

Parish Newsletter – 5 April 2019

Town and Parish Councils Training and Networking Day

Following the success of last year's event, we would like to invite chairman, councillors and clerks to attend this year's training and networking day.

Thursday 9 May, 9.30am – 3.45pm at [The Guildhall, Salisbury](#).

The event is co-hosted by Wiltshire Council and the Society of Local Council Clerks and this year it will cover:

- The challenges ahead for local government
- Volunteers and how to work with them
- Freedom of Information requests
- Essential policies and transparency
- Business continuity and emergency planning
- Social media and code of conduct

The format of the event is seated, with a variety of key speakers, workshops and networking opportunities during the day.

Spaces are limited and attendance will be on a strictly first come, first served basis, with a maximum of two representatives from each town or parish council. If you would like to attend, please complete the attached form and return to the Wiltshire Council Events Team at events@wiltshire.gov.uk by Friday 19 April.

We look forward to welcoming you to this training and networking day, which we hope you will find both informative and useful.

Kind regards,



Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE
Leader, Wiltshire Council
Clerks



Rob Smith
Chief Executive, Society of Local Council
Clerks

Homeless strategy consultation

We are pleased to announce we have just commenced our three-month formal consultation on Wiltshire Council's Homeless Strategy. Having a homeless strategy is required by the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and as part of its development we have taken into account the homeless Code of Guidance and we have produced a full data review on homelessness in Wiltshire. This was developed alongside the homeless health needs assessment. The consultation gives you the opportunity to have your say on the draft strategy.

[Homeless Data Review 2019](#)

What are we consulting on?

Our homeless strategy sets out our vision, aims and key priorities to help prevent and reduce homelessness in Wiltshire. The key priorities are:

- Reduce rough sleeping
- Identify and prevent homelessness at the earliest possible stage
- Ensure services are designed to prevent homelessness and support those who are homeless.
- Ensure those who are threatened with homelessness or who are homeless can secure and keep a suitable home.
- Maintain effective strategic direction and partnership working

Each priority is supported by actions to enable the priorities to be achieved

[Homeless Strategy](#)

Have your say

We want your thoughts on the strategy which will be considered when finalising the documents. The strategy will then be presented to Cabinet in September 2019 followed by Full Council in October 2019.

[Have your say](#) - the closing date for comments is 5pm on 2 June 2019.

Town centre clean up gets underway

A major clean-up of the county's town centres is now underway following Wiltshire Council's recent award of government funding.

The council was awarded a £86,956 share of £9.75m from the Government's High Streets Community Clean-Up Fund to back efforts to spruce up the county's high streets.

Cleaning got underway in Amesbury on 1 April 2019 and will take place across town centres in Wiltshire throughout the month.



Representatives from Wiltshire Council, Amesbury Town Council and the council's contractors Idverde gathered recently to mark the start of the work.

The funding gives local authorities an opportunity to do more while encouraging communities to take greater pride in their local area. The money will help support projects such as Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean campaign which runs until 23 April and National High Street Perfect Day a new community-led clean-up day to help make high streets look their very best.

The funding, which has been used to purchase equipment for community group use, with supporting services such as waste collection, is only available in April 2019.

Wiltshire Council will work in partnership with existing community groups to use the one-off funding to support volunteers. The council will supply groups with tools such as litter pickers, gloves and brushes, and specialist cleaning services to improve areas and also supply litter picking equipment to participating community groups. During the month the council can also arrange for the collection of waste after the event. Cleaning events are taking place in every town centre in Wiltshire throughout April.

Litter picks in areas covered by Salisbury, Amesbury, Southern and South West Wiltshire Area Boards can take place in line with the Great British Spring Clean guidance. The 'if you didn't drop it, don't pick it up' advice from Public Health England remains in place in those areas for casual, non-organised litter picking. If a community group in one of those areas has an event arranged they are encouraged to contact their local Community Engagement Manager with details so that they can provide specialist litter picking equipment and advice to support the event. People should visit the council's [Salisbury and Amesbury page](#).

Community groups who would like to get involved can contact streetscene@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Families set to explore Wiltshire towns in search of clues

Looking for something to keep the family entertained over the Easter holidays? Come along to a family treasure hunt near you.

Not only is searching for clues around the town fun and good for health and wellbeing, it's also a great way to support your child's learning.

Wiltshire Council is hosting 14 events across the county for families who want to learn together, taking place in Calne, Corsham, Devizes, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Chippenham and Warminster.

All treasure hunts start and finish at the town library in each of the areas.

Routes are suitable for young children and should take 45-60 minutes to complete. Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.

The events are funded by the Education Skills Funding Agency and are open to people with less than five GCSEs grades A-C, EU/UK residents for 3 years or more and service families.

Places must be booked ahead of the event. Visit <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/family-learning> or contact the Wiltshire Family and Community Learning team on 01225 770478.

Date	Location	Morning session	Afternoon session
8 April	Devizes	9:45am - 11:45am	1pm – 3pm
10 April	Salisbury	10am – 12 noon	1pm – 3pm
15 April	Corsham	10am – 12 noon	1pm – 3pm
16 April	Calne	10am – 12 noon	1pm – 3pm
18 April	Trowbridge	10am – 12 noon	1pm – 3pm
18 April	Warminster	10am – 12 noon	1pm – 3pm
18 April	Chippenham	10am – 12 noon	1pm – 3pm

Melksham milestone – planning application submitted for campus

Melksham's multi-million-pound campus has moved a significant step forward with a planning application formally submitted.

The application will be available to view on the council's planning portal shortly.



The designs for the modern Melksham Community Campus include a six-lane swimming pool and a learner pool, fitness suite, dance studio, library and community hub, sports hall, a café and office space. This will be in addition to the cricket pitch, outdoor bowls and the new tennis courts, which will be located on the Melksham House site. Work on the new tennis courts began earlier this week.

Earlier in March Wiltshire Council also held two well attended public information drop-in days for the campus team to speak to people about the plans and answer questions.

A decision on the planning application is expected by the end of August this year. If the application is approved then construction work is anticipated to start in early 2020 with the project due to be completed by mid-2021.

The planning application will be subject to Wiltshire Council's normal planning procedures, as per any other application.

For all the latest information on the Melksham Community Campus programme, people should visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-environment-melksham-community-campus.

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