

Dear Town and Parish Councils

Congratulations to all councilors on their success on the 4th May 2017.

Please find below an update on Wiltshire Council's Highway Service for May.

Rural Verge Grass Cut

The rural verge grass cut commenced on the 2nd May, with the dual carriage ways first to receive their trim to ensure safety is maintained.

The rural verges will be cut over the next eight weeks, with safety cuts then being undertaken, where required the rest of the year.

The council has arranged supporting services (including litter collection, sweeping and gully emptying etc.) to be undertaken where road closure are required for grass cutting.

Urban Grass Cutting

The council is undertaking an additional cut of its amenity grass in April/ May to ensure the land is fully up-together following the spring major grass growth. After this the cuts will return to monthly.

To view the areas to be cut:

<http://www.realitygeo.com/explorer.aspx?cfg=wiltsg>

Litter Collection

The council has just completed a litter pick of all the major routes through Wiltshire, including the Highways England roads.

The council is now beginning its second major scheduled litter pick to be completed with the rural grass cutting service. This means the majority of major roads through Wiltshire will have received two scheduled litter

The council will litter pick all the amenity areas prior to cutting. This means between 1st April and the 31st May the council will have litter picked 18million square meters of amenity grass.

Salisbury City Transfer

The transfer of responsibility for a package of buildings, facilities and services to Salisbury City Council has been formally completed.

The transfer of services and assets includes the Market Place, properties, a new CCTV system, Shopmobility, play areas and maintenance services. Both parties have worked together to deliver a smooth transition and to complete the legal documentation.

The complete transfer package includes:

- The responsibility within the Salisbury boundary for service delivery including Shopmobility and grounds maintenance
- The transfer of ownership of nine property assets including the Market Place and its public conveniences, monuments and a range of other properties.
- The grant of leases and management of three public conveniences in Wiltshire Council's city centre car parks.

Salisbury Park & Ride Buildings

Some of you may have read recent articles on the possible closure of the Park and Ride buildings due to saving requirements.

I am pleased to report the articles are considerably more dramatic than the reality. The council is investigating commercial income sources, by looking at opportunities in the Park and Rides. Such as: advertising; renting space; use of vending machines etc. The council is not closing the buildings.

But if you know of a business looking for a room to rent, or a small space to offer a commercial opportunity etc. Point them in my direction. Obviously any new use will have to meet planning and procurement etc. requirements. But we are pleased to hear from any interested party.

Again – no the buildings are not being closed! Just to be clear.

A Big Thank You To All

We now have all the results from the Great British Spring Clean.

Our thanks to all those that took part and the support of idverde that provide much of the community equipment.

Thousands of Wiltshire residents took part in more than 140 litter picking events for the Great British Spring Clean this weekend.

From 3-5 March 142 events were held across the county as more than 3,200 volunteers of all ages took part with 3025 bags of rubbish collected a total of 18 tonnes.

The events followed and exceeded last year's success of Clean for the Queen to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday in which Wiltshire was second only to London in the amount of litter collected. Last year 1,500 volunteers took part in more than 70 litter picks with 14 tonnes of rubbish collected.

Wiltshire Council supported communities by helping them register their events on the Great British Spring Clean website for the weekend and delivering litter picking equipment where required. Wiltshire Council contractor Idverde collected all the bags of litter in a one-off collection following the events.

Parish and Town Council Highway Evenings

I trust you all read about the Parish and Town Council Highway Meetings for May 2017. I trust the dates remain acceptable.

The dates are:

- 15th May 2017 – County Hall, Trowbridge
- 17th May 2017 – Monkton Park, Chippenham
- 23rd May 2017 – City Hall, Salisbury
- 24th May 2017 – Kennet House, Devizes (Apologies in advance will be cramped)

The times are 1900hrs to 2100hrs.

I trust that you will be able to nominate an attendee to represent your area.

These evenings are for you to come along and find out more about the Highway and Streetscene Service.

If you want a particular service or topic covered in the presentation, please email me and I will be pleased to include the matter in the presentation.

Bill and myself will be discuss any highway related issues. We hope to have Cabinet Member in attendance but this will be subject to their availability.

Highways will try and do a bit of 'Crystal Ball' gazing into the future, to assist everyone with what to think about in the next coming years.

Unauthorised work on Wiltshire highways

Please remember that before work on the highway can begin it must be authorised by Wiltshire Council. Besides the obvious safety concerns, unauthorised works can cause traffic congestion and potential risks for road users.

The council can apply conditions within reason to when, where and how roadworks take place in the county to help manage and reduce the impact of works on both the traffic and the environment.

When people are found to be working in breach of their permission or without permission, the relevant penalties are applied and the appropriate action is taken with the person carrying out the works, which can include prosecution.

Some of the problems typically found on site can vary from temporary traffic signals not being correctly operated, to works sites being unsafely guarded.

Depending on the severity of the issue, people are in some instances instructed to stop work and their permission may be revoked. The Council works closely with those undertaking works in order to reduce issues.

Event Organisers

Event organisers are reminded:

- The public have no lawful powers to direct traffic at planned events.
- Only suitably trained (Chapter 8) persons can place signs on the highway
- Event organisers will need to provide signs, barriers and cones (even no parking cones) for their events. Wiltshire Council does not provide these signs.
- Signs used on the highway will need to be authorised by the Wiltshire Council's Local Highways Team.
- Advance signage should only include the key information and be set up no more than one week before the event.

MyWiltshire goes from strength to strength

Residents and visitors can now report more issues to Wiltshire Council than ever before, with the recent addition of the ability to report a missed bin collection and having recently reached the milestone of 50,000+ registered users all benefiting from the advantages of using the My Wiltshire platform – easy access, 24/7 on the web or mobile app, updates on the reports submitted and more. The My Wiltshire platform goes from strength to strength.

The waste and recycling service joins highways, street scene (grass cutting, litter picking, bins etc), rights of way, fraud, and trading standards. People can also let the council know of changes affecting their benefits and council tax.

Using the MyWiltshire platform issues can be reported to the council around the clock via the website or using the mobile app which is available on Apple, Android or Windows devices. Using the mobile app is especially helpful as GPS location and photos can be attached directly to the report from your device.

MyWiltshire will continue to develop with new functionality and services coming on board in the future as part of a programme to enable council services to become more efficient and for customers to be able to access and interact with the council as easily as possible.

I trust you are all aware that the MyWiltshire platform is the most efficient way of alerting us to a number of issues across many services. Wiltshire Council encourages everyone to use it wherever possible and especially to download the mobile app (if they haven't already) and continue to log reports.

There has recently been an update to the Apple mobile app so anyone using the mobile app on an Apple device should ensure they have the most recent version.

Parish Steward Programme of suggested work/ considerations:

Month	Activity	Consider
June	– Ragwort Pulling	Control of Ragwort before Seeding
June	– Elections	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
July	– Ragwort Pulling	Control of Ragwort before Seeding
August	– Weed Control – Painting hand rails, bollards, parapet rails and ancient mile posts	Control of vegetation during growing season
September	– Hand clearing, and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers – Hand clearing of blocked gullies – Rodding of drainage systems – Clearing of small culverts, pipes and pits	Before Autumn Rain
October	– Hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings – Clear vegetation growth over signs – Wash and clean signs	Identify hedge etc. work after growing season
Oct 31	– Halloween	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
November	– Clear leaves from footways – Bus shelter maintenance – Graffiti hot spots	Winter maintenance

Nov 5	– Guy Fawkes Night	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
Nov 11	– Armistice Day	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
Nearest Sunday to Armistice Day	– Remembrance Day	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
Nov 30	– St. Andrew's Day	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clear leaves from footways – Bus shelter maintenance – Graffiti hot spots 	Winter maintenance
Dec 25	– Christmas	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hand clearing, and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers – hand clearing of blocked gullies – rodding of drainage systems – clearing of small culverts, pipes and pits 	Drainage work before spring rain fall
Jan 1	– New Year's Day	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
Jan 21	– Burn's Night	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cutting hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings – Clear vegetation growth over signs – Wash and clean signs 	Identify hedge etc. work before bird nesting season
March	– Digging back encroachments on	Identify access issues over footways etc. before drier weather and increased use of footways

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> footways – Hand removal of weeds from footways – Sanding and painting barriers – Clearing Graffiti hot spot areas 	
Mar 1	– St. David's Day	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
3-5 March	– The Great British Spring Clean	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
Mar 17	– St. Patrick's Day	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hand cutting small visibility areas – Trimming encroaching treatment/removal of weeds 	Review the visual aspects of the area that could be improved by the PS.
Apr 14	– Good Friday	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
Apr 16	– Easter Sunday	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
Apr 23	– St George's Day	Any special highway arrangements to support the event
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weed Control – Grass strimming at road junctions and other sensitive locations 	Control of vegetation during growing season