

Parish Newsletter – 11 September 2017

Have your say on our online housing consultation

There's still plenty of time to have your say on our housing consultation, as it runs until 5pm on 22 September 2017.

The plan sets out how to meet housing needs in the most sustainable way for the period up to 2026. The [online consultation](#) for the plan launched on 14 July for 10 weeks up to 5pm on 22 September 2017.



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 as a whole is managed and directed at the most sustainable locations.

In preparing the plan the council has engaged with infrastructure providers including in education and health to understand what facilities will be required to support the proposals. The council also has a Wiltshire School Places Strategy to ensure sufficient school places are available into the longer term. The draft plan also reviews existing boundaries around many of Wiltshire's settlements to ensure these are up to date.

The Wiltshire Core Strategy, which was adopted after wide consultation in 2015, sets the framework for the plan.

Once the consultation is complete the feedback will be considered by cabinet and full council before the draft plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent inspector. The inspector will consider the consultation responses as part of the examination and issue a report indicating whether the plan can be adopted.

Fostering information session

If you could provide a secure and caring home for a Wiltshire child come along and find out more about fostering at our fostering information session at County Hall, Trowbridge at 7pm on Tuesday 26 September.

Just drop in or ring 0800 169 6321 for more information. Visit our [website](#) for further details on fostering.



Wheelie good news - Melksham skatepark is now open

Work to provide a brand new skatepark for the Melksham community has been completed and is now available for the local community to use.

Work on the new skatepark got underway in April to replace the former skatepark at King George V playing fields. The work has been carried out by Canvas Spaces.



The new skatepark has been provided as part of Wiltshire Council's campus programme in Melksham. The durable and modern skatepark will mean skaters no longer have to travel to other parts of Wiltshire or further afield in order to access a quality facility. It has been designed to cater for younger skaters and beginners through to more advanced skaters, offering a challenging environment, for all levels.

The investment of almost £10m so far in Melksham includes the recently opened Oakfields a state of the art football and rugby facility at Woolmore Farm, an improved Market Place which is currently being re-developed, and a new cricket pavilion, which will be shared with the tennis club. Plans are also being developed for the provision of a new health and wellbeing centre on the Melksham House site, which will provide a range of services including leisure, a library and a new GP surgery.

Nearly 90,000 of you have responded to our Household Enquiry Forms within a fortnight

The election canvass started on Friday 4 August, with 213,000 Household Enquiry Forms being delivered to each residential property in Wiltshire.

Within a fortnight, 40% of households have responded and nearly 60% of those returns were made online or by text or telephone.



Online and telephone returns provide a real opportunity to save the council money. Responding through the automated system is straightforward and each form has its own security code and instructions on how to complete the online or telephone response. Each year more and more people make use of the automated systems for the first time, have a go yourself and see what you think.

What do I do if the information on the form is correct?

To confirm your details, all you have to do is go to the [response website](#) and select Wiltshire Council, or text 80212 and use the security codes printed at the top of the form. This is the quickest and easier way to confirm your information on the form is correct. You can also return the signed form by post.

What do I do if my details are wrong?

Go online at [household response](#) and select Wiltshire Council. You can update the details of eligible voters at your address by using the security codes provided at the top of your household enquiry form to make changes. Alternatively, you can amend the form and return it in the prepaid envelope provided.

If you have added anyone to the form, they will still need to register to vote individually - [find out how](#). You will need to provide their date of birth and national insurance number to complete their registration.

Have your say on new mobile library timetables

Every two years, we review our public mobile library stops to ensure the service is operating efficiently and we're reaching the communities where it is most needed.

To help us improve our mobile library service, we're asking customers in the communities where the mobile library currently stops to comment on the proposed new timetables, which will be effective from February 2018.



The survey is now open and runs until Saturday 4 November, and will enable you to have your say on the new routes. To see the mobile library route review documents and feedback forms, and the current north and south mobile library routes, see our [mobile libraries page](#).

Have your say on the challenges ahead

We're hosting a series of interactive meetings to discuss the challenges the council is facing and the impact these could have on our communities.

The council currently spends £900 million each year on more than 300 services and has recently agreed a plan to deliver an ambitious programme of work over the next 10 years.

The council's vision is to create strong communities, prioritising growing the economy, protecting those who are most vulnerable, and working with partners in an innovative and effective way. Changing demographics and the continuing reduction in funding from central government mean we have to continue to find substantial savings and work even more closely with local communities to encourage and support them to do more for themselves.

The council's cabinet members will attend the meetings to discuss the challenges and invite and listen to your views and suggestions on how these can be best managed.

The first meeting was held in Salisbury on 5 September, and was well attended by local people, who aired their views on the challenges ahead in an interactive session.

We hope you are able to attend one of the meetings below, and it would be helpful if you could please confirm your attendance by emailing: events@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Date	Location	Venue	Time	
14 September	Chippenham	Monkton Park	5.30pm	Refreshments available
25 September	Trowbridge	County Hall	5.30pm	Refreshments available
26 September	Devizes	Corn Exchange	5.30pm	Refreshments available

Advice for sheep keepers

Following multiple calls, animal health inspectors would like to remind sheep keepers of their duty of care, especially with regards to lameness.

It is appreciated that the majority of farmers are compliant and are doing all they can to manage lameness issues in their flock, however the number of calls regarding lame sheep in the county have increased.



Lame sheep are in pain and if the lameness is not treated then the sheep is in pain or suffering unnecessarily, which is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. It is a legal requirement that sheep found lame must be treated promptly and appropriately. If they do not respond to treatment then veterinary advice must be obtained as soon as possible.

The Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Sheep state that "If a chronically lame sheep does not respond to remedial treatment, it should be culled and not left to suffer. As such animals cannot be transported in a way which avoids further suffering; they should be slaughtered on the farm."

Anyone responsible for a farmed animal must not attend to that animal(s) unless they are acquainted with the relevant code of practice. The code of recommendations for sheep can be found on the Government website.

If anyone has any concerns for sheep or other livestock, they should ring our animal health team on 0300 456 0100.

Council proposes parking increase to help safeguard rural bus services

Local people are being asked to have their say on the options to review car parking charges in Wiltshire to help safeguard rural bus services.

A review of parking arrangements in 2014 introduced individual car park charging based upon usage, which saw an overall reduction in charges and meant that the council's car parking service has remained relatively unchanged since 2011.

However, cost pressures on many council services has resulted in a need to consider a review of current parking charges to ensure that vital services can continue.

The proposals, which will be considered at cabinet on 12 September, also contain investment in a number of technological and operational improvements to improve customer service. These include parking bay sensors, automatic number plate recognition for residents' parking zones, static cameras outside schools and body worn cameras.

The consultation provides an opportunity for people to feedback their views on the options. Any surplus revenue generated from car parking is used to help fund essential local bus services. Following the cabinet meeting on 12 September the consultation will begin later in the month and will last for eight weeks. Please check back on the [Wiltshire Council website](#) for further details, a link will

also be included in a future issue of the Parish Newsletter.

Sessions to discuss Devizes Wharf site

People are being invited to a series of events to talk about the future of Devizes Wharf and the possible development opportunities.

Following detailed assessment of the site, and as part of ongoing work, we are keen to get local feedback on options for the site.

A series of drop in events are taking place from next week on the following dates, and all are welcome to attend:

- 12 September 9am to 4pm Wharf Theatre
- 14 September 9am to 3pm Devizes Market
- 18 September 5pm to 6:30pm Prior to the Devizes Area Board at the Devizes Community Hub



As a key site in the local area, we are keen for any possible development plan to be clear and managed carefully ensuring it is aligned to the local planning policies including the Wiltshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Devizes Neighbourhood Plan.

Couple celebrate 40 years of fostering at special event

A couple who have provided a loving home for foster children for more than 40 years were given a special thank you by friends and family at a celebration event this week (6 September).

Val and Derek Wilson from Bratton had four children of their own but when their youngest was a toddler they decided they could continue to offer a loving home to benefit other children.



Initially they fostered for the Church of England and then a few years later saw an advert for Wiltshire Council and joined the fostering service in April 1975. A baby was placed with them, and she remained with them until she was an adult and ready to leave home.

Over the next 30 years, they cared for three groups of siblings, each on a long-term basis, one after the other, who also remained with them from the time they arrived until they were ready to leave home as adults. They went on to adopt four of the children who were placed with them. All of the children remain part of their huge and expanding family.

For the past few years they have switched to short-term fostering and have cared for many children, helping them to return to their parents, to long-term foster carers or to be adopted.

Val and Derek said: We're so proud of all our children. We feel we've raised four families of children - our own and three foster families. However it wouldn't have been possible to do this without the support of our family and we're extremely grateful for that."

The celebration event, to recognise the commitment and love Val and Derek have given many children over the years, was held at the foster carers support group at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham on Wednesday.

People wishing to foster can come from many backgrounds. Anyone who thinks they can make a difference to a child's life and have the time to care, can find out more about fostering at one of our information evenings. The next meeting will take place on 26 September at County Hall Trowbridge from 7pm. Visit our [website](#) for further details on fostering.

Get your electric blanket tested free of charge

Thousands of fires in the home every year could have been easily prevented. Have you booked your free test?

Wiltshire Council Consumer Protection will test your blanket free of charge. We will also be on hand to offer advice and support on matters that may be concerning you.

The events are being held at the following venues and will be by appointment only:

- County Hall, Trowbridge – Monday 13 November – 9.30am - 11.30am
- Nadder Centre, Tisbury – Monday 13 November – 2pm - 4pm
- City Hall, Salisbury – Tuesday 14 November – 10am - 12noon and 1.30pm - 3.30pm

To book an appointment, please contact us using the details below.

Tel: 01225 713652

Email: tradingstandards@wiltshire.gov.uk

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 [news area](#) of the Wiltshire Council website