

## **Army Basing Briefing for Amesbury, Pewsey, Salisbury Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards - March 2014**

### **Background**

In March 2013, the government announced its Regular Army rebasing plans. These will see approximately 4,300 extra troops moving to Wiltshire. The troops relocating to Wiltshire will be accompanied by their families, bringing the total number of additional personnel to 7,700. These plans will inevitably mean the requirement for more services and provision of appropriate levels of infrastructure especially in relation to housing, education provision, leisure facilities, transport and health facilities.

### **March 2014 Update**

- Five monthly newsletters have been issued to all Parish Clerks for dissemination to community through websites, notice boards etc. Since January 2014, their distribution has been extended to local schools to ensure as many people as possible are kept informed.
- The MOD has delivered two Stakeholder Briefings at the Wellington Academy on November 27 and January 29.
- The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is currently consulting on the SPTA Planning Context Report and master plan Interim Environmental Report. The consultation runs from February 19 to April 1. Exhibitions are in place at Durrington, Tidworth, Salisbury and Amesbury libraries throughout the period, providing the opportunity for the public to comment on the development proposals. DIO will be in attendance on certain days to address any specific issues the public wish to raise. Details are available on its website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/salisbury-plain-training-area-master-plan-army-basing-programme>
- A public meeting was hosted by the Tidworth Area Board on March 3 to provide the public with further information on DIO's plans. More than 200 people attended the meeting at the Wellington Academy, Ludgershall to find out more about the proposals and ask questions
- DIO is continuing to carry out studies including transport, infrastructure and ecological assessments. It will have all the information available to complete the master plan in late May. Development options will be narrowed down to specific sites for housing and facilities within its bases. The master plan will also be subject to four weeks public consultation, before being presented to Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee for consideration in July 2014.
- Planning applications are anticipated from September 2014 onwards, with the main construction programme commencing in 2016.
- It is proposed that Service Family Accommodation (SFA) should be limited to the bases around Larkhill, Bulford, Tidworth and Perham Down. DIO has set out indicative housing numbers, which will see some 540 houses at Larkhill, 240 at Bulford, and 200 each at Tidworth and Ludgershall built on Army land outside their perimeter fences. However, final locations will be selected following technical evaluation and the comments received from the public consultation, which extends to health providers, education providers, businesses and statutory authorities. The aim will be to find the "best-fit" taking into account a number of diverse criteria. There would be considerable build or refurbishment within these four

bases and in addition a modest programme in Upavon, as well as some new development on the training area.

- Wiltshire Council continues to assess the level of services required including school provision, health, leisure, highways, waste and transport services.