

## **Army Basing Briefing for the Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards - Updated 1 March 2016**

### **Background**

*The government's Army Basing announcement in March 2013 advised of around 4,300 extra Service personnel moving to Wiltshire by the end of the decade. 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 plans will require additional levels of infrastructure and services to be provided by Wiltshire Council. **The MOD has since reviewed the figures as the relocations draw nearer and now expect the net addition of Service personnel to total 4,000. Accordingly the expected net increase in population will be a little over 7,000.***

### **March 2016 Update**

#### **Planning Applications**

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) continues to progress its planning applications for the Army Basing Programme (ABP) and much progress has been made since the last rounds of Area Boards.

All three major applications for the Service Family Accommodation (SFA) housing developments across the basing area have been submitted by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). The applications can be viewed online on [Wiltshire Council's planning web-pages](#). They will provide a total of 917 family homes across Bulford, Ludgershall and Larkhill in addition to the purchase of 100 homes at Tidworth. They are due to be considered in late Spring.

DIO and Wiltshire Council have attended a series of meetings to finalise the section 106 agreement (s106) which will confirm the proposed MOD contributions to support community facilities arising from the planning applications. Many of the detailed planning issues to be resolved, following the comments received during the consultation period, have been addressed.

#### **(Ecological Mitigation)**

As a result of DIO working closely with Wiltshire Council, proposals have been put to the Environmental Agency (EA) by DIO on measures to mitigate a range of ecological impacts arising from the Army Basing developments, at a meeting on 25 February. DIO is confident that the measures are comprehensive and capable of implementation and hope to reach agreement of these measures in near future. The EA accepts that further work to address the River Avon Nutrient Management Plan and the Salisbury Plain Water Management Strategy can be tackled after determination of the applications. Wiltshire Council now needs to produce detailed Habitats Regulation Assessments before the applications are considered, but this is planned to be completed during spring 2016.

#### **(School Infrastructure)**

Wiltshire Council's education team is satisfied that the contributions to be made by the MOD, which are being incorporated into the s106, represent a fair reflection of the additional early years, primary and secondary school places that will be needed by the additional children from incoming military families, as detailed in the planning applications. This will enable the following additional school infrastructure to be

provided by the summer 2019:

- Funding for the additional 150 places currently being built at Bulford, Kiwi which will be ready for the new academic year (summer 2016) to accommodate children from the incoming 5 RIFLES unit. Planning permission to extend Bulford Kiwi Primary was granted on 18th December 2015. It should be noted that the extension to Bulford St Leonard's, due to complete at Easter 2016, will also be available for these and other children, but does not require funding from the ABP.
- The transfer and expansion of St Michael's Primary School from Figheldean to Larkhill, adjacent to the proposed new 444 SFA development will be available by the summer 2018. Conceptual plans for the new St Michael's Primary school building were displayed at a local exhibition in the Larkhill Community Centre on 25th January.
- The provision of 60 Early Years places to be incorporated into the above school will also be available by the summer 2018.
- Extension of both Avon Valley College and Wellington Academy to provide some 375 additional places. The MOD is also offering two hectares of land to extend Wellington Academy.
- Provision of a new primary school at Ludgershall alongside the MOD's proposed 246 SFA development. This will be available by summer 2019.
- The provision of 30 Early Years places to be incorporated into the above school will also be available by summer 2019.

#### (Other Related Matters)

A range of detailed issues that arose from consultation of the three SFA planning applications have also been reviewed by the DIO and therefore it is hoped that the applications can be presented to the Strategic Planning Committee, shortly after Easter 2016.

Good progress is also being made by DIO on the planning application for the work required at Upavon through a series of pre-planning application meetings. These will see a number of new buildings and extensions to existing buildings to provide additional training, living, mess and technical facilities. The Upavon site entrance will also be improved for better access to and from the site. The application is due to be submitted in early April 2016.

#### **Community Infrastructure**

The local Steering Group (SG) comprising Ludgershall Town Council (LTC), Wiltshire Council, the NHS, local health surgeries, MOD representation and the Community Engagement Manager met again on 27<sup>th</sup> January. LTC is keen to make a success of the community facility and is assessing how the building could be best used to ensure it remains economically viable. The building within Corunna Barracks is being provided by MOD as part of the s106 contributions. Wiltshire Council will fund measures to adapt the building for its planned use, once DIO has handed the building over to the council.

#### **Somme Road Shared Use (Cycle & Pedestrian) Path**

Residents at Ludgershall will have noticed progress on the newly constructed cycle path at Somme Road. To date most of the work has been completed by the Royal Engineers from 26 Regiment, who are providing their services without charge, as this is proving to be valuable training for track / path construction in

operational deployments. DIO is now arranging for Aspire to “black-top” the base level, apply markings and install a power supply, prior to the Engineers installing lighting. It is anticipated that the path will be officially opened in the summer in readiness for the new academic year.

### **Visits**

A series of visits in connection with the Army Basing Programme occurred recently or are planned in the near future. They include:

**Education Visit to Germany:** From 19 to 21 January a small team from Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire schools visited the Service Children’s Education (SCE) schools in Paderborn. The visit was very successful in providing an opportunity to meet some pupils and parents returning to Wiltshire this summer. Wiltshire Council is keen to welcome the families to the UK, some of whom are German nationals and will be unfamiliar with the UK. Their transition to living in Wiltshire will be supported by various council teams. Such visits will be replicated for the remaining units in Germany, as they prepare to relocate to Wiltshire in 2019.

**Visit by Minister Defence Personnel and Veterans:** On 6th January the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans, Mark Lancaster TD MP, visited Base Vehicle Depot, Ludgershall and Perham Down, meeting with soldiers and families from 26 Engineer Regiment, with local MP Claire Perry in attendance. He was shown the recent new builds at Perham Down and was also looking at how rebasing plans are progressing. He commented upon how well the MOD is working with Wiltshire Council to ensure these plans for a significant capital programme remained on target stating: *“The work with Wiltshire Council has been very positive, they have been incredibly helpful, so we are working together very well and I’m confident that it’s all in place.”*

### **Baroness Scott of Bybrook’s House of Lords Maiden Speech**

Baroness Scott took the opportunity to highlight the need to support military families nationally, making this the theme of her maiden speech in the House of Lords on 28th January and informed the House of the utmost importance to Wiltshire in providing services for forces personnel and their families. Full details can be found at 12:38 pm, 28th January 2016 on this link : <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2016-01-28a.1409.4&s=speaker%3A25468#g1426.0>

**Table 1 – Net Additional Population by Unit Location based on Army Basing Programme Planning Assumptions. Children numbers are based on Army National Ratio of 1.3 children per Military family**

Location	SLA Pop	SFA Population			Total
		Military	Spouses	Children	
Larkhill	1,297	698	698	908	3,601
Bulford	414	223	223	290	1,150
Tidworth	317	169	169	219	873
Perham Down (Ludgershall)	414	223	223	290	1,150
Upavon	126	78	78	102	384
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>7,158</b>

(Source: MOD Revision to Masterplan issued 27 Nov 2015)

**Table 2 – Army Basing Programme Service Family Accommodation (SFA) to be provided by location:**

Location	SFA units	Notes
<i>Larkhill</i>	444	
<i>Bulford</i>	227	<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>	246	
<i>Tidworth</i>	0	<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>	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>917</b>	<i>Taking into account the above two notes , the net Army Basing requirement is for <b>981</b> SFA homes.</i>

(Source: MOD revision to Masterplan issued 27 Nov 2015)