

Newsletter

Parish Newsletter – w/c 11 February 2018

Community engagement managers update

To ensure Wiltshire Council's community engagement managers continue to support and empower local communities, while recognising ongoing budget pressures, the team has recently undergone a restructure.

We are pleased to confirm that Wiltshire's new community engagement manager team, with their respective areas, are shown below:

- Amesbury Jacqui Abbott - 01722 434 344 or jacqui.abbott@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Bradford on Avon and Corsham Ros Griffiths - 01225 718372 or ros.griffiths@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Calne and Marlborough Alexa Davies - 01249 706610 or alexa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Chippenham Ollie Phipps - 01249 709404 or ollie.phipps@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Devizes Andrew Jack 01225 713109 or andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Malmesbury Penny Bell - 01249 706613 penny.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Melksham Peter Dunford - 01225 713060 or peter.dunford@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Pewsey and Tidworth Richard Rogers 07771547522 or richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Royal Wootton Bassett Jane Vaughan - 01249 706447 or jane.vaughan@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Salisbury Marc Read - 01722 434557 or marc.read@wiltshire.gov.uk
- South West and Southern Karen Linaker 01722 434697 or karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Trowbridge Liam Cripps - 01225 713143 or liam.cripps@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Warminster and Westbury Graeme Morrison - 01225 713573 or graeme.morrison@wiltshire.gov.uk

The new team is currently going through a handover period and will officially start in their new areas on Monday 4 March 2019. They are all looking forward to starting and are already beginning to introduce themselves to their new contacts.

The team will continue to work closely with the local area boards to bring local decision making into the heart of the community and discuss issues that are important to local residents. They will also continue to support the award of grants to community groups, a scheme which has seen so many success stories over the years.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Rhys Schell, Communities Specialist Manager Engagement and Governance on 01225 716752 or rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Boundary review moves a step forward

The review into Wiltshire's political boundaries has moved a step forward and people are being invited to have their say

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England formally publishing its draft recommendation which propose Wiltshire should have 98 councillors in future: this is no change from now.

The recommendations also outline how those councillors should represent 98 one-councillor divisions across the council. In August 2018 the commission said it was 'minded to' propose that Wiltshire should keep its current number of councillors.

On 5 February, the commission launched a 10-week public consultation on the recommendations that will end on 15 April 2019. The consultation is open to anyone who wants to have their say on new council divisions, division boundaries and division names across Wiltshire.

Previously, Wiltshire Council's cross-party Electoral Review Committee met publicly to develop and recommend divisional boundary proposals to full council. Workshops were also held to which all councillors were invited. Submissions were also received from many of our towns and parishes. These discussions shaped the draft design of the boundaries and these were agreed by full council in October 2018.

The full recommendations and detailed interactive maps are available on the commission's website at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/>. Hard copies of the commission's report and maps will also be available to view upon request at County Hall, Trowbridge.

The Wiltshire Council Electoral Review Committee will accept copies of any submissions at the same time right up to the deadline. They should be sent to committee@wiltshire.gov.uk

The next steps are:

- In July 2019, the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will be published. At this stage they will no longer be able to be amended. A draft order will be prepared for laying in Parliament, where the recommendations may be accepted or rejected, but not amended
- Should the recommendations be accepted, they will then be implemented for elections in May 2021

Wiltshire Council takes control of finances

Recently published budget proposals for 2019/20 detailing how Wiltshire Council is planning for a growth in its services have been discussed by its cabinet.

The budget has been reviewed by overview and scrutiny committee, endorsed by cabinet (5 February), and will go to full council to make a final decision on the proposals on 26 February where members will also be asked to approve 2.99% rise in Council Tax, for 2019/20.

A key focus is to ensure a strong sustainable financial base exists in these challenging times for all public sector organisations.

Wiltshire Council has stable and steady budget growth of around £10M per year rising from £332m to £371 over the next five years. However, the demand for services continues to grow,

especially in social care, at a higher rate than the current budget and this means strong financial planning is vital, as well as a programme of transformation, digitisation and commercialisation.

The budget reflects increasing demand for care for the vulnerable, including adults and children with complex care needs and special educational needs, and the delay in the Government determining a new fairer funding settlement.

Next year the council will spend almost £332 million on more than 350 services. Spending plan proposals are aligned to our key priorities; growing the economy, strong communities, protecting those who are most vulnerable, and working with partners as an innovative and effective council.

The budget includes proposals to continue to develop the recently transformed adult social care services to respond to increased demand, the continued devolution of assets and services to local communities and creating a new local plan for effective and strategic planning to ensure homes, jobs and infrastructure needs of Wiltshire communities can be met.

Growth of £1.064 million has been included alongside new funding allocated from Government, creating a £8M fund in total, to revitalise and support towns and rural communities to deliver a more locally driven street scene service. The South Wiltshire Recovery team will continue to develop and implement a programme of work to ensure the recovery and revitalisation of South Wiltshire.

Headteacher welcomes proposals on special schools

A special needs headteacher has welcomed Wiltshire Council proposals to invest £20m to ensure every pupil has access to a first class education in Wiltshire.

Exeter House headteacher Matt Sambrook says the proposals to have two centres of excellence in Wiltshire which would cater for special needs pupils while also working extensively with mainstream schools, resource bases, parents and other professionals offered "incredible opportunities."

He said: "The vision and approach being put forward by the local authority and level of investment being committed is a fantastic step forward. This would enable life changing opportunities, not just for pupils in special schools across the county, but for all pupils in Wiltshire with a designation of special educational needs across all schools and provision types.

"As a centre of excellence we would be able to meet, not only, increasing need and demand for Special Educational provision but also provide comprehensive outreach beyond our setting - working extensively with mainstream schools, resource bases, parents and other professionals. Through this approach we would build a community of understanding and possibility where inclusion is at the forefront of what we do and realise what is possible by providing meaningful and aspirational opportunities for all no matter what your needs."

The proposals are part of a consultation which envisages creating a new centre of excellence at Rowdeford near Devizes. The consultation goes on until 1 March 2019 and people are being encouraged to have their say.

The proposed purpose-built school at Rowdeford would have the latest facilities including hydro-pools, sensory rooms, child friendly spaces for learning and plenty of outdoor open space.

Proposals for the school include attracting excellent teachers and building strong community links with nearby Rowde. There would also be regular access to specialist staff including speech and language therapy, physio and family care.

The investment proposals would also meet the need to create an additional 220 places for future demand.

As part of the proposals the schools at Larkrise, Trowbridge, St Nicholas, Chippenham and Rowdeford would close in 2023 when the proposed new school opens.

Wiltshire Council's cabinet will be meeting this spring to consider the proposals in the light of the responses to the consultation.

People have until 1 March 2019 to comment on the plans. They can respond to the statutory consultation in the following ways:

- [Wiltshire Council's website consultation page](#)
- By emailing specialschools@wiltshire.gov.uk
- At information surgeries in the schools
- At open meetings for parents/carers run by Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) which are advertised on the [WPCC website](#)

New special schools opens in the south of Wiltshire

A new spacious facility for pupils with special needs in south Wiltshire opened on 4 February.

The school for primary and lower secondary age groups is part of a wider approach to meeting growing need for specialist education provision in the county.

The satellite is being developed as part of the wider review of special education that Wiltshire Council has been taking forward over the last three years. The review demonstrated a need for an additional special facility for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social Emotional and Mental Health concerns (SEMH) in the south of Wiltshire.

Reach South, multi Academy Trust which includes Springfields Academy, Magna Learning Partnership and Wiltshire Council have worked together to open 'Springfields South' as a satellite specialist provision on the site of Sarum Academy in Salisbury.

Springfields Academy specialises in supporting vulnerable young people, with ASD/SEMH, to access and enjoy their learning.

The team of highly experienced staff have been working with the children during the period of transition while the school building on the site of Sarum Academy has been made ready.



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