

Communicating with and working for you all year round.

Update Bulletin

Summer/Autumn 2010



The 'no political spin' newsletter from

Cllr. Ernie Clark.

Your Independent
Wiltshire councillor.

Dear Resident,

This newsletter is later than planned as I thought that you would have had more than enough paper through your doors in the run-up to the General Election.

When the new parliamentary constituency boundaries were being drawn up I, and the parish council, made representations as to why Hilperton should stay in the same constituency as Trowbridge. Our words fell on deaf ears, but it was interesting that one of the reasons given for

putting us in the new Chippenham Constituency was that, in the opinion of the Boundary Commission, the Hilperton Gap formed a physical barrier between us and the town and we therefore had no reason to 'look' to Trowbridge!

In the future, when developers want to build in The Gap, it will be interesting to see what their opinion of the Hilperton/Trowbridge relationship is.

Ernie Clark.

Kerbside waste collections

At long last, the consultation on the provision of waste services in Wiltshire has begun and it looks like good news. If the proposal is agreed, our current service will continue as now (with no charge for using the green wheelie bin) but we will also get cardboard and plastic collected from the kerbside every two weeks.

From speaking to Hilperton Division residents I know that the collection of plastic and cardboard is something that nearly everybody wants and I'm pleased that the council has responded positively to the lobbying that has taken place.

To let Wiltshire Council know what you think, and to see full details, please either phone the council on 0300 456 0100 for a brochure, visit Trowbridge Library or visit the council web site at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste

The consultation closes on the 20th of August and I would urge you to let WC know if you like the proposal. Other areas of Wiltshire might not like what is on offer, so it is vital that all support is properly registered.

Leisure Review

For the last few months, the administration at Wiltshire Council has been carrying out a review of leisure services throughout the county.

By the time this leaflet has been printed and distributed the details will have been released and we will know just where the various cuts will be made and when.

Full details, and information on how to let WC know your thoughts, can be found at the WC web site www.wiltshire.gov.uk

As with the waste review, please do take a few minutes to let the council know what you think.

For up to date news on local issues, or to register for my e-newsletter, please visit

www.ernieclark.org.uk

Planning changes

One of the promises made by the Conservatives before the general election was that they would amend the planning rules if elected. The coalition has wasted no time in doing so and there are two major changes already announced. The first is that gardens will no longer be regarded for planning purposes as brownfield (or 'already developed') land and so the presumption of allowing people to build in gardens has been removed. In addition, the minimum density requirement has been abolished. Accordingly, developers are now free to build houses with a garden to match the size of the house – ironically, the downside is that developments will need more land.

The Minister has clearly stated that his letter to councils throughout England is to be regarded as a material planning consideration by both Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate. For

some reason this seems too complicated for WC which has stated that, so far as they're concerned, it's 'business as usual' until they get more information! I can see the planning committees at WC becoming very busy again.

Fly tipping

Regrettably, this nuisance continues throughout Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council is responsible for getting rubbish moved and they ask that the public phone them on 0300 456 0100 to report any incident.

The WC enforcement team will then check the waste before the contractor is asked to remove it.

Please note that it is important that no one touches fly tipped waste. This is a) for your own safety and b) so that any evidence can be photographed in situ and bagged for investigation.

There are some sites that are more popular with fly tippers than others. The council now has the power to observe these with hidden cameras.

Ernie Clark, your local councillor.

Experience Competence Energy Action Results

Paxcroft Mead pub update

Those of you that use the district centre at Paxcroft Mead can't have failed to notice the progress being made with the pub.

The opening date has been set for Monday the 29th November, just in time for the Christmas trade.

When the planning application for the pub was submitted, it was claimed that the current car parking arrangements were adequate. Now, however, the company that owns the local

centre wants to impose a three hour maximum stay (twenty minutes for the six bays nearest the pub site). Whilst this is fine for shoppers it could impact on users of the community centre. I am in contact with Attivo and am optimistic that a compromise can be found.

Trowbridge Area Board

The next meeting will be on the 9th September. Since its inception it has awarded over £50k to local causes including some in Hilperton Division.

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