Provision

Over recent months Wiltshire Council officers have worked with schools, parent representatives and other people to review Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in the county.

The review relates to the whole of Wiltshire. It is not a cost cutting exercise, the purpose is to more effectively use available resources. The review considers:

- special school provision
- specialist provision that is part of mainstream primary and secondary schools

- SEN support services for schools

A document has been written that sets out what the review has shown and what the Council would like to do in the future. This will now be shared with a wide range of people who are invited to respond to say what they think about the Council's proposals. The publication date is late February 2010. Those being contacted include: parents and carers of children with special educational needs, schools, Diocesan authorities, other Local Authorities, and Trade Unions. As soon as the document becomes available it is also being circulated to Parish Councils, through the Area Boards network, and it will also be available on the Wiltshire Council website.

Any questions about the proposals or the consultation process can be sent in the first instance to Tracy Gates, SEN Project Officer, tracygates@wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 756170.

There are opportunities available to meet with officers to discuss the proposals:

- Devizes School, Devizes Monday 29 March 7pm
- Sheldon School, Chippenham Wednesday 21 April 7pm
- Kingdown School, Warminster Thursday 22 April 7pm
- Salisbury City Hall, Salisbury Tuesday 4 May 7pm
- St.John's Parish Church Centre, Trowbridge Friday 7 May 10am.

The closing date for the consultation is 12 noon Monday 24 May 2010. The content of the consultation responses will be made available to the Elected Members of Wiltshire Council who will make decisions in relation to the proposals.

Most of the proposals that may be subsequently agreed by Elected Members are designed to come into effect from September 2011. An individual plan will be put in place for any individual child or young person affected by any changes.

NHS Out of Hours Service

From 1 April 2010 the Out of Hours service will be provided by Wiltshire Medical Services, which is run by local GPs. The service will be run from all existing sites, plus a number of additional sites, to improve access for patients.

A communications campaign for patients is currently being developed, which will be launched in the weeks leading up to 1 April. NHS Wiltshire has no further comment to make but is keen to stop any further speculation about cuts in services.

Waste Consultation

A planned public consultation into possible changes to Wiltshire's waste and recycling service which was due to start shortly, will now not take place until after the General Election.

The reason for this decision is that there appear to be differing national policies regarding future waste and recycling services emerging from Whitehall which have caused confusion and uncertainty. It would, therefore be inappropriate to hold a consultation until the council has a clear steer on the national policy following the General Election.

We wish to apologise to local people for having to withdraw this consultation which we had committed to, but we did not want to waste local people's time or money in seeking their views when we might be unable to implement their preferred option.

In the meantime, our waste and recycling services will continue to operate as currently provided.

Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership Consultation

We are currently consulting on two very important draft strategies: Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence Reduction. The strategies identify the main themes for future work and establish a base from which to develop a detailed 'implementation plan'. The strategies are high level and provide a platform for the development of future work.

The consultation will run until the end of March 2010. The relevant documents and consultation questionnaire are available via the Wiltshire council website via this link: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviourstrategyconsultation.htm>

which contains the following information:

Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

Link to Draft Executive Summary

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/exec-summary-anti-social-behaviour-strategy-for-wilts.pdf>

Link to Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy document

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour-strategy-for-wilts.pdf>

Link to Online Consultation Questionnaire

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviourstrategyconsultationform.htm>

Draft Violence Reduction Strategy

Link to Draft Violence Reduction Strategy document

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/violent-crime-reduction-strategy.pdf>

Link to Online Consultation Questionnaire

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/violencereductionstrategyconsultationform>

If you would prefer paper copies of the documents, please telephone Julie Somerville, Consultation Project Officer on 01225 776773 and these will be forwarded to you.

Through the Community Area Board Health Fairs and Partnership meetings there will be a series of consultation events open to members of the public to attend:

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Devizes	Monday 8 February	4 pm – 6 pm	Town Hall St John's Street Devizes SN15 3ER
Trowbridge	Wednesday 24 February	3 pm – 6 pm	Civic Hall St Stephens Place Trowbridge BA14 8AH
Amesbury	Thursday 25 February	3 pm – 6 pm	The Bowman Centre Shears Drive Archers Gate Amesbury SP4 7XT
Chippenham	Friday 26 February	10 am - 12 noon	Town Hall High Street Chippenham SN15 3ER
Westbury	Wednesday 3 March	7 pm – 9 pm	Matravers School Springfield Road Westbury BA13 3QH

Salisbury	Tuesday 23 March	10 am – 1.30 pm	Guildhall Market Place Salisbury SP1 1TL
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Your views are important to us. We very much welcome hearing from you.