

Army Basing Update for Tidworth and Amesbury Area Boards - November 2017

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.

St Michael's school build at Larkhill : Good progress continues for the new school which will cater for 420 pupils plus 60 nursery places. The superstructure is virtually complete, so the shape of the building is now evident. The new road to the school is under construction by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and should be complete by late December 2017. The school build being managed by Wiltshire Council will complete in the summer of 2018, allowing the transfer from Figheldean.

Other schools: Planning permission to extend the Avon Valley College, Durrington, was granted subject to conditions at the Strategic Planning Committee on 11 October 2017 ([17/05062/DP3](#)). The additional places required as a result of the ABP will be available in December 2018. Design of Wellington Academy, Tidworth, extension and the new primary in Ludgershall are progressing well with the MOD gifting land for these projects under the s106 for the Service Family Accommodation (SFA) planning applications. They are due to complete in July 2019 and planning permission is due to be submitted in December 2017.

SFA: The SFA preliminary works are progressing at all three sites (Larkhill, Bulford and Ludgershall) by Lovell, the MOD's preferred bidder. Full contract award by the MOD is due shortly.

Community facilities: The Sports & Community Access Scheme, which was an innovative arrangement agreed during the s106 negotiations is now live and facilities can be booked by community groups through Aspire's new website pages at: <https://aspiredefence.co.uk/adsl/sports-and-community-access-scheme/>. This scheme aims to provide additional community facility capacity in preparation for the growth in military population resulting from the ABP. For security reasons community groups need to register with Aspire to take advantage of the scheme. Facilities available include sports pitches, the Bulford swimming pool and community halls, full details of which are on the Aspire Defence Ltd.'s website.

Larkhill Roadworks: Following completion of the new roundabout to the Larkhill SFA and new school, The Packway reopened a few days earlier than the scheduled date. There will still be two-way controlled access while the new level is tied into the existing road network and to enable the cycle path from the Service Family Accommodation (SFA) to the Larkhill, Ross Road entrances to be constructed. Fargo Road is now fully accessible, but it should be noted this is a private road for MOD personnel or those with a genuine need to access the residences there. Progress on the following works is as follows:

- Ratfyn sewer - this major project is proceeding to plan with the only remaining works to affect public roads being at Larkhill Road (between the A344 roundabout and Bulford Hill). This will continue until early 2018. There will also be some traffic controls on Fargo Road and Tombs Road to link the new system.
- Other utility installations to the SFA site have been completed and will be connected when the SFA and school have been constructed.

Further information will be published via MOD Travel Notices (the latest being edition 9 published on 13 October). Details are available from: DIO-ABPSPTARoadworks@mod.uk.

Cycle Path Perham Down to Tidworth: Although not part of the ABP, work commenced on the 25th September 2017 to create a new cycle / footpath linking Perham Down to Tidworth. Widening takes place from Lambdown Terrace following the existing path as far as the wooded area, at which point it diverts towards Kennet Road before joining into Richmond Crescent. It is due to be completed by Christmas and through the efforts of the Tidworth CATG has drawn upon a Community Area Grant and s106 funds.

5 RIFLES Learning from Experience: Wiltshire Council has consulted its partners on the way it managed its responsibilities on the 5 RIFLES move from Germany to Bulford last year. The valued feedback will help us plan for future moves.

Wiltshire Council receives golden recognition for support of Armed Forces: Wiltshire Council's work to support the Armed Forces was officially recognised by the Ministry of Defence at a special awards ceremony in October.

Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council, met Prince Harry and (former) Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon and was presented with the MOD's Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award together with Alistair Cunningham (Corporate Director for Growth, Investment and Place) and Kevin Ladner (MCI Programme Manager). The accolade is the highest badge of honour for organisations that have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and demonstrated outstanding support for those who serve and have served.

HRH Prince Harry thanked all this year's winners and heard about successful initiatives providing veterans with a fair chance of starting a second career in diverse industries following military service and other support measures in the workplace including flexibility for Reservists and mentoring and job opportunities for military spouses.

The ERS Gold Awards recognises employers who actively support the Armed Forces community in their workplace and also encourage others to follow their lead. The award scheme, which attracts entries from companies in every part of the country and in the private and public sectors, has seen a rapid increase in participation since it launched in 2014.

To achieve the gold award, Wiltshire Council highlighted how staff who are reservists and cadet forces volunteers are provided with two weeks' additional leave to balance their work with military commitments. The council also promotes flexible, family-friendly work patterns, which benefits partners of service personnel. Also included in the bid was detail on the council's wider work with the military communities and public services through the Military Civilian Integration Partnership (MCIP), and the recent reaffirmation of the Armed Forces Covenant, which encourages businesses and public services to support the military community.

Future Activity

- Summer 2018: St Michael's Primary school build is due to complete enabling transfer from Figheldean
- By August 2019: Additional school capacity required by the Army Basing Programme will be completed
- Summer 2019: Majority of Service personnel are due to move to Salisbury Plain.