

Dear Town and Parish Councils

Welcome to my Newsletter regarding the Local Highways Service. I am the new Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste. You will note the change from Cllr Mr Whitehead who has moved on to the Cabinet Member for Finance and IT. I know we all wish him every success in his new role.

Just to introduce myself to those town and parishes that may not be aware of my involvement with Wiltshire Council. I was a Wiltshire County Councillor from 2004 until 2008 and became the Wiltshire Councillor for Nadder and East Knoyle in May 2008, representing parishes from Sedgehill & Semley and East Knoyle in the west to Burcombe in the east.

I have been Chairman of the South West Wiltshire Area Board for the four years and have worked with Adrian and Bill on many occasions regarding various Local Highway issues. I trust that this knowledge and involvement ensures I have a good understanding on the services being delivered, but look forward to working with you all on the local issues you will have.

Your Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holders for Highways, Transport and Waste are:

| <b>Cabinet Member</b>                  | <b>Councillor</b>          | <b>Portfolio Holder</b>                               | <b>Cou</b>       |
|--|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Highways, Transport &amp; Waste</b> | <b>Cllr Bridget Wayman</b> | <b>Strategic Highways, AONB, ESIF, Canals and MCI</b> | <b>Cllr Phil</b> |
|  |                            | <b>Transport</b>                                      | <b>Cllr</b>      |
|  |                            | <b>Streetscene</b>                                    | <b>Cllr</b>      |
|  |                            | <b>Waste</b>  | <b>Cllr</b>      |

I know that the last month has seen much going on with the local elections and the run up to the general election, but I trust that as many as possible of you were able to attend the Parish and Town Council Highway Evening Meetings in May.

This month's Newsletter will detail the outcomes from those meetings, as they are always a good way of undertaking your concerns on the local issues. I was pleased to attend the Salisbury meeting and listen to the debate on my services.

I attach the presentation from the meeting for your information. The presentation shows that Wiltshire Council are investing more than ever in the Highway capital schemes and I trust we are all seeing an improving picture on the road network. I admit there is more to do, but the money being invested is moving the service in the right direction.

Please find attached:

1. The service levels that Local Highways are providing this year.
2. The Highway Inspection Manual that details how, where and when highway defects will be actioned.
3. The Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse which is the document that sets out when the council will address litter issues.
4. The link <http://www.realitygeo.com/explorer.aspx?cfg=wiltsgf> shows all the amenity land maintained by the council.
5. A draft of the main questions captured at the meetings with answers. If there are additional questions you feel we have missed, if you kindly add these and return them to Adrian. I will issue an update in next month's Newsletter. I trust the answers are of assistance.

I trust these information sources will assist the Town and Parish Councils with what they can expect from Local Highways in 2017/ 18.

As there is a lot of information attached I will keep my update of this month's services short.

#### Litter Collection

- The council has commenced its second major litter pick on the major roads this year throughout Wiltshire, this started in the beginning of May. The litter pick will be completed by the end of June. At which time the litter service will then react to MyWiltshire reports for the rest of the year.

#### Rural Verge Cutting

- The rural verge cut commenced at the beginning of May. The county's dual carriageways received their cuts first. We are now working through the remaining roads. The cut will be completed by the end of June.
- Subsequent cuts will be for safety reasons, where grass growth is deemed as an issue. If there is an area you are concerned about please report this through the MyWiltshire system for the area to be inspected.

#### Amenity Cutting

- The Council has completed three cuts of amenity land. Cutting is now being undertaken monthly. But could be effected by the weather.

#### Salisbury City Amenity and Street Cleansing Service

- Wiltshire Council's service has been transferred in its entirety to Salisbury City Council.

#### Parish Steward Scheme

- The Parish Stewards are currently scheduled to weed control, grass strimming at road junctions and other sensitive locations works.

## Support For Events

I am pleased to advise event organisers that Local Highways and Parking services are pleased to support events wherever possible.

To ensure your event gets as much support as possible I ask that you engage with the service at the earliest opportunity, as resources are issued on a first come, first served allocation and if scheduled works are to be amended we need as much time as possible.

My Local Highway Service and Parking Service can support with:

1. The provision of litter picking equipment and the associated PPE.
2. The Parish Steward can be allocated (via the Priority Sheets) works that support the event, such as sweeping the pavement, trimming back highway vegetation etc.
3. Amending other highway and parking usage to try to prevent events clashing with scheduled activities (gully emptying, road sweeping, skips and scaffolding using the highway, other activities on council land etc.) that could cause issues to the event or traffic movements on the day.
4. Amending scheduled services such as: pavement sweeping in the town centres, grass cutting of amenity areas etc. to be undertaken just before the event (will require considerable notice for this to happen).
5. Permission for using the council's land for any associated use on the day of the event.

However, for support such as: waste collection; signage placement for traffic management of the event; picking up litter produced by the event; marshalling or other such activities, regrettably Local Highways will not be able to provide these services. This is because the council's highway and amenity services have been contracted out, and the council no longer has these resources itself.

Organisers can choose to go direct to the council's contractors, or to other suitably qualified contractors for support for their events. Many contractors have working practices of supporting local charity events and are happy to assist the local community. But the provision is agreed between the event organiser and the contractor. If event organisers approach the council they will be signposted to suitable providers. Sadly the council cannot be an intermediate body with such requests.

The council has been asked for a list of suppliers for traffic management signs. Please find these attached.

## Winter Preparedness

It might be summer but it's a good time to think a little about winter, as you walk around your towns and villages enjoying the sunshine take a moment to check on the condition of your salt bins, have a think if they are located in the best place for use. Broken and damaged bins please report to us via the My Wiltshire App and the winter team will arrange to replace and it's an easier job for us in the summer than the middle of winter, remember we don't provide new salt bins in new locations but if you wish to fund a new one then contact us at [weather.team@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:weather.team@wiltshire.gov.uk) and we will provide you with some advice and guidance, we still need to agree locations and a certain type of bin must be used. If you have a salt bin you would like to move to a better location let us know via the email contact and we will be in touch to discuss. All our salt bins will be filled prior to winter 2017, we will also let you know when we have arranged the days for you to collect the salt from our stores so you are able to service any green lidded bins you have in your areas, this time of year is also a good time to think and outline a winter response plan for you communities. Enjoy the Summer, Winter on its way.

Parish Steward Programme of suggested work/ considerations:

| Month     | Activity   | Consider  |
|-----------|--|---|
| July      | – Ragwort Pulling  | Control of Ragwort before Seeding                     |
| August    | – Weed Control<br>– 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<br>– Hand clearing of blocked gullies<br>– Rodding of drainage systems<br>– Clearing of small culverts, pipes and pits | Before Autumn Rain                                    |
| October   | – Hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings<br>– Clear vegetation growth over signs<br>– Wash and clean signs  | Identify hedge etc. work after growing season         |
| Oct 31    | – Halloween  | Any special highway arrangements to support the event |

|                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 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  | 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"> <li>- Clear leaves from footways</li> <li>- Bus shelter maintenance</li> <li>- Graffiti hot spots</li> </ul> | Winter maintenance                                    |
| Dec 25                          | - Christmas   | Any special highway arrangements to support the event |