

Army Basing Briefing for Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards - Nov 2015

Background

The government's Army basing announcement in March 2013 advised of approximately 4,300 extra Service personnel moving to Wiltshire. They will be accompanied by their families, bringing the total number of additional people estimated to be moving to the area to 7,600. These moves would be completed by no later than 2020. These plans will require additional levels of infrastructure and services to be provided by Wiltshire Council.

November 2015 Update

Troops returning from Germany

Residents will be aware of a number of media reports suggesting that the relocation of Army units from Germany to Wiltshire may be deferred. The Government is currently carrying out its five yearly Strategic Defence and Security Review and is looking at ongoing defence projects to make sure they align with the UK's Defence needs. However, the MOD has confirmed that the Government's commitment to bring the Army back from Germany by 2020 remains unchanged.

5 Rifles will return from Paderborn to Bulford next summer as planned.

Schools

Wiltshire Council is continuing with plans to prepare the infrastructure and provision required to welcome the Service personnel and their families to Wiltshire. This includes progressing school infrastructure to ensure there will be sufficient and suitable new school places available for all incoming families. In this regard, planning permission for St Leonards Primary (Bulford) has been obtained and that for Kiwi Primary is expected shortly. Contracts are being negotiated for these projects to allow the first additional places to be available by Easter 2016. Some of these places are required for the increasing population not attributed to the Army Basing Programme.

Planning for the transfer of St Michael's Figheledean Primary to Larkhill continues as does provisional planning for the additional secondary places and Ludgershall needs.

Planning Applications and Associated Matters

- Priority Works

All priority works applications covering relatively small scale development within the camps have been submitted and determined under delegated powers.

- Camps

The application for the main development works at Perham Down has been determined. Those for Bulford, Tidworth and Larkhill have been received and the main application for Upavon is due at the end of the year.

- Service Family Accommodation (SFA)

All three SFA applications have been submitted. Details are as follows:

Settlement	PA Reference	Units	Notes
Ludgershall	15/02770/FUL	246	Consultation ended 5 June 2015
Bulford	15/04006/FUL	227	Consultation ended 18 June 2015
Larkhill	15/05540/FUL	444	Consultation ended 23 July, 2015

- Planning obligations (Section 106 Agreement)

Negotiations are progressing between MOD and Wiltshire Council as the Planning Authority to finalise the draft s106 agreement to support the proposed Army Basing developments. The draft agreement is intended to support the Planning Authority's assessment of the planning applications and discussions are on-going to finalise the draft. It is currently envisaged that the three Service Family Accommodation planning applications will be considered at a special planning committee meeting before the end of the year. The draft agreement will be made available for scrutiny prior to that meeting.

Community Infrastructure

Under the proposed planning obligations, Ludgershall Town Council have agreed in principle to accept from the MOD an office building at Corunna Barracks, which lies within the site of 0.6 hectares being offered for community use to create a new community centre. This is in addition to the land DIO is offering (0.3 hectares) at Larkhill. A local Steering Group comprising the town council, Wiltshire Council, MOD representation and other local community groups is being formed to take forward planning of this facility. Wiltshire Council has agreed to provide modest funding to adapt the building to meet the needs of its future use. It is hoped to have the facility available when the first families move to the Ludgershall SFA site. The group is seeking grant funding to support the facility.

Integration Matters

Wiltshire Council and the Army understand the importance of successful integration of the military and civilian populations in order to fulfil the aim of creating sustainable, resilient and balanced communities. As the arrival of Army units draws nearer, Wiltshire Council is seeking to engage with the troops and their families in Germany. A visit of council officers took place in July this year. On 29th September 2015, six wives from 5 Rifles visited Wiltshire to see for themselves what the area was like. They received a briefing from Wiltshire Council on education, employment and other matters. Further liaison with incoming units will continue.

Wiltshire Council Review

The Local Government Association has agreed to carry out a Peer Challenge Review of Wiltshire Council's management of the programme. This has now been scheduled for April 2016 and a Wiltshire Councillor from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be appointed as one of the review team members. The review will assess how Wiltshire Council has managed the programme to date, its readiness to proceed with later phases and will draw out lessons learned that can be applied to other projects.

(Briefed previously - but repeated for reference if required)

Location and Number of Net Additional Personnel Arising from Army Basing

<i>Location</i>	<i>SLA Pop</i>	<i>SFA Population</i>			<i>Total</i>
		<i>Military</i>	<i>Spouses</i>	<i>Children</i>	
<i>Larkhill</i>	<i>1,513</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>982</i>	<i>3,575</i>
<i>Bulford</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>427</i>	<i>1,403</i>
<i>Tidworth and Ludgershall</i>	<i>836</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>725</i>	<i>2,361</i>
<i>Upavon</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>254</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,097</i>	<i>1,181</i>	<i>1,181</i>	<i>2,134</i>	<i>7,593</i>

SFA to be provided:

<i>Location</i>	<i>SFA units</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Larkhill</i>	<i>444</i>	
<i>Bulford</i>	<i>227</i>	<i>This includes 36 units that will replace existing SFA, so the net new requirement is 191 for the Army Basing Programme.</i>
<i>Ludgershall</i>	<i>246</i>	
<i>Tidworth</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>The MOD is acquiring 100 units from a commercial development in Tidworth - (Riverbourne Fields to meet the Army Basing Programme requirements).</i>
<i>Upavon</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>917</i>	<i>Taking into account the above two notes, the net Army Basing requirement is for 981 SFA homes.</i>