

Work on delegation to town and parish councils continuing

The opportunity for local councils to opt for delegation of certain services (with any associated budgets) was a key part of the former county council's bid for unitary status and is a key part of our plans to make services more local.

Extensive consultation with town and parish councils took place over the period of time leading up to the creation of the new council.

In the light of the report findings we are now concentrating initially upon pilots in four areas:

- Maintaining rights of way
- Allotments
- Setting car park charges
- Community asset transfer

In addition all town and parish councils will routinely be involved in 'street naming' in future housing developments. A new project manager is being appointed and will contact you shortly with further information and to work with you on the pilots and business cases. We intend that pilots will begin no later than April next year.

We shall also ensure that updates on this work appear in this newsletter.

For further information please contact: Niki Lewis, Wiltshire Council's service director for community leadership and governance.

Change to benefit rules

More families in Wiltshire should benefit financially from changes in the way housing and council tax benefits are worked out.

Benefit rule changes will come into play from 2 November and will affect families with children and people of pensionable age. [Read more here](#)

A chart showing various family groups and incomes has been produced to help people work out if they may be able to get some help. This is attached with your newsletter for parish notice boards

New cattle crossing warning signs installed at Ludgershall

Road users and cattle will be safer thanks to a new cattle warning crossing sign on the busy A342 at Ludgershall.

Wiltshire Council's highways team installed the sign following a request from a Ludgershall farmer, who lost a cow on the road when it was hit by a car.

His organic milk farm is situated on MOD land on the A342, with fields situated on either side of the road. This means the farmer has to take his cows across this very fast de-restricted "A" road, at times of day when the light is poor.

Highway engineers met the farmer on site to discuss a solution, it was agreed static signs alone would not be sufficient.

Instead, solar powered flashing signs were installed on 14 October - a first for Wiltshire in the use of