

# Highways and Environment newsletter





# Welcome.

Welcome to the July 2019 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** - Pictures of work completed can be found at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-asset-management](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-asset-management)
- **Additional Street Cleaning Funding** - Pictures of the work completed in April are on the website at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services)
- **Weed treatment to commence** - For maps please see: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services)
- **Parking Staff Win award**
- **Sparkle Day Calander Now On Website** - see [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services)
- **Contactless for Brown Street Parking in Salisbury.**
- **Report that trash**
- **Launch of BinTheButt Awareness Campaign**



# Civil enforcement team recognised for their customer care

A number of Civil Enforcement Officers when on patrol helped a lady who unfortunately fell in Wilton.

The first on site was first aid trained. He quickly confirmed that she had a broken arm and was in shock. She was on ice and snow, so the officers worked together and sat her comfortably in the back of their van, they gave her their coats and then called for an ambulance. The lady was taken to hospital and her family arrived and thanked them.

After the lady was taken to hospital they scraped the ice and coned the area off so that no one else had an accident.

Her son arranged to call the team on the following Monday to let them know how she is, as the officers were so concerned. Their actions demonstrate the ethos of the council by truly going above and beyond their day to day roles.



## Mobile enforcement vehicle (MEV)



The new MEV has been introduced and is being used tactically for a wide range of traffic management, monitoring and enforcement applications. Linked to the council's virtual permit database, it operates across residential parking zones to detect parked vehicles that do not have valid permits. The vehicle is also equipped to carry out a number of additional activities for greater flexibility.

The MEV will deliver efficiencies in checking registered residential permits, as it can check number plates up to 30mph.

# Yellow zig zag line enforcement outside schools

Use of a static Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system is permitted on safety grounds outside of an establishment such as a school with the relevant Traffic Regulation Order. The static ANPR system has been introduced and offers a fixed deterrent to reduce the unsafe and illegal parking on yellow zig zags.

The cameras are only used as a last resort where education by the school has failed to encourage the correct parking behaviour.

The schools or local community in question fund the erection and removal costs of the cameras.

The static cameras allow continuous monitoring whilst in situ, and allows the CEO resource to be redeployed to areas where they are needed.



## Contactless trial for Brown Street, Salisbury



A trial of dual use parking machines that accept contactless payments and cash will be undertaken from July 2019 in the Brown Street Car Park to investigate the benefits to customers and the opportunities to expand similar initiatives.

The council is continuing to speak to providers to look at how modern technology, such as apps, can improve the parking experience and allow particular segments of car park users to be identified and encourage. For example shoppers or tourists.

## Highways town and parish meetings

Thanks to all who attended the highways town and parish meetings in May and June. The meetings were a great opportunity to discuss current highways and street scene service levels, to review the parish steward scheme, and to discuss service delegation.

We were also grateful to hear your feedback on issues in your area. For more details on maintenance schedules, see: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services)



# Weed treatment

We are now using the Nomix Genesis to tackle weeds. The genesis is a vehicle mounted total droplet control (TDC), low volume herbicide application system. It uses ready to use TDC herbicides and has up to 4 spray arms.

**Versatile** - can be fitted to virtually any type of vehicle, including ATV's and mini-tractors

**Cost effective** - reduced labour costs compared to walking weed control methods

**Safe, targeted application on hard surfaces** - compliant with legislation and best practice

**Simple to use controls** - easy to use, with adjustable spray width for each arm

**Safe controls** - operator in full control of the vehicle at all times.



# Grass cutting

We have had feedback from parishes and the community about the need for more urban grass cutting. We are on schedule, as we commenced cutting this year in the second week of March and are on our usual monthly cut; we started the third round of cutting in mid-May.

In 2018, the cold weather early in the year meant that the grass in spring was shorter than it is at present. This year has seen more favourable growing conditions, so while the grass is longer this year, we are cutting to the same schedule as 2018. We are currently exploring opportunities with our contractor to increase the frequency of grass cutting, and we are also using our own tractors to cut grass to ensure the safety of highway users.

## Urban grass maintenance 2018/2019 provisional

Code	Expected mowing season	Max/min high of growth	Expected frequency of cut
Sheltered housing schemes	2nd week March - end of October		Once per week
High amenity areas (parks, open spaces etc)	2nd week March - end of October	These are now classed as gen grass areas	Monthly
General grass areas	2nd week March - end of October		Monthly
Low amenity areas (graveyards/ cemeteries)	2nd week March - end of October		Monthly
Highway verge areas	2nd week March - end of October		Monthly





# BinTheButt!

Dropped cigarette butts are the most common form of littering, found on 79% of the 7,200 sites surveyed as part of our recent Local Environment Quality Survey of England 2017/18.

**Recent research revealed:** 52% of smokers who smoke everyday thought putting a cigarette down the drain was acceptable.

39% of smokers, equivalent to 3.6million in the UK, admitted to throwing a cigarette butt down a drain within the past month.

11% of smokers do not consider cigarette butts to be litter.

As well as plastic, cigarette filters are comprised of thousands of chemical ingredients, including arsenic, lead and nicotine, all of which can leak into marine environments.

According to studies, just one cigarette butt per litre of water is highly toxic to fish.

You can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice for dropping litter, and cigarette butts are classed as litter.



**What begins in our streets can end in the sea:** Research conducted after the campaign launched in Manchester revealed some fantastic results;

Almost nine in 10 smokers each felt that the campaign was aimed at people like them (88%) and that the campaign has made them more aware of the negative impacts of dropping cigarette butts in the street (87%)

Eight in 10 felt it made them more concerned about the effects of dropping or leaving cigarette butts on the ground, now they knew that they may end up in the sea, releasing toxins that may kill or harm marine life (80%)

Around two-thirds each felt the campaign made them think the council was doing something to tackle the problem of cigarette litter (66%) and that it made them think something is being done to improve the cleanliness of the area (63%). 83% of those who didn't already bin their butt said the campaign was likely to encourage them to use a bin.





# What is fly-tipping?

**Fly-tipping is when waste is illegally dumped on roads or land that is not licensed for waste.**

Fly-tipped waste generally consists of materials such as household waste, large domestic items such as fridges and furniture, garden refuse, commercial waste, such as building rubble and soil, asbestos waste and tyres.

As well as blighting our streets, it may cause harm to our water supplies and the environment. It is also a risk to humans, wildlife and farm animals and spoils our enjoyment of the environment.

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court. The offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to five years' imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court. Offenders can also receive a Fixed Penalty Notice of £400 if they are caught fly-tipping small amounts of waste.

At a time when the council has to cut budgets, we need to reduce unnecessary expenditure and need your help to support our campaign to clamp down on illegal behaviour.



# Former Amesbury resident pays the price for fly-tipping

A former Amesbury resident has been ordered to pay **£1,970** in fines, costs and victim surcharge after giving his domestic waste to an unlicensed waste collector, who then fly-tipped it in the Wiltshire countryside.

On Monday 20 May 2019, Mr Adrian Collingwood, formally of Amesbury, admitted failing to ensure his waste was lawfully transferred to a legitimate waste carrier at Salisbury Magistrates Court.

Mr Collingwood, who now lives in Swindon, claimed he had given his waste to a 'man with a van' who knocked at this door asking for scrap metal. The court heard that that he failed to check the driver had a licence to carry waste and had failed to record vehicle details or where the waste would ultimately be disposed. This information would have helped officers trace the fly-tipper.

Wiltshire Council environmental enforcement officers tracked the rubbish back to Mr Collingwood after it was discovered dumped in a layby and field in Winterbourne Monkton near Swindon.

Bridget Wayman, cabinet member for highways, transport and waste, said: "Residents and businesses have a legal duty of care in ensuring their waste is disposed of properly and legally. Residents and businesses should be wary about people door knocking asking to remove waste.

"We would also urge caution about using a 'man with a van' or similar adverts on social media to dispose of waste without making all the necessary checks and writing down the waste carrier's licence number."

Check that the person they pass their waste to is an authorised carrier by visiting the Environment Agency, or by calling the Environment Agency on **03708 506506**.



Check that the person who is taking the waste has an upper tier waste carriers licence. Note the make, model, colour and registration number of any vehicle taking the waste away and also note a description of the persons removing the waste. Ask for a receipt detailing where the waste is going and the waste carrier's licence number. This is a legal obligation for businesses, but householders are also advised to request this information. If it involves scrap metal collection, check that the person who is taking the waste has an upper tier waste carriers licence and a scrap metal collectors licence issued by Wiltshire Council.

You can report fly-tipping at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting> or call **0300 456 0100**.



# Ramsbury resident fined for dumping his vehicle



The owner of an abandoned vehicle was ordered to pay a total of £2,636.35 in fines, costs and victim surcharge following a successful prosecution by Wiltshire Council at Salisbury Magistrates Court on 20 May 2019.

The vehicle owner, Martin Mildenhall of Ramsbury, Marlborough, left the vehicle dumped in a car park in Ramsbury near Marlborough. The vehicle had no tax, no MOT and there was no permission from the landowner to store the vehicle in the car park.

Environmental enforcement officers traced the vehicle owner through their live DVLA system and written notifications were sent to Mr Mildenhall. He

did not respond to any letters or notices that were sent to him, which resulted in a fixed penalty notice of £200 being issued. Mr Mildenhall ignored this fixed penalty and also failed to turn up in court. The council prosecuted Mr Mildenhall as a result of the non-payment of the fixed penalty and he was found guilty in his absence under the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 at Salisbury Magistrates Court.

Bridget Wayman, cabinet member for highways, transport and waste, said: "Abandoned vehicles cause a significant environmental hazard and will not be tolerated in Wiltshire. This prosecution makes it clear to everyone that we take this issue very seriously. "We will investigate reports

of abandoned vehicles and take formal action against the owners who dump their vehicles and consider it acceptable for taxpayers to foot the bill for responsible removal and disposal."It is a criminal offence to abandon a vehicle under Section 2 of the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978. A person found guilty of such an offence may be punished on summary conviction with a fine of up to £2,500 or a term not exceeding three months' imprisonment or both. The council can also issue fixed penalty notices of £200 as an alternative to prosecution.

You can report abandoned vehicles using <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting> or by calling 0300 456 0100.





## CAB

Bradford on Avon & Melksham CAB Andy Cadwallader  
Chippenham and Corsham CAB David Arnup  
Devizes and Pewsey CAB Richard Dobson  
Malmesbury and Calne CA Matt Perrot  
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](mailto:centralhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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

Amesbury, Salisbury, Southern, South West community areas:  
[southernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:southernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk)



## Street cleaning and amenity

[Streetscene@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Streetscene@wiltshire.gov.uk)



## Parking

[ParkingServices@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ParkingServices@wiltshire.gov.uk)



