

Newsletter

Parish Newsletter – 9 July 2018

Community update meeting

Representatives from local and national agencies will be at a special area board meeting on Tuesday, 10 July 2018 at 7pm to provide an update on the situation in Amesbury and Salisbury.

Local residents and businesses are invited to the meeting, which will be held at Antrobus House, Salisbury Road. Amesbury SP4 7HH.

The update will be presented from 7pm, and there will be an opportunity to ask the panel members any questions you may have afterwards.

We apologise for the short notice, but thought it was important to meet with local people as soon as possible.

It is planned to schedule regular updates with the local community following the recent incident.

Updates on the situation are available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/salisbury and www.wiltshire.police.uk

Read Baroness Scott's statement following the death of Dawn Sturgess:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/baroness-scott-statement>

Wiltshire Traveller sites future ownership options

Two council-run Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wiltshire could benefit from much needed redevelopment following a decision by cabinet members on 3 July) to transfer the ownership.

Dairy House Bridge and Oak Tree Field in Salisbury need major investment to renovate old buildings and amenities and address problems with drainage.

While central government pledged £4.4m for such work, the grant (proposed) fell £3m short of the cash needed to deliver the improvements.

In light of the funding required, Wiltshire Council has agreed to an option that reflects the approach taken by other councils including Somerset, Bucks and Hampshire to sell the sites to new owners that can invest to improve conditions and take on current residents' rental arrangements.

The decision taken at cabinet follows extensive consultation with site residents, in a survey and face-to-face meetings.

Toby Sturgis, cabinet member for planning, said: "Gypsy and Traveller communities living at these sites should receive good services and have decent living conditions. We know some residents have expressed concerns and I would like to reassure them that we intend to work closely with new owner/s to ensure the transfer is beneficial for residents.

The decision at cabinet means that families can keep their homes on the sites and benefit from investment that a new landlord can make."

The council's cabinet also backed a plan to provide new emergency stopping places for Gypsy and Travellers in the county.

Wiltshire currently does not have temporary sites, which has led to an increase in unauthorised encampments.

The new strategy will identify three locations on council or public sector-owned land across Wiltshire where Gypsy and Travellers can stay for a short time during the travelling season - April to November. Space will be provided for 4-6 pitches to include a hardstanding, fence, access to utilities, and a rubbish skip.

Proposed locations for the temporary sites will be discussed by cabinet in the autumn. The sites will be an effective means to review the needs of Gypsy and Travellers in the county and will help to manage unauthorised encampments.

Improved performance in priority areas

Wiltshire Council's leaders have welcomed an update on the improved performance in the delivery of council services.

Service improvements highlighted included the news that 94% of pupils in the county last year attended schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted and that over the harsh winter more than 3,900 potholes in ice-damaged roads were repaired. The council has also lowered the numbers of families with children living in temporary housing in line with its priority to protect vulnerable residents. Over the last five years the number has reduced to 1.5 in every 1,000 families, compared to a national figure of 4.1 in every 1,000 families.

At the meeting in County Hall, Trowbridge cabinet members agreed that good education paves the way to a higher skilled workforce and a healthy economy. It also recognised the importance of the county's infrastructure including its road network and how vital it is to help keep commerce moving around the county.

The report also shows a rise in the numbers of volunteers signing up in local neighbourhoods to support service delivery and local events and activities. Participation remains particularly high in areas including libraries and the maintenance of countryside sites and Rights of Way. Last year volunteers devoted more than 12,200 hours of their own time to support local communities and services helping to make Wiltshire a better place to live.

Working with local communities the council is taking steps to keep local environments clean, tidy and free from rubbish. Locally run annual Spring Clean-ups have been extremely successful with thousands participating and collecting 33.8 tonnes of waste. The council is committed to meeting the national target of 50% of household waste being recycled or composted by 2020, and has recently increased the materials for collection that can now be recycled. The county is well on course to meet the target. In 2017/18 45% of household waste was recycled or composted, an increase of more than one percentage compared to 2016/17.

The council's public health and social care teams have raised awareness of alcohol abuse and have worked with individuals affected to provide help and support. This has seen a fall in alcohol-related hospital admissions from 550 to 425 per 100,000 people in a year, which is also highlighted in the performance report.

Plans to ensure adequate housing provision for Wiltshire goes to the next stage

A draft plan which sets out how Wiltshire Council provides sufficient housing to meet residents' needs in the future will be discussed at full council today (10 July).

The draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan sets out how to allocate new sites for housing and to maintain a five-year housing land supply in each of Wiltshire's three Housing Market Areas (HMA) up to 2026.

Housing growth is a government priority and all local authorities have to prepare plans to identify sites for development.

The plan builds on the framework already provided by the Wiltshire Core Strategy for where development should take place.

Much of the housing growth for Wiltshire has already been delivered or identified and the proposed plan brings forward further sites, designed to ensure the scale of growth appropriate for Wiltshire is managed and directed in the most sustainable locations.

At a cabinet meeting last week further proposed changes were agreed to the draft plan. This means the overall level of growth proposed for allocation in the draft plan is 2,594 homes; with 1400 homes in the North and West HMA (13 sites), 270 homes in the East HMA (one site) and 924 homes in the South HMA (seven sites).

A 10-week consultation last year attracted 3,370 comments and 970 consultees. The draft plan was presented to the May cabinet and was deferred to allow for Wiltshire councillors and town and parish councils to consider the documents including the schedule of proposed changes.

The Secretary of State will appoint an inspector who will consider the plan and all the submitted evidence, including the representations received through the formal consultation undertaken in 2017. These will be independently and robustly examined in terms of legal compliance and soundness. Once adopted, the draft plan will form part of the development plan for Wiltshire

In preparing the plan the council engaged with infrastructure providers including education and health to understand the facilities that will be required to support the proposals. The council also has a Wiltshire School Places Strategy to ensure sufficient school places are available for the future.

The draft plan also reviews existing boundaries around many of Wiltshire's settlements to ensure these are up to date.

Adoption scorecard shows continues improvement

Wiltshire children and young people in care are finding their forever homes quicker than ever before according to a new report.

In 2017/18 22 adoption orders were granted and 19 families were approved as suitable to adopt in the Wiltshire Council area.

Figures show in Wiltshire the three-year average between a child entering care and moving in with an adopted family is shorter than the England average - 469 days compared to 520 days nationally. The figure for 2017/18 is 326 days down from 445 days the previous year.

Laura Mayes, cabinet member for children's services said: "One of the most important roles we undertake is to protect those who are most vulnerable and it's both heartening and positive to see the difference we are making to improving the lives of these children and young people.

"These figures show we are achieving continuous improvement but we can never be complacent and we are always working towards what more we can do. As we adopt a regional approach to adoption and fostering, I am confident that Wiltshire will work with partner organisations to continue this good work for the sake of our children."

The Adoption Scorecard is a government requirement and shows overall Wiltshire continues to improve and compare favourably with national averages.

The latest data comes as Wiltshire and neighbouring authorities prepare to develop collaborative arrangements for adoption services on a regional basis that will be implemented this Autumn to meet government requirements.

In the south west the Adoption West project is made up of six local authorities and a small number of locally operating voluntary adoption agencies working together to design and deliver a new adoption agency.

Children invited to join Mischief Makers at Wiltshire Council libraries

Wiltshire Council libraries are calling for children to read six books as part of the Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge 2018.

The challenge asks 4 - 11 year-olds to borrow and read any six library books over the summer holidays. The Mischief Makers theme is inspired by the Beano comic, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year.

Children will explore a map of Beanotown to find a hidden treasure chest full of pranks and become ultimate mischief makers!

As children read and return their books they will receive stickers, some with mysterious smells. By adding these stickers to their Beanotown map, young readers will help Dennis, Gnasher and friends solve clues and discover the treasure, having lots of fun and adventures along the way.

Children can sign up at their nearest library where they will be issued with a membership card and once they've read their first book, they will receive a colourful collector's map of Beanotown to keep a record of their reading journey.

Mischief Makers launches in all 31 libraries across Wiltshire on 14 July and runs until 8 September. More than 250 volunteers will be supporting the Summer Reading Challenge in Wiltshire's libraries helping children to take part and enjoy this year's challenge.

Wiltshire Council is hoping to top last year's participation, when 9,370 children took part in the Animal Agents-themed challenge. Together they read 39,019 books.

There will also be children's activities in a number of Wiltshire libraries this summer. Bradford on Avon library will host the town's Mini Book Festival for children on 14 July. Malmesbury library stage their Children and Young People's Book Festival from 30 July to 2 August.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue service will also offer story times in a number of larger libraries for families with young children based on keeping safe around water over the summer.

Sue Wilkinson, CEO of The Reading Agency said: "Everything changes when we read and we know from our research how much fun families and children have when taking part in the challenge.

"Mischief Makers offers intergenerational appeal and we hope this family-friendly, accessible theme will inspire more children than ever to read over the holidays and make use of their local library throughout the summer and beyond."

What's on



If you would like to promote an event in your area to staff and the wider public why not use the [events calendar](#) on our website. You can find the link to the calendar on the home page under ["What's on"](#).

Check what else is on at Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon:

www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk and City Hall in Salisbury: www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk

Quick links

Area Board information - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards.htm

All the latest news releases - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/latestnews.htm

A blog for the heritage community of Wiltshire - <https://heritageinwiltshire.wordpress.com>

Community virtual notice boards - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ourcommunitymattersblogsites.htm

Recycle for Wiltshire - www.recycleforwiltshire.com

Roadworks - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/roadshighwayspavements/roadworks.htm

Tree wardens for Wiltshire - www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk

What's on in Wiltshire - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandrecreation/whatson.htm

What's on at City Hall in Salisbury - www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk

A blog for Wiltshire's arts community - <http://theartsinwiltshire.wordpress.com>

The latest news from the council is available on the [full newslisting](#) pages of the website