

Dear All



**Happy New Year to everyone.**



2017 already looks like a historical year, from the: US presidential inauguration on the 20th January; British's submission of Article 50 to leave the European Union; to the local elections in May.

These are the times future generations will read about in history books. So as we look forward to the New Year, I felt this was the appropriate time to sit and consider the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



**Parish Steward Scheme**



The Parish Steward Scheme has now been operating for a couple of months, with much praise being received. As promised we continue to review the operations. To improve the delivery of this service and help with the communications to local councils the following improvements are being made:

- A new Parish Priority Sheet has been produced (Please find this attached for you to use from January 2017 onwards). The layout is designed to try to assist in the identification of tasks for the Parish Steward, as there has been some confusion over the activities to be completed.
- The Parish Steward will deal direct with the local council, rather than communicate through the local Engineer. This will allow immediate updating of issues as they occur.
- The Priority Sheets will be passed directly to the Parish Steward. The Parish Steward will advise the local council of the works to be undertaken.

To assist the local councils with scheduling works for the Parish Steward I list below a possible programme of activities for the year for you to consider when looking at your local priorities. Each month my Newsletter will focus on possible activities for the Parish Steward in the following month period.

For January I would ask that the local council's consider the drainage works. Identifying gullies and grips that can be hand dug out. As we move into the Spring this is the ideal time for such works.

Februarys are becoming warmer and warmer and vegetation growth starts earlier and earlier. This is the ideal time to spot those hedges that have overgrown that important sign, or ivy that has grown up that highway asset or simply cleaning the winter grim from signage. If we start the year as we mean to go on, early attention can address many of the larger issues caused when vegetation is in full growth later in the season.



## Winter Maintenance

With such a large road network, it would be unrealistic and uneconomic to attempt to treat all roads. Wiltshire Council follows national guidance on the road type, treated length and response times for winter maintenance. The Council has never treated all the county's road network.

Our aim is to make the county's roads as safe as possible for road users and to reduce delays caused by bad weather. We salt key routes when there is a risk of ice. The key routes in Wiltshire total a length of 1160km (725miles) which is 25% of the entire maintained road network. Using our fleet of specialist vehicles, we provide a 24 hour response in bad weather.

All key routes in Wiltshire will receive precautionary salting when ice is forecast and designed for vehicles to complete salting within two hours. This will include all class A and B roads and the more important lower class roads. This should ensure the majority of road users live within a reasonable distance of a salted road. This network is under constant review and may be expanded during the current season.

If temperatures are predicted to remain below freezing after the morning rush, over a period of sustained consecutive days, then we may instruct a larger network to be salted to deal with persistent ice on minor roads which are not included within the precautionary key routes. Arrangements can be invoked with town and parish councils winter plans to take action in their area. In these situations this additional network includes mainly lower class roads and main accesses to villages and hamlets. The treated network may then be increased to 2320km (1450miles) 50% of the network.

Please remember that the majority of minor roads will receive no treatment, and because arrangements may not always go according to plan, you should never assume a road has been salted

- Motorists are always advised to adapt their driving route to travel along the treated key network.
- No guarantee can be given that roads will always be completely clear of ice or snow and it takes time for salt to become effective after roads are salted. Rain can wash salt off roads leaving them prone to re-icing and in severe cold weather with temperatures below -8°C, salt will not be as effective on icy roads.
- 'Dawn Frost' occurs on dry roads when early morning dew falls on cold road surfaces and freezes on impact.
- If raining, salting will commence when rain stops, to avoid salt from being washed away.
- During rush hours, traffic congestion will almost certainly delay the salting operation.
- FINALLY, even the most carefully organised procedures can suffer setbacks or mechanical breakdowns and as a result, some salting routes may not be treated as quickly as programmed.



## Funding

Whilst overall the funding from central government continues to decline, we will see this year an increase in spending for pot hole filling. I know we all recognise the need to do more on the highway and this funding will help us further with improving our road network. Regrettably the extra funding does not mean that every defect will be dealt with, but combined with the additional capital spending provided by Wiltshire Council we will see Wiltshire's highways continue to improve with better traffic management resulting.



## Wiltshire Council Staff Remembers Pete



Pete Smith, or Mr Devizes as he was known, sadly passed away this year whilst at work.

Pete was responsible for many services whilst at the council, from the Skip Service to the Sewer Service.

His colleagues at Wiltshire Council wanted to do something to remember him by and to say thank you for all the happiness he brought to his team. They decided to start a collection which quickly raised over £400. A seat was duly purchase and a plaque engraved with his famous moustache fixed.

They arranged an unveiling of the bench and Pete's immediate family graciously attended.

The bench will be placed at his rest area at Kennet House, where council workers can sit and remember the good times they shared, or just think of Pete in his Major Wrecks uniform. Those that have seen Pete in this uniform will never forget the imagine! For those who did not know him, YouTube Major Wrecks – You can't miss him.

## Community Toilet Grant



The transfer of the Wiltshire Council's public toilets to the local town or parish council has now been completed in the majority of cases. Wiltshire Council thanks the councils concerned and all the councils who are providing the local public toilet provision. Wiltshire Council has closed applications for grants for the Community Toilet Scheme. Any application approved will be honoured, if agreed before the 1st January 2016. No new applications will be accepted. As this is for 'one off' capital works applications through the normal Community Area Board grant funding may be appropriate if deemed a local priority.

## Gulley Emptying Service



I think we all recognise that more needs to be undertaken to ensure the county's drainage system is maintained at the highest possible level.

Wiltshire Council continues to investigate modern technology to better utilise its resources. However, currently the systems need far more robust trials before major investment. These technologies will allow us to move to a more focussed approach to emptying gullies, supported by some intelligent data, and as from the 1st January 2017 the council is amending its service delivery:

1. Per annum 41,000 gullies will be visited, checked and only if requiring emptying will they be emptied. This will speed operations, whilst at the same time ensure more fully gullies (the ones requiring emptying) are cleaned.
2. In addition, a more reactive service will be established to ensure that Blocked gullies that are identified by the Highway Engineer and likely to cause house flooding or cause a road safety issue will receive additional empties.
3. Block gullies causing house flooding or are deemed a road safety issue will be emptied within two working days (resources allowing).



**The Council has now appointed to its Local Highway structure the officers are:**



AREA OFFICE	Highways Engineer	Streetscene Engineer	AREA BOARD
AREA 2 - SOUTH OFFICE Local Highways, Wilton Depot, The Avenue, Wilton, Salisbury. SP2 0BT	Andy Cole	Craig Campbell	Amesbury
AREA 3 - CENTRAL OFFICE Local Highways, 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, Wiltshire. BN12 6QT	Andy Cadwallader	Fiona Waind	Bradford on Avon
AREA 1 - NORTH OFFICE Local Highways, Bath Road Industrial Estate, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN14 0AB	Matt Perrott	Craig Campbell	Calne
AREA 3 - CENTRAL OFFICE Local Highways, 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, Wiltshire. BN12 6QT	Paul Bollen	Fiona Waind	Chippenham
AREA 3 - CENTRAL OFFICE Local Highways, 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, Wiltshire. BN12 6QT	Paul Bollen	Fiona Waind	Corsham
AREA 1 - NORTH OFFICE Local Highways, Kennet House, Sergeant Rogers Way, Hopton Ind. Estate, Devizes. SN10 2ET	Richard Dobson (Secondment)	Craig Campbell	Devizes
AREA 1 - NORTH OFFICE Local Highways, Bath Road Industrial Estate, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN14 0AB	Matt Perrott	Fiona Waind	Malmesbury
AREA 1 - NORTH OFFICE Local Highways, Bath Road Industrial Estate, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN14 0AB	Martin Cook	Craig Campbell	Marlborough
AREA 3 - CENTRAL OFFICE Local Highways, 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, Wiltshire. BN12 6QT	Andy Cadwallader	Fiona Waind	Melksham

AREA 1 - NORTH OFFICE Local Highways, Kennet House, Sergeant Rogers Way, Hopton Ind. Estate, Devizes. SN10 2ET	Richard Dobson (Secondment)	Craig Campbell	<b>Pewsey</b>
AREA 1 - NORTH OFFICE Local Highways, Bath Road Industrial Estate, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN14 0AB	Martin Cook	Fiona Waind	<b>Royal Wootton Bassett &amp; Cricklade</b>
AREA 2 - SOUTH OFFICE Local Highways, Wilton Depot, The Avenue, Wilton, Salisbury. SP2 0BT	Graham Axtell	Craig Campbell	<b>Salisbury</b>
AREA 2 - SOUTH OFFICE Local Highways, Wilton Depot, The Avenue, Wilton, Salisbury. SP2 0BT	Graham Axtell	Craig Campbell	<b>South Wiltshire</b>
AREA 2 - SOUTH OFFICE Local Highways, Wilton Depot, The Avenue, Wilton, Salisbury. SP2 0BT	David Button	Craig Campbell	<b>South West Wiltshire</b>
AREA 2 - SOUTH OFFICE Local Highways, Wilton Depot, The Avenue, Wilton, Salisbury. SP2 0BT	Andy Cole	Craig Campbell	<b>Tidworth</b>
AREA 3 - CENTRAL OFFICE Local Highways, 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, Wiltshire. BN12 6QT	Pat Whyte	Fiona Waind	<b>Trowbridge</b>
AREA 3 - CENTRAL OFFICE Local Highways, 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, Wiltshire. BN12 6QT	Pat Whyte	Fiona Waind	<b>Warminster</b>
AREA 3 - CENTRAL OFFICE Local Highways, 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, Wiltshire. BN12 6QT	Pat Whyte	Fiona Waind	<b>Westbury</b>



**Parish Steward Programme of suggested work/ considerations:**



Month	Activity	Consider
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hand clearing, and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers</li> <li>– hand clearing of blocked gullies</li> <li>– rodding of drainage systems</li> <li>– clearing of small culverts, pipes and pits</li> </ul>	Drainage work before spring rain fall

Jan 1	– New Year's Day	Event Planning
Jan 21	– Burn's Night	Event Planning
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cutting hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings</li> <li>– Clear vegetation growth over signs</li> <li>– Wash and clean signs</li> </ul>	Identify hedge etc. work before bird nesting season
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Digging back encroachments on footways</li> <li>– Hand removal of weeds from footways</li> <li>– Sanding and painting barriers</li> <li>– Clearing Graffiti hot spot areas</li> </ul>	Identify access issues over footways etc. before drier weather and increased use of footways
Mar 1	– St. David's Day	Event Planning
3-5 March	– The Great British Spring Clean	Event Planning
Mar 17	– St. Patrick's Day	Event Planning
Mar/ April	– Highways Parish and Town Evening Meeting	Event Planning
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hand cutting small visibility areas</li> <li>– Trimming encroaching treatment/removal of weeds</li> </ul>	Review the visual aspects of the area that could be improved by the PS.
Apr 14	– Good Friday	Event Planning
Apr 16	– Easter Sunday	Event Planning
Apr 23	– St George's Day	Event Planning
May	– Local Elections	Event Planning
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Weed Control</li> <li>– Grass strimming at road junctions and other sensitive locations</li> </ul>	Control of vegetation during growing season
June	– Ragwort Pulling	Control of Ragwort before Seeding
July	– Ragwort Pulling	Control of Ragwort before Seeding

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weed Control</li> <li>- Painting hand rails, bollards, parapet rails and ancient mile posts</li> </ul>	Control of vegetation during growing season
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hand clearing, and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers</li> <li>- Hand clearing of blocked gullies</li> <li>- Rodding of drainage systems</li> <li>- Clearing of small culverts, pipes and pits</li> </ul>	Before Autumn Rain
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings</li> <li>- Clear vegetation growth over signs</li> <li>- Wash and clean signs</li> </ul>	Identify hedge etc. work after growing season
Oct 31	- Halloween	Event Planning
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear leaves from footways</li> <li>- Bus shelter maintenance</li> <li>- Graffiti hot spots</li> </ul>	Winter maintenance
Nov 5	- Guy Fawkes Night	Event Planning
Nov 11	- Armistice Day	Event Planning
Nearest Sunday to Armistice Day	- Remembrance Day	Event Planning
Nov 30	- St. Andrew's Day	Event Planning
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear leaves from footways</li> <li>- Bus shelter maintenance</li> <li>- Graffiti hot spots</li> </ul>	Winter maintenance
Dec 25	- Christmas	Event Planning

