

CLERKS REPORT – July 2014

Agenda Items

7b) Submission of the Wiltshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule and Consultation on Proposed Modifications

On 23 June 2014, Wiltshire Council is submitting the 'Wiltshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule' for an independent examination. On this date, a Statement of Modifications to the CIL Draft Charging Schedule is also being published for a four week period of consultation. These documents have been prepared in accordance with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

Consultation was held on the CIL Draft Charging Schedule between 13 January and 24 February 2014. The comments received from this consultation have informed the proposed modifications to the CIL Draft Charging Schedule, which are set out in the Statement of Modifications.

The CIL Draft Charging Schedule, Statement of Modifications, associated evidence and information on how to make comments will be published on the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityinfrastructurelevy.

Hard copies of the documents will also be made available at Council libraries and the main Council offices in Chippenham (Monkton Park), Devizes (3-5 Snuff Street), Salisbury (27-29 Endless Street) and Trowbridge (County Hall) during normal opening hours.

Wiltshire Council is inviting comments on the Statement of Modifications from **23 June 2014 until 5pm, 21 July 2014**. Comments can be made via:

- Online consultation portal: <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>
- Email: CIL@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Post: Spatial Planning, Economic Development & Planning, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN.

If responding by post or email, representation forms are available from libraries and the main Council offices or the website.

Organisations and individuals making representations may request the right to be heard by the examiner in relation to these modifications. A request to be heard by the examiner must be made in writing to Wiltshire Council **by 5pm 21 July 2014**, via the above means. Anyone requesting to be heard should indicate whether they support or oppose modifications and explain why.

Please note that the right to be heard at this stage of the process applies only in relation to the modifications being consulted on.

All comments received and a copy of each request to be heard in relation to these modifications will be forwarded to the examiner. Requests to be heard may be withdrawn at any time before the opening of the examination by giving notice in writing to Wiltshire Council.

Details of the time and place at which the examination is to be held and the name of the examiner will be published on the Council's website and in local papers when they become available. If you have made a

request to be heard (either on the Statement of Modifications or previously during the consultation on the Draft Charging Schedule) you will be notified directly.

If you have any further queries please contact Spatial Planning, Wiltshire Council on (01225) 713223 or via email, CIL@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Information Items

Councillors should ignore 'Stalinist' ban on media contact – Pickles

New guidance from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that tries to ban parish councillors from speaking to journalists without prior permission from officials has been castigated in the strongest terms by the government.

NALC has written to 9,000 parish and town councils urging them to adopt the guidelines into their constitutions, meaning councillors who refuse to comply could be disciplined.

The guidance states:

- All journalists must contact the council clerk and may not contact councillors directly.
- Any contact by councillors with journalists requires the council's prior written consent.
- Councillors cannot provide verbal or written statements to the media as a councillor without the written consent.
- Councillors are not permitted to use the title 'councillor' if giving comments in a private capacity.

It does add, though, that council business may be reported by the press without prior warning to the authority. But it adds "it is sensible for a council to have a policy to regulate its proactive or reactive communications with the media".

Communities and local government secretary Eric Pickles, however, has called for the immediate withdrawal of the guidance.

He said: "Freedom of speech is a vital part of local democracy. Councillors must be able to challenge waste and inefficiency, and should not have to get permission from state officials to speak to the press.

"I am concerned that this Stalinist guidance will have a chilling effect on public life. I am making clear its contents are utterly opposed by the government and it should be withdrawn immediately."

NALC chair Ken Browse rejected the accusation of "Stalinism".

He said: "We want our 9,000 parish councils to have more dealings with the media. Councils are doing a brilliant job improving their area and we want the media to report that.

"Our 200-page book, 'Local Councils Explained', helps councils navigate their way through endless red tape, bureaucracy and arcane laws created by successive governments. It does not bar councillors from speaking to the media, but explains the legal framework that governs them."

Community focus for youth services

Thursday 15 May 2014

Area: All areas

Plans to develop a network of community youth officers dedicated to supporting young people and helping coordinate youth activities in each community area have been given the go-ahead.

The new service model will ensure as many young people as possible are able to access community activities, while ensuring the service gives taxpayers value for money.

Council leaders voted to accept the recommendation to develop the community-led approach – the preferred option of four – at a Wiltshire Council extraordinary cabinet meeting on 15 May 2014. The meeting was attended by more than 40 young people as well as representatives from existing community youth groups across Wiltshire. They contributed to the two-hour debate, asking a wide-range of questions and offering their views.

Key features of the planned new model include the development of a community-led youth offer in each area where young people and the community will be encouraged to identify and design a varied menu of youth activities.

To support this, funding will be devolved to area boards which will each have a named community youth officer. Their role will shift from providing direct youth work to enabling voluntary and community groups to develop provision to meet local needs. They will be the ‘go to’ person for advice and support on youth related issues, with a strong focus on building community capacity by assisting voluntary and community sector groups, encouraging volunteering and making the most out of community resources.

Community youth officers will have close partnerships with a range of youth settings, including schools. They will also have an important role in coordinating positive activities for young people with disabilities.

The plans also include giving more of a voice and influence to young people by replacing youth advisory groups with Local Youth Networks (LYNs) as a sub group of community area boards. LYNs will advise area boards, recommend local priorities and help monitor the quality and effectiveness of youth activities.

Laura Mayes, cabinet member for children’s services who presented the report to cabinet, said:

“It’s clear young people want support from a trusted member of staff and they also want a greater voice and more influence – these plans give them this. Young people have also told us they want a service that meets their individual community’s needs recognising their area’s unique identity and these proposals ensure they have this by devolving power and funding to area boards.”

Detailed work on implementing the plans is continuing and will include development of an appropriate staff structure to deliver the new model.

A review into the youth activity element of the youth service was launched earlier this year. A comprehensive 10-week consultation began in February with the council keen to hear from communities – particularly young people – on how funding for youth activities could be targeted more effectively and benefit more of the county’s young residents.

The consultation generated 2,403 individual responses – of which 2,338 were from young people. This included 1,770 young people who completed an electronic survey, more than 500 took part in focus groups and 21 young people sent in letters or emails with their views. Six groups of young people also presented at area boards and five petitions were received.

Laura Mayes added: “We started this review with a lot of questions about what the future of youth services should look like and how we could ensure it reflects young people’s modern lives. The feedback we have received has given us answers and I’d personally like to thank everyone who took part in this consultation – to see so many young people engaged in local democracy has been excellent.”



It is an offence to allow a dog to foul and not clear it up immediately.
Bag and bin it, any litter bin will do!

Dog wardens have the powers to issue fixed penalty notices of £75 to anyone seen not clearing up after their dog. Failure to do this could lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £1000
Dog wardens respond to the public's reports of fouling problems. They carry out patrols throughout Wiltshire, specifically targeting well used dog walking areas. Dog fouling signs are also placed to encourage and remind the public to pick up after their dogs.

Education

Wiltshire Council dog wardens believe education is key to ensuring responsible dog ownership. They organise and attend a number of educational events throughout Wiltshire offering the microchipping of dogs and advice to all dog owners.

Contact

The dog warden service is available 9am – 5pm. Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays.
Call 01225 770570
Email – lostdogs@wiltshire.gov.uk
Out of the above office hours please report stray or lost dogs on 08450568035.

Dangerous dogs (which have attacked or you fear will attack a person) are dealt with by the Police. If you have worries about an out of control animal please call Wiltshire Police on 101

Mistreatment of animals should be reported to the RSPCA

The Wiltshire Council dog warden service strives to make the county a safer and cleaner place in relation to dog issues.

From 6 April 2016 it will be compulsory that all dogs are microchipped.
The council's dog wardens are fully trained in microchip implantation, for more details contact the service.
The role of the dog warden
Wiltshire Council dog wardens:

- collect and care for stray dogs
- promote responsible dog ownership
- enforce dog related laws

Dog identification

The law requires that all dogs in a public place must wear a collar and identification tag, which gives the name and address of the owner. This helps the finder of a lost dog to return it to the owner.
Microchipping is also recommended. This is a small chip, about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under the dog's skin. A dog warden or vet can scan the dog to find out the owner's address and details which are held on the chip.

Stray dogs

A stray dog is any dog in a public place, with no one obviously in charge of it.

What happens to stray dogs?

- If a dog is wearing a collar and tag or is microchipped it will be returned to the owner. If the dog has been found straying before, or the owner cannot be contacted the dog will be taken to one of our designated holding kennels
- If the dog has no identification it will be taken to our designated holding kennels where it will be kept for seven days. If the dog is not claimed it will then be re-homed

What to do if you find a loose / stray dog:

- If you find a stray dog call the dog warden service. If safe, you should retain the dog until they arrive. Unfortunately wardens do not normally have the time to look for loose dogs
- If found out of hours please contact our out of hours service (see overleaf). You may be asked to keep the dog until the next working day or take it to one of our holding kennels

If you have lost your dog, please call with a description of the dog and where it was last seen.

How to get your dog back

If your dog has been taken to one of our kennels it can be collected on payment of statutory fees (see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/straydogs). This may also include veterinary fees if required.

Dog Control Orders

In 2012 Wiltshire Council introduced four Dog Control Orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005).

The Dog Control Orders in place:

- Require a person in charge of a dog to clean up after it has defecated on any area of land within Wiltshire which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled to have access with or without payment
- Make it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to allow it to enter a children's play area which is enclosed by a fence, wall or similar structure
- Require the person in charge of a dog to put it on a lead of no more than two metres in length when asked to do so by an authorised officer of Wiltshire Council
- Requires dog walkers on Box Recreation Ground to keep their dogs on a lead at all times

Penalties

Anyone failing to comply with the Dog Control Orders may be issued a fixed penalty fine of £75 and may lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

For more detailed information please go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council has determined the following planning applications:

Application: 13/01437/FUL

Location: Chetcombe Farm, Mere, Warminster, BA126AU

Proposal: Erection of agricultural worker's dwelling

Applicant: The Duchy of Cornwall
c/o Ms S Bird
The Old Rectory
Newton St Loe, Bath
Bath and North East
Somerset
BA2 9BU

Agent: Symonds and Sampson LLP
89 Crane Street,

Case Officer: Matthew Legge

Decision: Approve with Conditions

Decision Date: 04/06/2014