Parish Council Unitary Councillor's Report – August 2025

August is traditionally a quiet month at Council, so this will be a short partially retrospective report.

The New Council Draft 10-year Plan
Uncertainties over Government funding and the Housing Land Supply still loom large. We expect details of changes in Government funding to be clarified in the next few weeks. Similarly, the emerging Local Plan is awaiting final approval from the National Planning Inspectorate. Once we know the outcome of both these issues we can plan accordingly. However, looking forward, the new administration has outlined their vision for the next 10 years and have asked for your input. Further information on the Draft Plan and Survey can be found here: Wiltshire Council Plan 2025-2035 (Page 1 of 4)

Motion to repudiate Wiltshire Council's Climate Policy defeated.

In in February 2019, the council passed a motion acknowledging a climate emergency and to seek to make the county carbon neutral by 2030. The council's Cabinet subsequently committed to making the council carbon neutral by 2030.

At Full Council meeting on 23rd July, Wiltshire Council voted to reject a motion brought forward that called for the council not to be "constrained by unachievable county-wide 2030 carbon reduction targets.

This new motion sought to replace the 2019 vote; however, it was rejected by 45 votes to 23, with 19 abstentions.

Currently, the Council itself is on track to become carbon neutral by 2030, but the picture for the County as a whole is more challenging. Here are just three examples of initiatives:

- the provision of new EV charging points across the county,
- the trialling of a new waste collection system in Chippenham, Wiltshire Household Recycling Trial - Wiltshire Council
- the introduction of the first EV buses in Salisbury https://www.salisburyreds.co.uk

Other Highlights…

Advertising events with signs on the highway

Following requests from parish and town councils, the Council is updating its policy on signage on the highways. Signs that promote community or charity events, provided they meet reasonable criteria, will now be eligible for approval. Contact your Local Highways team: westernhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Community Benefit Fund - £10,000 available for local projects
In partnership with the Southwest Procurement Alliance (SWPA), the Council is working offering a £10,000 Community Benefit Fund for projects that support social mobility, planet and environment or individual wellbeing. The fund is open to applications from local charities, community organisations, and social enterprises. Projects must demonstrate strong local support, add value to existing services, and be deliverable within six months. If you know of a local group who may be eligible, please encourage them to contact Andrew Mead at AndrewM.Mead@wiltshire.gov.uk before 1 September

to discuss suitability.
Applications open from 1 September and close 31 October. Find out more

Crackdown on Fly-tipping

If anyone spots a fly-tip in their area, or someone disposing of their waste illegally, I urge them to report it to the Council using MyWilts. Officers will investigate and take action, and the person who reported it could receive a reward of up to £200 in gift vouchers if the information they provide leads to a prosecution, or a fixed penalty notice being paid. To find out more about how the council is tackling fly-tipping in Wiltshire and how to report fly-tipping, people should visit: Fly-tipping - Wiltshire Council

Nigel White

August 28th, 2025