



Wilton Town Council Newsletter

WINTER 2016/2017

Welcome to the Town Council's Winter Newsletter

Dear Resident

Your Council is busy planning how much Wilton will need to spend next year. Every November a working party of your Councillors analyse how much was spent in the previous year and identify the costs and savings that need to be considered for the coming year.

In the 2015-2016 year, additional costs included taking on the Market Square and South Street car parks from Wiltshire Council, which wanted to start charging motorists for using them. Also, Wilton's public lavatories which otherwise Wiltshire Council would have shut down. Wilton does not receive any outside financial help for taking on these responsibilities but, your Councillors do try and identify needs in the community for retaining particular functions before making such decisions. It was clear that the people of Wilton wanted both the free car parks and the public toilets to be retained. Areas of capital expense in the coming year will include the refurbishment of the public toilets and enhancing the Christmas Tree and Market Square lights. Your Councillors keep a close eye on Wilton's budgets, which are reviewed every month at the Finance and General Purposes committee meetings. This allows your Council to deal with any material issues before problems arise.

2017 Elections

In May 2017, national elections take place and every member of Wilton Town Council who wishes to continue in office, will need to be re-elected. This is an ideal opportunity for some new blood on the Council. If you would like to offer your services to the community, I would encourage you to talk to the Clerk, Mrs Catherine Purves, or any councillor. Nomination forms will be available in March 2017 from Wiltshire Council for completion. New members will be very welcomed.

Mayor's Annual Fund Raising Event

The Mayor's charity for the year is Wilton Link and to raise funds for a defibrillator for the Town. A fund raising event will be held in the Michael Herbert Hall on Friday 17th March 2017 and will take the theme of a Mad Hatters' Ball. Extravagant costume will be encouraged!

Christmas Tree Evening

This annual event takes place on the first Monday in December and this year it will be on the 5th December. The ceremony will commence from 5.30 pm with the lighting of the tree around 6.30 pm, followed by Navity and Carols. Mulled wine and mince pies will be on hand. This is a family evening and so please do come along.

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Christmas!

Yours sincerely

Trevor Batchelder
Mayor of Wilton



CONTACTS

Wilton Town Clerk

Mrs Catherine Purves

Council Offices, Kingsbury Square, Wilton,
SP2 0BA

Phone: 01722 742093

e-mail: clerk@wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

The Town Council Offices are open to the public from Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 2.00pm. Further contact details and information are available from the Wilton Town Council website:-
www.wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

5 December 2016

5.30pm Turning on the Christmas Tree Lights, Market Square

9 December 2016

Scouts Christmas Post - Last day for posting

10 December 2016

Snow Globe Experience, Wilton Shopping Village

14 December 2016

Carol Concert at RDA Wilton 11.00 am

17 December 2016

Meet Santa's Reindeer, Wilton Shopping Village

19-24 December 2016

Santa's Grotto, Wilton Shopping Village

21 December 2016

7.30pm Community Carol Service, St Mary & St Nicholas Church

11 February 2017

Fund Raising Ball for Our Wilton -
details to follow

17 March 2017

Mad Hatters' Ball, Michael Herbert Hall
details to follow

EVERY WEEK

Thursdays

Wilton Charter Market 8am to 3pm
Market Square

Fridays

Wilton Country Market 10am to 11am
held at the Community Centre

Flooding in Wilton

Flood Defence Test

The Environment Agency asked the Town Council to carry out a test of the Flood Defences for Crow Lane on 28 September 2016. The idea being to ensure that in the event of a Flood Alert, the Town Council could call upon sufficient volunteers to take the demountables to Crow Lane, put in place and test the equipment.

Three days before, notices were displayed asking vehicle owners not to park in Crow Lane by the



given up their time to help with the test. Crow Lane is susceptible to waters from the River Wylde breaching the bank wall in times of severe flooding. Flood Waters can then travel down Crow Lane into North Street and

Russell Street. The demountable barriers are pre filled with river water via a pump and the subsequent weight prevents flooding occurring in these roads.

Clearly there may not be a great deal of warning that flooding could take place; so, if vehicle owners are not prepared to acquiesce with requests not to park their vehicles in times of risk, properties may become vulnerable to flooding.

Following discussions with the



Unfortunately two cars ignored the signs and the flood defence test could not be carried out. This was highly frustrating for the volunteers who had

should a flood alert be received, vehicles that prevent the flood defences from being installed, may be removed.

Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council, the Town Council is now exploring ways with those bodies in which we can protect properties in Crow Lane, North Street and Russell Street in the event of flooding.

The Environment Agency will be erecting notices to the effect that



Crow Lane with the demountable flood defence barrier in place

Gym & Play Project

At the Carnival in 2015, residents were surveyed as to how the Town Council should spend some of the money made available via S.106 funding from Redrow, following the development of the former UKLF site at The Avenue. The rules say these funds must be spent on leisure facilities for the community.

The overwhelming result was a desire for a mini adventure playground, aimed at 11-15 year olds. A project team was formed, led by Cllr Charlotte Blackman and includes Councillors Pauline Church, Julie Dunford, Phil Matthews, Becky Perry, Ivan Seviour and Teresa Taylor. The project team also identified several other potential other projects, one of which is the possibility of installing outdoor gym equipment at Castle Meadow.

The Town Council does recognise the need for the play areas at Maple Crescent and Randalls Croft to be improved but these areas are currently under the ownership of Wiltshire Council; so, the Town Council is not currently able to make any improvements. The Town Council may take on responsibility of these play areas as part of the asset transfer negotiations which are due to take place during 2017-18. If that transfer takes place, the Town Council will then consider what needs to be done to ensure that those play areas are "fit for purpose".

Over the past year the project team has met with a variety of playground and outside gym providers. They have identified a preferred supplier for the play equipment and are about to have more detailed discussions with that company. Having not found a preferred supplier for the gym equipment, a further company has been invited to visit the site to discuss options.



A group of friends from a local church that have been meeting together each week for the past eight years took up the challenge of using the litter picking kits that are available from the Town Council. One of the core values that has knitted the group together and



What a Load of Rubbish?

which they value highly, is looking out for one another, and taking the opportunity of serving their local communities.

This has led to some fun and unusual endeavours in the past, such as cleaning highway signs and painting street names.

Seeing the headline 'Teams of Litter Pickers Required' in the first



edition of the Town Council's newsletter, the group borrowed the litter picking equipment and leapt into action. The group report that picking litter really is an underrated experience! It was so satisfying to wade in to hedgerows

around Wilton, and drag out bin liners full of age old crisp packets, bottles and shoes and other less savoury things. It was very rewarding the next day to view the clean, emerald green verges and have the satisfaction of knowing that the local wildlife can make safe passage through the undergrowth for a while without getting hooked on the discarded rubbish.

Also, a thank you to the 1st Wilton Beavers who spent just under an hour litter picking in the Park and Ride area. Two bags of rubbish were collected; although they report that there was much more to pick up.

If you would like to arrange a litter picking event, please contact the clerk@wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Wet winter weather preparation

Wiltshire Council has recently issued guidance on wet winter weather preparation. Now that autumn is here, it is inevitable that there will be wetter weather and a greater risk of flooding.

Wiltshire Council would like to reassure residents that it is doing all that it can to be ready for any adverse weather. It asks that community groups and residents consider how a wet winter may affect them, and to prepare by taking the appropriate action.

For example, if a gully is blocked superficially, with leaves or grass, it can, with care on the highway, be cleared. Also, to help avoid blocked gullies, please sweep

up any leaves that fall from your trees or hedges onto pavements/ footpaths outside your house. However, if the blockage is not easy to clear or there are any other concerns, these can be reported to Wiltshire Council using one of the following methods:

- On line at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts. You will need to leave your email address to receive updates.
- Or using the MyWiltshire app on a smart phone, again updates will be issued.

- Or by telephone on 0300 456 0105 – the customer services team will issue a log number. In respect of flood risks, advice is available from The Environment Agency at: www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood





Wiltshire Council is in the process of rolling out the Safe Places project across the County. The aim of the project is to establish “Safe Places” across Wiltshire that provides a safe environment for people who may require some additional support when out and about in the community,

particularly during times of anxiety, fear or distress.

Businesses and organisations who are part of the Safe Places project will display an A5 size round Safe Place sticker in their window (as illustrated) to alert people that they are a ‘Safe Place’.

Wilton Town Council encourages Wilton businesses to be part of this scheme and we understand that Stephen Harris, Community Engagement Officer for South Wiltshire (Tel: 01722 434211 or M: 07584 274 055), has recently visited local Wilton businesses providing details of the scheme.

To find out more please contact Stephen Harris. Further information is also available on Wiltshire Council’s website at - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/communitysafety/safeplaces.htm.

Civic Awards

The Wilton Civic Awards were introduced by former Mayor Cllr Phil Matthews in 2014. This is a great opportunity to thank and recognise individuals for their contribution to our Town over the years. Nomination forms will be available in the February and March 2017 editions of Valley News. So, please have a think about who you think should be nominated for an award. The awards will be presented in April 2017.

Wilton Welcomes

The development of the former Erskine Barracks, HQ Land Forces is a partnership between Our Enterprise (the parent company of Our Wilton), Redrow Homes and Wilton Community Land Trust.

As part of the wider housing development, there will be a veterans’ campus, delivering a range of supported accommodation and opportunities. There will also be a nursery facility, a community café and an enterprise hub.

Our Wilton is actively engaging with the local community to forge relationships with businesses and individuals, so that veterans may be offered the very best opportunities in training, work experience and apprenticeships. This will help veterans to integrate fully into civilian life. In August “Wilton Welcomes” was launched with the Wilton and District Business Chamber and supported by the Town Council. Our Wilton looks forward to engaging in more projects that will involve the whole Wilton community.

Our Wilton’s office is now located on site, just inside the HQ Land Forces gates, if you would like to discuss the project or visit the site please email at admin@ourwilton.org to arrange a suitable time.

Our Wilton is looking for ambassadors to champion the Our Wilton cause. If you are interested, then contact, Sue Harper, Operation Manager or, Kerry Harvey at admin@ourwilton.org

Wilton Town Council Meetings

Most Town Council Meetings are held in the Council Chamber just off Kingsbury Square.



If you have a problem or concern about something locally, just get in touch with the Town Clerk on 01722 742093 and she will be able to advise you as to how you should proceed.

In the meantime, if you have something you’d like to tell the Town Council, please complete and send this form to the Town Clerk, Wilton Town Council, Council Offices, Kingsbury Square, Wilton, SP2 0BA. or email clerk@wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

A Full Council meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend Full Council and Committee Meetings. There is always an opportunity for you to raise issues when you attend. In addition to the monthly Full Council meeting, there is also the Amenities and Planning Committee which meets on the third Tuesday of the month and the Finance & General Purposes Committee which meets on the fourth Tuesday. The agenda for each meeting is posted on the Parish Council noticeboard on the Thursday before the meeting.

Dear Town Council

I think you should know about the following:

.

Name:

Address:

Telephone No: