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Hilperton Update

Summer/Autumn 2014



Cllr. Ernie Clark.

Your **Independent**
Wiltshire councillor.

Experience Competence Energy Action Results

Dear Resident,

'Interesting' times ahead

As leader of the Independent group of councillors at Wiltshire Council, I was recently invited to attend the Local Government Association annual conference (together with the leaders of the other political groups of course).

A recurring theme throughout the conference was just how badly local government has fared recently with Westminster cutting about 40% of income but expecting services to be maintained.

It was widely predicted that 2015-16 would be the 'crunch' year when things would start to go badly wrong with front-line services being hit. Of course, in many councils, including Wiltshire, some of these have already been hived-off to the private sector with mixed results.

The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn stated that, should Labour take power next year, they would not suddenly be a source of funds for local councils but would continue to expect 'more for less' from town halls throughout the country.

Ernie Clark.

St. Stephen's Place

The new Odeon cinema has now settled into its place in the town without the traffic gridlock predicted by some doubters of the scheme.

Just a reminder that, if you are planning to visit the complex please remember that you can use the car park at County Hall after 6.00 pm during the week or any time at the weekend and it's FREE!

Speeding

Community Speed Watch is operating again in Hilperton but it seeks extra volunteers. Please contact me for details.

After some robust 'discussion' with Wiltshire Police, it has been agreed that CSW can operate in Devizes Road for a trial three month period. It will be interesting to see the figures that come back during this period especially when the rugby club is back into full swing with its playing season.

Fly tipping

There has been a spate of this in

Hilperton recently but heaven knows why when we have the Canal Road recycling centre so close to us.

There are some sites that are more popular with fly tippers than others but Wiltshire Council has the power to observe these with hidden cameras. Let's hope that we see some prosecutions if the tipping doesn't stop.

Tour of Britain cycle race

This is due to pass through Hilperton on Friday 12th September at around 11.00am.

The route will come along the main road from Trowbridge and then continue along Trowbridge Road, past the Lion & Fiddle and on down Devizes Road.

'Rolling' road closures will be in place and so some disruption will occur.

Of course, it will be a great opportunity to watch some of the best cyclists in Britain race by—but don't blink or you might miss them they go so fast!

Ernie Clark, your local councillor.
Experience Competence Energy Action Results

'Green bin' consultation

In west Wiltshire the green bin collections have always been free since being introduced by the old West Wiltshire District Council about ten years ago.

WC is now doing one of its infamous so-called 'consultations', offering three options as below. As ever, WC tries to tilt the playing field towards the result it hopes to get by having two non-charging options.

To me it seems reasonable to suspend green waste collections over the winter, so it would seem sensible to support the three-month break. A strong vote for this option would at least embarrass the Conservative administration and give opposition councillors a case to campaign to keep the collection free for the other nine months of the year.

People are being asked to choose which of these three options best meets their needs:

1) A three month suspension of the kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February.

2) A five month suspension of the kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January, February and March.

3) To introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service instead of the current service at a price of £35 per bin per year.

Currently, only 10 percent of green waste is collected between December and February, and 25 percent is collected between November and March.

The consultation runs until 1st September.

Online it's at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling/rubbishrecycling/rubbishrecyclinggardenwaste.htm> or contact me if you need a paper copy.

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

www.ernieclark.org.uk

Hilperton Relief Road

It would seem that a start on the road is imminent. Some will welcome this news, some will not.

I, along with the Wiltshire Councillor for Trowbridge Paxcroft Division, have been approached by Wiltshire Council regarding one or two of the original planning conditions imposed on the road. WC wishes to have a few alterations made and has come up with some rather lame justification for their reasoning.

So far neither councillor has agreed to any changes but it could get to the point where WC

highways department go 'over our heads' and take their suggestions direct to the WC Western Area Planning Committee.

In addition, the parish council has been approached for traffic calming suggestions for Church/Hill Streets.

However, the S.106 budget from the road building scheme is only £11,000 and this won't go very far.

The parish council too has budgeted for traffic calming measures and it will be interesting to see what can be afforded.

Please contact me if you have any ideas.

How to contact me

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