Highways and Environment newsletter

Wiltshire Council

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Welcome.

Welcome to the January 2020 Highways and Environment newsletter.

This publication is distributed monthly to members, town and parish councillors and other key decision makers.

Please take a few minutes to read it through. This month's newsletter looks at a number of services and events over the next few months.

Headline News

- **Additional Highway Funding**
  See pictures of the work completed so far: **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-asset-management**

- **Additional Street Cleaning Funding**
  See the work undertaken so far: **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services**

- **Street Sparkle Days**
  Schedule of visits: **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services**

- **Weed Treatment Areas**
  See maps of areas treated: **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services**

A review of 2019

The January Newsletter looks back at the additional services and schemes provided by the Highways and Transport Directorate in 2019.

The number of schemes represents the considerable additional investment made by Wiltshire Council which I believe has delivered noticeable improvements across the county.

New gritter fleet

A 24-strong fleet of brand new gritters have taken to the streets of Wiltshire this winter to keep the county moving whatever the weather.

With the most up-to-date technology, the new winter fleet is also fitted with the very latest low emission engines.

The gritters are used on Wiltshire's primary road network of A and B roads, covering 726 miles and spreading approximately 150 tonnes of salt each time they are sent out. In severe or prolonged cold weather, the network can be increased to 50% by treating our secondary routes.

We also held a public competition to name the gritters. The winning names chosen by the people of Wiltshire. Six names have been given to the gritters by local schools:

- Nitty Gritty, by Greentrees Primary School, Salisbury
- Frosty the Gritter, by Sambourne School, Warminster
- Snowhenge, by Wellington Eagles Primary School, Ludgershall
- True Grit, by Holy Trinity Primary, Great Cheverell
- Brad Grit, by Hindon Primary School, Hindon, Salisbury
- Woodford's Winter Warrior, by Woodford Valley Primary, Middle Woodford

The remaining 18 were taken from a shortlist, whittled down from more than 300 names suggested by residents, and then put to the public vote on the Wiltshire Council Twitter page. There were more than 1,500 votes on the final 18 names, and the winners are:

- Grit Me Baby One More Time
- Gritty Gritty Bang Bang
- Sir David Attenbrrrr
- Gritty Rascal
- Buzz Saltyear
- Licensed to Grit
- Moonraker
- Snowood House
- Wiltshire Born and Spread
- Saul T Roads
- Ready Spready Go
- Thaw Enforcement
- Grit Happens
- Grittersaurus
- Anneka Ice
- Arnold Schwarzegritter
- Usain Salt
- Spready Mercury

Launch of sparkle gangs

Sparkle gangs and sparkle days were introduced in April 2019 as part of the Clean Up Wiltshire initiative and involved extra cleaning in towns.

Towns receive four sparkle days every quarter, where a special team – the sparkle gang – undertakes activities such as road and path sweeping; sign washing; tidying shrubs and weed spraying.

Weed removal in town centres

Weed control has been a challenge in recent years and the new scheme saw an improved appearance of our town centres following the hand removal of weeds.

Two additional weed spraying treatments

These treatments enabled a county-wide programme of weed treatment in residential and urban areas.

Launch of discretionary gully emptying service

The scheme delivered 200 additional days of discretionary gulley emptying work by a team to address sites of concern to the town and parish councils.

New ditch clearing scheme

Keeping roadside highway ditches clear is necessary to ensure effective drainage of the roads and footways. The scheme enabled 18 drainage problem sites to be addressed.

Community litter bin match scheme launched

Over 100 litter bins were issued to local communities for them to place and use where they felt fit.

Trial large litter bin scheme

Large 240ltr litter bins were placed in the lay byes on the A350 around Chippenham to monitor the behavioural change in litterers.

April community litter picking equipment provision

Over 100 community groups were issued with litter picking equipment for ongoing cleaning activities.

Additional white lining

This programme of lining improvements on rural roads and at junctions was carried out throughout 2019 across the county. This concentrated on locations where lines were fading or being worn away and there were increasing safety risks, especially at junctions.

New road signs

Replacing safety critical signs, such as give way and stop signs. The scheme replaced some of the most damaged or worn direction and other signs.

Expanded overrun programme

The rural grass verges can be damaged by large vehicles, or by vehicles leaving the paved surface to pass other vehicles. This is particularly a problem during wet weather as experienced this

year. The programme of verge repair and hardening addressed those sites with the most damage throughout the rural communities.

Free Sunday Parking in all car parks

Sunday parking charges across the county were suspended in a bid to support local high streets. Charges were withdrawn by Wiltshire Council for Sunday parking across to support towns and communities.
The decision reflects what is important to local communities and recognises the pressures on high streets. Also parking continues to be free after 3pm every day at Salisbury's Culver Street Car Park.

Contactless parking

People in Salisbury can now pay for parking even more conveniently with the introduction of Wiltshire Council's first chip and pin and contactless parking machines at both of the city's Brown Street Car Parks.

Wiltshire Council has installed the new technology at the Brown Street East and Brown Street West Car Parks and they are now available to use; residents can also pay with cash or using the MiPermit app if they wish.

The result of this initiative will be reviewed and considered for expansion of this payment option.

Automatic number plate recognition car introduced

Implementation of this system has allowed faster and more efficient checking due to the speed of movement of a car, which allows checking at speeds of up to 30 mph with modern technology.

Automatic number plate recognition school signage

Use of a static ANPR system is permitted on safety grounds where there is a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) outside of an establishment such as a school.

The static ANPR system offers a fixed deterrent to reduce the unsafe and illegal parking on yellow zig zags. The scheme sees three new cameras being provided.

Body worn video cameras

Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVC) ensure the safety of CEOs who often face both verbal and physical abuse and can be subject to accusations of inappropriate behaviour; historically two to three such incidents per month. Since their introduction a number of successful prosecutions against abuse towards our CEOs.

Further information:

More details on all these activities and more can be viewed at:

The highway improvement works can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-asset-management with the monthly examples given of the types of improvements made.

The amenity and cleansing improvements can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services

In addition the current highway improvement projects can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-improvements

Wiltshire Council launches We're Targeting Fly-tippers (WTF) Campaign

Wiltshire Council has launched a reward campaign to reduce fly-tipping throughout the county.

The We're Targeting Fly-tippers (WTF) campaign aims combat the scourge of fly-tipping by offering residents a reward of up to £200 in high street vouchers if they report information that leads to the successful prosecution of an offender or the payment of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste, said: "We're delighted to launch this campaign to reduce fly-tipping throughout Wiltshire and reward our residents for helping us to fight this blight on our beautiful county.

"Fly-tipping costs us more than £180,000 each year, it is unsightly and it is a danger to people, wildlife and the environment. So we need the help of our communities to prosecute fly-tippers and keep our county cleaner, greener and safer.

"I would urge anyone with any information about fly-tipping in Wiltshire to report it to us with as much information as possible, and any successful prosecution or payment of a Fixed Penalty Notice will earn a voucher of up to £200 for the person who reported it.

"However, while we want residents to provide evidence as possible, it's hugely important that people do not try to rummage through or disturb the waste, as this could affect the scene and put people in danger.

"It is also essential that people do not attempt to confront anyone who is fly-tipping or put themselves in danger in any way. We want to reduce fly-tipping, but public safety is our main concern.

In Wiltshire, most fly-tip reports are of a commercial nature, where waste is cleared for a fee and then dumped to avoid lawful disposal costs. Penalties for offenders include an unlimited fine and/or five years' imprisonment; a £50,000 fine and/or 12 months' imprisonment; a Fixed Penalty Notice of £400 if they are caught fly-tipping small scale waste.

To report fly-tipping in Wiltshire, or to find out more about the campaign, including terms and conditions, go to: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-environment-wtf

Taxi enforcement to improve service standards in Wiltshire

The Taxi Licensing Team at Wiltshire Council enforce standards for licensed taxi vehicles and drivers aimed at improving public and industry confidence in taxi provision within Wiltshire.

Over the last 5 weeks taxi enforcement officers have visited twelve of Wiltshire's towns undertaking inspections on both licensed vehicles and drivers to ensure compliance with all guidelines and legislation. Officer visits have been viewed positively by the industry who have consistently called for more enforcement to driver up standards.

During the last 5 weeks, 145 drivers and 169 vehicles have been checked. A number of minor infringements have been identified and drivers have been provided with advice on site.
Formal action has been taken against 5 vehicles.

Wiltshire Council Compliance Officers will be pounding the streets near you over the next year to ensure the highest standards are maintained within the taxi industry in Wiltshire. If you would like to know more about taxi licensing contact Wiltshire Council on Fleet.licensing@wiltshire.gov.uk or visit our website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/licences-permits-transport

Organising Events on Wiltshire Council Land/Public Highway

Nobody wants to fill in unnecessary forms when they have an event to organise. Wiltshire Council intend to avoid bogging down small and simple events with an overload of paperwork, but we must satisfy ourselves that you have taken reasonable precautions to deal with hazards and possible nuisance. As the owners of the land the council has a duty to ensure events are managed in such a way that everyone has a good time and goes home safely.

If you want to organise an event the single most important thing to remember is: **plan ahead as far as possible.** You will need to discuss your event with the council at least three months in advance – more if it is a large or complex event.

To help you the council has developed specific guidance and an application form for those organising events. You will need to complete and return the forms to provide information about a proposed event so that the council can decide whether the event is being properly managed and can go ahead.

Other documents produced, provide basic information and guidance to you as an event organiser to help you run the event smoothly and safely. One size does not fit all so there will be some parts of the guidance that will not be relevant to your event.

As events increase in size and complexity, so does the need to provide more detail on what actions are taken to control the event and to deal with emergencies. Organisers of large events will also need to provide an event plan, show they have followed specific guidance and prove they have competent people employed to advise them and fulfil certain functions.

For more information on staging events on Wiltshire Council land / public highway please contact Kevin Oliver, Authorising Officer at kevin.oliver@wiltshire.gov.uk

Question of the Month

Q. Is it Illegal to Splash Someone with Your Car?

A. YES!

Cars splashing pedestrians intentionally with water from puddles is illegal.

The law aims to protect pedestrians from getting splashed by inconsiderate motorists.

Doing so can result in a ticket for a public order offence, Fixed Penalty Notice or a court summons and resulting fine.

CAB

Bradford on Avon & Melksham CAB Andy Cadwallader
Chippenham and Corsham CAB David Arnup
Devizes and Pewsey CAB Richard Dobson
Malmesbury and Calne CAB Matt Perrott
Royal Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and Marlborough CAB Martin Cook
Salisbury and Southern CAB Graham Axtell
Tidworth and Amesbury CAB Andy Cole
South West CAB David Button
Warminster and Countywide Technical Denise Nott
Westbury and Trowbridge CAB Pat Whyte

Streetscene

Northern and Eastern Fiona Waind
Western and Southern Craig Campbell

Highways contact details

Bradford on Avon, Chippenham, Corsham, Melksham, Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury community areas:
centralhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk

Calne, Devizes, Marlborough, Malmesbury, Pewsey, Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade community areas:
NorthernHighways@wiltshire.gov.uk

Amesbury, Salisbury, Southern, South West community areas:
southernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk

Street cleaning and amenity

Streetscene@wiltshire.gov.uk

Parking

ParkingServices@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council