

Update for Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board

from Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council

10 January 2018

- The Christmas Lights Event attracted its usual large and enthusiastic attendance. Many groups use the event to promote themselves to the community and it allowed the community to come together. It took some organising with 400 people directly involved with 187 entertainers, 100 stall keepers, 33 stewards and other volunteers, Thanks to others especially the council's security firm, St John's Ambulance, electrician's, councillor's and especially council staff for making this such a successful event.
- The council has had to say goodbye to Emily Maiden who left to pursue a career in journalism. She had been with the council for seven years and during that time had become a specialist in planning matters. She will be much missed.
- At the Market before Christmas, there was an event to promote the market and trading generally. Christmas Carols, Mince Pies, alcohol free mulled wine was served and thanks to the Cantanti Choir for performing.
- We marked the thirty years' service of the Town Clerk, Johnathan Bourne. There was a presentation attended by councillors, staff, past and present and family to mark his service to the town.
- At the last Full Council Meeting of the year the budget for 2018/19 was set. It was agreed to increase the precept to £939,215.00. This is an increase of £5.00 (2.57%) on a Band D property to £199.81. It was felt it was wise to do this to help cover major costs it will be incurring in the near future.
- The council considered the Wiltshire Council Plan Review Consultation Paper for the period to 2036. Amongst the comments were:

The scope is correct but there was insufficient time to consider it properly, it should reflect the need for a railway station, bypass and health centre, and Royal Wootton Bassett should not be considered as part of the same “Housing Market Area” as Swindon.

- The “Drop the Rubbish Attitude Campaign” organised by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Royal Wootton Bassett Academy and the Town Council through the Amenities Committee chaired by Cllr Sue Hughes, will be launched on Monday 8 January. Pupils at the Academy came up with innovative ideas and three of them presented their ideas to the Town Council. We are grateful for help with funding from the Town’s two Rotary Clubs and also discounted work from local printer Hulbert & Woodhall.

Cllr Steve Walls