

Parish Newsletter – 5 March 2018

## Wiltshire Council and CCG praised for improving cervical screening attendance

We are among the 20% of local authorities praised by Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, for comprehensive and targeted work to improve cervical screening attendance in Wiltshire. However, uptake of cervical screening is decreasing and currently at a 20 year low nationally which leaves women at an increased risk of developing cancer.

Ben Anderson, portfolio holder for public health said: "We know that cervical screening saves lives. It's very important women are encouraged to attend

their screening appointments so that any changes can be detected and investigated at an early stage. Being recognised like this gives us confidence that we're doing things the right way. Prevention is always better than cure and we're determined to do everything we can to ensure cervical screening attendance continues to rise in Wiltshire."

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust recently published a report which highlighted areas, including Wiltshire, that have implemented good practice to improve cervical screening uptake. It urges other CCGs, local authorities and GP practices across England to work together to plan activities and interventions to increase cervical screening coverage.

Dr Richard Sandford-Hill, chair of Wiltshire clinical commissioning group and GP at Market Lavington Surgery added: "It is really important to continue to encourage women in Wiltshire to attend regularly survival screening. This allows us to pick up pre-cancerous changes in the cervix before they develop into cancer, meaning these cells can then be treated. Screening only takes a few minutes and can save many lives, so please do attend your screening appointment when invited."



## 98% of Wiltshire's children given one of their secondary school preferences

Figures released today show 98% of Wiltshire children will attend one of their preferred choices of secondary school from this September, as parents find out the results of their online applications.

Parents who applied online have found out their decisions today, those who applied by post will have their decisions posted out to them today.

This year 98% of children are being offered one of their three preferences, with 92% receiving an offer for their first preference school.

The number of parents applying online has risen again, with 95% of applications being made online, compared to 92% last year.

The results of online applications are available [online](#); Parents will need their user ID and password to access their decisions.

The numbers of parents applying is also up on last year, as the number of children gradually increases in line with population growth. There were 4,807 on-time applications received this year 197 more applications than in 2017.

Laura Mayes, cabinet member for children said: "I'm pleased we are able to offer 98% of Wiltshire pupils one of their preferred secondary school choices this September.

"The high figures are once again due to the careful planning of our officers, who ensure there are sufficient places across the county for now and in the future."

All applicants have until 15 March 2018 to accept the offer they receive. The right to an independent appeal is open to anyone who has not received an offer at their preferred school.

Details of how to appeal are included in the decision letter posted to all applicants. Further information is also available on our [website](#).



## Operation Flood Working Group News

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### [SSEN Resilient Communities Fund](#)

Just to let all of you know that the fund will launch on Tuesday. Applications are invited for projects between £1,000 & £20,000.

This year we are encouraging applications from communities who have not previously applied and who have been identified as being vulnerable or at risk of prolonged power interruptions. We are also looking for projects which demonstrate real innovation in terms of how communities can better deal with emergency events. If your project does not fall into one of these categories, please do not feel put off from applying, as we will be considering all applications which meet the fund criteria set out in the Guidelines.

The deadline for applications is 16 May 2018, with the panel meeting to make decisions in early August.

## What's on

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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](http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk) and City Hall in Salisbury: [www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk](http://www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk)

## Quick links

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Area Board information - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards.htm)

All the latest news releases - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/latestnews.htm](http://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](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ourcommunitymattersblogsites.htm)

Recycle for Wiltshire - [www.recycleforwiltshire.com](http://www.recycleforwiltshire.com)

Roadworks - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/roadshighwayspavements/roadworks.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/roadshighwayspavements/roadworks.htm)

Tree wardens for Wiltshire - [www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk](http://www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk)

What's on in Wiltshire - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandrecreation/whatson.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandrecreation/whatson.htm)

What's on at City Hall in Salisbury - [www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk](http://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 newlisting](#) pages of the website