

Army Basing Briefing for the Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards - Updated 29 April 2016

Background

The Ministry of Defence's Army Basing Programme will be delivered by 2020 and it is planned that all the Service personnel and their families who are due to relocate to Wiltshire from Germany, will do so by the summer of 2019. This will see some 4,000 Army personnel and approximately 3,200 dependants relocating to Larkhill, Bulford, Tidworth Ludgershall and Upavon. The MOD plans to invest in excess of £1 billion in Wiltshire under the programme, in these settlements as well as building more than 900 family homes and the additional levels of infrastructure and services to be provided by Wiltshire Council.

May 2016 Update

Planning Applications

The three applications for Service Family Accommodation at Ludgershall, Bulford and Larkhill were considered by the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) on 13 April 2016. The committee resolved to grant permission for all three applications subject to the conditions recommended by the planning officer to the SPC and agreement of a Section 106 Agreement (which will define the contributions by the MOD) that must also make reference to the provision of affordable housing, should the houses be sold on the open market in the future. There were additional caveats:

- In respect of **Ludgershall and Bulford**, that additional "informatives" relating to speed limits on roads surrounding the development site be made to address road safety. *(It should be noted that Informatives allow the local planning authority to draw an applicant's attention to other relevant matters, but cannot be used in lieu of planning conditions).*

- In respect of **Larkhill**:
 - that the final design of the new roundabout access to the SFA must take account of Historic England's comments in respect of the assessment of visual impacts, including a night skies assessment, to demonstrate the outstanding universal value of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site is protected;
 - that prior to its determination, assessment be given of the relative merits of a 3-legged or 4-legged design for the roundabout access to the site and, if necessary, changes to that access being incorporated into the proposed development;
 - that in dealing with boundary treatments beside the Golf Centre, specific reference was to be made to consider the risk from wayward golf balls impacting upon the SFA site.

Planning permission for the main camp works at Tidworth, Larkhill and Bulford is being considered under delegated powers and are expected to be determined shortly. Permission for development at Perham Down was given in July 2015. The application for **Upavon's** redevelopment is expected shortly. It is later than the other applications as there is far less work required and therefore the development programme is shorter than that for the other camps.

Section 106 Agreement

The MOD's Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Wiltshire Council have attended a series of meetings to finalise the section 106 agreement (s106). The final version will reflect upon any changes that may be required from the outcome of the SPC deliberations and it is hoped to sign and seal the agreement in May 2016. The s106 will cover:

- Off-site road junction improvements
- Provision of sustainable transport measures
- Land and contributions for education provision
- Delivery of community land / facilities at Ludgershall and Larkhill
- Access to MOD sports and community facilities
- Provision and maintenance of on-site public open space and play facilities
- Contributions towards collection of waste
- Delivery of the Larkhill medical facility to be made available for NHS GPs
- Ecology provisions – including: terms of reference for the Salisbury Plain Environmental Steering Group and Hydrology Steering Group, provision of recreation pressure mitigation in respect of breeding Stone Curlew, the detail and implementation of the Recreational Access Action Plan
- Affordable Housing commitments in the event the MOD sells the SFA covered by the applications.

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 14th April. Progress is being made to determine how the building being offered by the MOD can be best utilised and to ensure it is economically viable.

Somme Road Shared Use (Cycle & Pedestrian) Path

The cycle path at Somme Road is nearing completion. DIO have completed the surfacing of the base and all that remains is for the 26th Royal Engineers unit to install lighting, complete the road markings and make good local groundworks. The unit is due to complete the work by July. It is hoped that the path will be officially opened in August, before the 2016/17 academic year starts. This is a good example of partnership working between Wiltshire Council, the DIO and Army to benefit local communities.

NB: Now that there is positive news on the applications and only Upavon's main camp works requires any further planning consideration, these regular briefings to the Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth and Warminster Area Boards will cease. However, if there are any issues of significance or interest, they will be produced on an "ad hoc" basis for the benefit of the relevant board.

END OF ANNOUNCEMENT

(Briefed previously - but repeated for reference if required)

School Infrastructure

The following additional school infrastructure is 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. The extension to Bulford St Leonard’s has completed and will also be available for these and other children. This has not required 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.

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
Total	2,568	1,391	1,391	1,809	7,159

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

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

<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>	

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