

Bradford on Avon Area Board, Chairman's Announcements – 16 May 2012

## **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places– Consultation Briefing Note**

Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced the requirement for councils to review polling districts and polling places within their Parliamentary constituencies, and to review them again at least every four years.

The 2009 County of Wiltshire Order not only set up the new unitary divisions, but also established new town wards in most urban areas which are co-terminous with the divisions. This will allow us to rationalise a number of polling districts, as they will take effect for the 2013 elections. Until then, the council has had to have polling districts which recognise the boundaries of both the older town wards, and the unitary divisions, resulting in a number of small registers where they overlap.

In May 2013, there will be elections to directly elect members to the New Forest National Park Authority. The National Park affects three Wiltshire parishes, but its boundaries do not coincide completely with existing parish or polling district boundaries. This review proposes to create new polling districts in those parishes, in readiness for those elections.

The Council will need to approve a scheme of polling districts and polling places for the (Acting) Returning Officer (ARO) to then consider in order to select polling stations. The ARO is therefore obliged to be consulted during the review, and any representations must be published within 30 days of receipt.

We are seeking your views on Wiltshire Council's existing polling districts and polling places. As part of the review there is also an opportunity to comment on the polling stations.

The Council has also prepared two documents which refer to proposed changes to polling stations and polling districts. These two documents have been amalgamated and sorted into Area Boards for ease of reference and relevance. A list of existing polling stations has also been compiled which has been separated into Area Board area for ease of reference.

These are attached to this briefing note and are also available on the dedicated webpage (please see link below). We would seek your views on any of the points highlighted on this document or any other issues that you feel need to be addressed.

Due to the size of the Council's area and the number of polling districts and polling stations, it is not practical to send detailed hard copy maps to all consultees. However, officers have used the Geographical Information System to plot all existing polling districts, together with the position of known polling stations which is available to use on the dedicated webpage.

For more information on the parameters to use, please go to the webpage and click on the Review of Polling Districts – Briefing Note.

Submissions must be received in writing by Friday 25 May 2012. Forms can be completed online or download from the Council's website at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/elections/electionsreviewpollingdistrictsplaces.htm>

Submissions will then be reviewed with a final scheme being presented to Full Council for approval in July 2012.

### **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 website<sup>1</sup> 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. 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

(01225) 713186

[research@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.wiltshirelaf.org.uk)

The closing date for applications is Friday 13 July 2012.

**National Citizen Service 2012**

Wiltshire Council Integrated Youth Service is proud to be working in partnership with Catch 22 to deliver one of the Government's National Citizen Service pilots.

The programme, only in its second year, aims to develop community cohesion and promote community action by offering teams of Year 11 students the opportunity to experience a programme designed to develop confidence, team work, and practical skills.

The programme offers an outdoor activity residential, a residential 'at home' where volunteering tasters will be delivered and then the training, support and resources to plan and implement a local community project.

Organisers of the Bradford on Avon Fringe Festival have already offered to share their expertise with the group in return for help with marketing and securing local sponsors for this year's Fringe Festival.

If any members of the community would like to support the team, practically, or have ideas about worthy causes for the community project, then please get in touch with Kath Brownlee at the Youth Centre:

Katherine Brownlee, Youth Development Coordinator

Youth Development Centre, Frome Road,

Bradford on Avon BA15 1LE

Tel: 01225 868115 / 07795665725 Website: [www.sparksite.co.uk](http://www.sparksite.co.uk)

### **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](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations) or call 0300 456 0102 for a paper copy. **Please reply by 28 May 2012**

.

### **11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy**

On 13 September 2011 Wiltshire Cabinet approved the Commissioning Strategy for 11 to 19 year olds. This included 7 broad priorities on:

- Employment and training
  - Educational attainment
- (These were the top 2 commissioning priorities selected by young people)*
- Housing
  - Transport for young people
  - Involving young people
  - Volunteering
  - Improving Integrated Youth Services

Cabinet also approved a Wiltshire Youth Work Offer. The key features of the Youth Work Offer are:

- Open Access Youth Work
- Higher level targeted youth work support
- Better co-ordination of positive activities for young people
- Stronger partnerships
- Increased use of volunteers

An implementation group which includes councillor representatives has been meeting monthly since September 2011 to coordinate delivery of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer from 1 April 2012. Good progress has been made to date and the Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to consider this progress and support the following initiatives:

1. Increase use of volunteers

A sub group of the Youth Services Implementation Group has been exploring ways of encouraging more local volunteers to get involved with youth work provided in Council funded youth centres. This links to the Council's overall partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan.

The group has been working on the establishment of a joint process between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector for the registration and training of local volunteers to support youth based activities. A guidance pack is now being developed for all Youth Development Centres which sets out the best way to go about registering and training volunteers. Those who wish to volunteer will be able to claim reasonable expenses and develop their skills through appropriate training opportunities.

The group has noted the importance of attracting and encouraging local people within community areas to become involved in volunteering opportunities within their local Youth Development Centre. Consequently, the group would like to invite Area Boards to support this endeavour by supporting local youth centres to promote volunteering opportunities within each community area.

Details of voluntary roles with young people will be available from the Volunteer Centre and/or local Youth Development Centre from 1 April 2012.

2. Youth Advisory Groups

Part of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer includes the formation of Youth Advisory Groups in all community areas. Pilots are currently taking place in Malmesbury, Melksham, Southern Wiltshire and Salisbury. The groups will play a key role in improving the co-ordination of positive activities for young people in local areas.

The groups will be set up in each local area, linked to Area Boards. Each Youth Advisory Group will be chaired by a young person under 25 and over 50% of members will be under 19 years of age. Advisory groups will plan and shape local services, making sure local young people know what is available and encouraging partnerships which avoid overlap and fill gaps. Mechanisms will be established to ensure knowledge and ideas are shared between Youth Advisory Groups.

Youth Advisory Groups will have commenced in 20 community areas across Wiltshire by the end of October 2012. Learning from the pilots will be used to inform the development of groups in other areas.

The Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to support these developments and to establish strong and meaningful links with Youth Advisory Groups in each community area.

### 3. Income Generation

As part of the Wiltshire Youth Work Offer the Youth Development Service has been set an income generation target of forty five thousand pounds. This will be raised through a combination of subscriptions, fund raising and seeking sponsorship.

A revised staffing funding formula has been used to calculate an income generation target for each community area. The targets will be put into place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

The Youth Services Implementation Group would like to invite Area Boards to support local Youth Development Centres in their endeavours to attract and raise income. For example, supporting local fundraising events and attracting local business sponsorship.

*The Youth Services Implementation Group invites feedback from Area Boards on any of the initiatives highlighted above.*

*Any comments, queries or questions should be sent to [james.fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.fortune@wiltshire.gov.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.*

James Fortune

Lead Commissioner 11-19

01225 713341