

Parish Newsletter

April 2011

Welcome to the April Parish Newsletter. This month, amongst other things we'll give you information on proposed changes to council funded bus services, information on Path Improvements Grant Schemes (PIGS), updates on carer support wiltshire and the latest meetings you may be interested in attending.

County News

Wiltshire Council- play area inspection service

All play area providers have a duty of care under current legislation and standards to ensure their equipment and sites are in good working order. This in turn ensures that such play areas provide a safe environment for children to play and develop in. All play areas must comply with British and European Standards, the key standards being EN 1177 and EN1176.

Standards dictate that all play areas must undergo an annual inspection. ROSPA (Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents) and other leading agencies recommend routine weekly and monthly operational inspections as best practice.

All providers must keep records of all inspections and be able to produce such documentation in the event of any claim resulting from an injury or accident.

Wiltshire Council inspect their play areas weekly and can provide this service to town and parish council's. Detailed routine and monthly operational inspections can be provided which will generate reports in formats to suit all requirements. Please contact Amenity & Fleet on 01380 734639 or alternatively email:

tom.ince@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council Business Plan- 2011-2015

Wiltshire Council
Business Plan
2011 - 2015



The general election in May 2010 has changed the way that local government will be organised and the amount of resources it has for the foreseeable future. This change - the greatest since the Second World War - will mean this organisation absorbing a cut of 28.4% to grant funding from the government, as well as managing more than 300 new pieces of legislation.

The Wiltshire Council business plan sets out how we intend to meet the challenges whilst delivering our vision to create stronger, more resilient communities. It highlights our business model for the next five to 10 years. The changes from where we are now will be phased so that the first four years set the foundations to make the council as efficient as possible and equipped for the future.

To look at the business plan please visit the [Wiltshire Council website](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk).

Carer Support Wiltshire

All four current Carers Support centres in Wiltshire are going to become 'Carer Support Wiltshire' as of 1st April 2011. The new organisation will provide support, advice and information services to carers across the county, as well as training for carers, break opportunities and a range of support groups. Much of the support currently available is provided in carers' homes and this will continue. For carers there should be initially very little difference to the services they receive now and the current telephone numbers will be in use until further notice. Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire will be working with Carer Support Wiltshire to provide additional community outreach support in local communities such as in libraries and health centres. More information can be found at www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk/ or by calling 01380 871 690.

New mobile library timetables now available

Timetables for Wiltshire's mobile library services are now available

The timetables inform you when the Wilton, Warminster, Devizes and Chippenham mobile libraries will be coming to an area near you. On board a mobile library you will find a full range of stock including children's picture books, large print, bestsellers, biographies, talking books and DVDs.

Timetables are available from libraries or you can check route information on the [Wiltshire Council website](#).

For further information about mobile library services please contact:

Rebecca Bolton, Outreach Services Manager on 01225 713706 or rebecca.bolton@wiltshire.gov.uk

A new online resource for parish and town councils

The new [Wiltshire World Changers Network website](#) is now live. The network provides practical resources that community groups, parish and town councils can use to engage their community on a diverse range of environmental and sustainability issues.

Coordinated by Wiltshire Council's Eco team the website is driven by the network members needs. Available resources will include a green funding bulletin, project ideas, information and data on energy consumption and renewable energy. An interactive section includes an online calendar to publicise green events and online forum to discuss issues, share ideas and experience.

Proposed changes to council-funded bus services in 2011/12

As a result of significant reductions in local authority funding, and the Government's insistence that a high proportion of the savings are achieved in the first year, Wiltshire Council has had to make difficult decisions in setting its budget for the 2011/12 financial year. However, due to efficiency and procurement savings of £850,000 and the use of additional income from car parking to help fund bus services, it has been possible to limit to £600,000 the amount that has to be found from making changes to bus services. This puts us in a much better situation than many of our neighbouring authorities.

The proposed changes have been identified according to the Council's published Guidelines for funding of supported services, which were the subject of recent consultation as part of the third Local Transport Plan. The intention behind the proposals is to minimise the impact on users as far as is possible, by spreading the changes across the county and withdrawing services or journeys where alternatives are available, or which are relatively poorly used or expensive to run per passenger carried.

[Read more](#)

For details of the proposed changes to services in your area or across the county as a whole, please see the [bus services section](#) of the website.

Programme of road resurfacing and highway works planned for 2011/12

The council has a large programme of road resurfacing and other highway works planned for 2011/12. Information on the schemes proposed in your area is included in the Community Area Highway Information which is available on the [council's website](#).

It also includes details of the work carried out last year and facts and figures about the roads in your area. They are being provided in electronic form again this year as we are trying to reduce the amount of paper received by the parish councils, but they can be provided in printed form if required.

This winter has caused extensive damage to the road network in many places. Additional funding for highways has been made available by both the government and this council this year, and it is likely that additional sites to those listed will also be able to be treated.

Wiltshire libraries – plans for change



A leaflet is available in libraries which gives an overview of the main points of the Library Service Review, approved by Wiltshire Council Cabinet on 25 January. There is a feedback form on the leaflet and people can also enter their comments about the plans on the [library service pages of the council website](#) (which also has more information on the review). Comments must be received by 28 May 2011 and will be used in future service planning. There is also a form for people to complete if they would like more information on the volunteering opportunities.

Communicating the new waste and recycling collection service

We need your help! Do you have parish magazines, newsletters or websites which can be used to help tell people about the new collection services ?

Communications will play a key role in the introduction and implementation of the new waste and recycling collection service, ensuring that the residents of Wiltshire are fully aware of what is happening and when to their waste and recycling services and also offering advice and help on how they can get the best from the new service.

Anything you can do to work with us to make the new services a success would be appreciated, the more ways we can communicate this important information the better, as the new service will effect every household in Wiltshire.

If you can help please email your contact details together with details of your publication dates and deadlines to judi.gardner@wiltshire.gov.uk who will arrange to send you more information.

Flood workshops

We have held two successful workshops and assisted 15 parish and town councils to begin drafting up their flood plans. If your community would like help to draw up a flood plan for your parish please contact: renate.malton@wiltshire.gov.uk or nick.reed@environment-agency.gov.uk

Gel Sacs “have a go” workshop and demonstration

Wiltshire Council recently offered gel sacs to parish councils to purchase at cost price either for parish use or on behalf of residents at risk of flooding. Since then we have had a number of enquiries about the best way to deploy them and how easy are they to use. In conjunction with Crudwell parish council and Ringway we have organised a practical hands on “have a go” and demonstration session of their use. If you would like to come along and join us on Saturday 7 May at Crudwell Village Hall, Tetbury Lane, Crudwell. SN16 9HB from 10 a.m – 12 noon.

Please contact either renate.malton@wiltshire.gov.uk or villageend@btinternet.com (Crudwell parish council)

Operational flood working groups

For more information and to see the dates for upcoming flood working groups please visit the [Wiltshire Council website](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk).

Free ordnance survey computer maps for town and parish councils

From 1 April 2011, Ordnance Survey are introducing a new license (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/business/sectors/government/psma/index.html) called the "Public Sector Mapping Agreement for England and Wales" that will allow almost all public bodies (parish councils are specifically mentioned) to have free access to their MasterMap layers, image layers (like Google Earth, but better quality). Samples of the types of mapping available can be found at the ordnance [survey website](#).

[Read more](#)

Paths Improvement Grant Scheme (PIGS) 2011

The PIGS scheme aims to encourage parish and town councils to make innovative improvements to their rights of way for the benefit of the local community and visitors. Match funding grants are provided to winning bids in an annual competitive bidding process. The scheme is run jointly by the Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (www.wiltshirelaf.org.uk) and Wiltshire Council's Right of Way section. A variety of excellent schemes have been undertaken in previous years in areas including Rowde, Ogbourne St Andrew, Great Somerford, Tisbury and Castle Combe.

For more information on these schemes please visit the [Wiltshire Council website](#).

The best time of year for PIGS projects to be put in place is the summer, so this year the deadline for the scheme is Friday 15 July.

Although applications have to be received from Parish or Town Councils, most of the ideas for new routes come from parishioners – so people need to be made aware of the scheme. To this end, an A4 flyer has been produced. Could all parishes please print this out and put it up on their parish notice boards and also mention the scheme in their newsletters.

[PIGS Parish Notice board Flyer](#)

The Rights of Way section of Wiltshire Council's website is currently being revised, so all information about PIGS can be found here:

- [PIGS Background Information](#)
- [PIGS Information for applicants](#)
- [PIGS Application form](#)

Sport and Physical Activity

Places People Play

Sport England launched its mass participation legacy plan for the London 2012 Olympics in November last year. Entitled '**Places People Play**', the strategy aims to bring the sporting legacy to life in communities across the country, answering London 2012's Singapore promise to inspire a new generation to play sport. The £135 million initiative has been made possible by the Government's National Lottery reforms, which are bringing additional funding into grassroots sport.

Places People Play will be delivered by Sport England, in partnership with the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the British Paralympic Association (BPA) with the backing of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the London 2012 Inspire mark. It will bring the inspiration and magic of a home Olympic and Paralympic Games into the heart of local communities, encouraging more people to get involved in sport.

For more information please visit the [Wiltshire Council Website](#)

Leisure Rugby

'Across the county a series of non contact rugby projects are being delivered to attract and encourage new participants into the game. Touch and Tag Rugby are versions of the game that enable everyone to play the game without fear of the heavy physical contact that rugby is famous for. Focusing on ball skills, fitness and fun non contact rugby is perfect for anyone who used to play the game, has never played the game before or had to give up the game due to injury or age. Eight projects are being delivered in Chippenham, Colerne, Devizes, Marlborough, Pewsey, Salisbury, Warminster and Wootton Bassett. For more information and to download a relevant poster please visit the [Sports Development web pages](#).



Women's cricket project

A 'Women's Return to Cricket' project which aims to get women involved in the sport, will be held this summer in Biddestone and Potterne. Women aged 18 and over will be able to take part in sessions delivered by ex Australian international, and head of women and girls cricket, Lisa Keightley. To get involved and for more information please [visit the Wiltshire Council website](#).



West Wiltshire

Dawn chorus on your doorstep



Join the Countryside Team and Wiltshire Ornithological Society for an early morning walk around Southwick Country Park.

When: Saturday 7 May

Where: Southwick Country Park- meet in the car park

When: 5:30am

Please take a look at this [poster](#) for more information.

QUICK LINKS

[Area Board information](#)

[All the latest news releases](#)



[Recycle for Wiltshire](#)

[Roadworks](#)

[What's on at City Hall, Salisbury](#) – Great comedy at City Hall in May; Ed Byrne returns on Wednesday 4 May and Dom Joly is fresh from the jungle on Sunday 22 May. Visit the website to book tickets and find out about other live entertainment coming up at City Hall.



Why not come along and [Visit your local market](#) for a wide range of produce, clothes, antiques and gifts.

Please download and print off the [markets poster](#).

Previous issues of the parish newsletters are available to view on the Wiltshire Council website
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parishnewsletterhome.htm>

This newsletter is produced by the corporate communications team at Wiltshire Council

We welcome your comments – please contact either

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