

**Salisbury Area Board 30 September 2010**

## **Chairman's Announcements**

### **Petitions Scheme**

Wiltshire council is committed to ensuring people have a voice and a real say in local decision making. The Council welcomes all petitions from anyone who lives, works, or studies in Wiltshire or who uses the services provided by the Council. The Council recognises that petitions are one way in which people can let us know their concerns. A new procedure for petitions came into place on 15 June 2010 and sets out how petitions can be submitted, how they are handled and dealt with.

All petitions sent or presented to the Council will receive an acknowledgement from the Council within 10 working days of receipt. This acknowledgement will set out what the Council plans to do with the petition: the response to a petition will depend on what a petition asks for and how many people have signed it. The petition will also be published on our website.

Petitions which have been signed by more than 2.5% of the population of a Community Area will automatically be forwarded to the relevant Area Board for a full debate. Petitions with fewer signatures will be referred to the Area Board Chairman to decide on the best way to deal with it, although this may be discussed outside of a full formal meeting

The council will treat something as a petition if it is identified as such, or if it seems that it is intended to be a petition. You can submit your petition on paper or electronically. Online/electronic petitions can be sent to [committee@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:committee@wiltshire.gov.uk) and the Council is developing its own e-Petitions facility, which will allow the creation, signing and viewing of e-Petitions online at a new e-Petitions site, which will be available later this year.

For more information, including details of the petitions scheme, frequently asked questions, and details of all petitions submitted so far, please visit:

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgGeneric.aspx?MD=Petitions%20Homepage&bcr=1>

...or simply search for Petitions from the Council's homepage – [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

Alternatively, please contact Democratic Services on 01225 713018.