Parish Council Unitary Councillor's Report – October 2025

1. Full Council Meeting

Looking back, the month of October, the main event was the 12- hour Full Council meeting on October 21st. (I now know the real meaning of 'filibuster'!)

For full details of the meeting and voting results, please see Wiltshire Council website. Here are three key highlights:

- **Wiltshire Council's new 10-year plan, outlining its community-centred approach, was formally adopted**

- **Wiltshire Council confirmed reinstatement of free parking for Blue Badge holders.** The decision, originally proposed and agreed by Cabinet on 7 October, was brought before Full Council for final approval. Blue Badge holders are once again able to park free of charge in all Wiltshire Council car parks.

- **Challenge to the Council's use of green tariff.** A group of backbenchers challenged that the annual green electricity charge, which costs £230,00 annually, should be scrapped. Council voted to review the charges at Overview and Scrutiny Committee. (It should be noted that while it is correct that green energy currently carries a marginally higher total bill, this difference equates to approximately 45 pence per resident per year. I consider this to be a modest sum when weighed against the wider environmental and social benefits.

2. 2026/27 Budget Consultation

Interactive drop-in budget sessions have been taking place across the county. These sessions provided opportunities for people to talk to the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Ian Thorn and Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Gavin Grant, and give their views on how the council should prioritise its spending.
For those who were unable to attend the events, you can still share your views online at

https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/Interview/b700fc7c-c91a-4095-969e-345047dbb00a

3.**Explore Wiltshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**

Wiltshire Council has launched an **interactive map** to support the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This tool helps communities understand local habitats, biodiversity priorities, and opportunities for nature recovery. Parish councils are encouraged to explore the map and consider how it can inform local planning and environmental initiatives. Apologies for the length of the length of the link, but it is worth taking a look at this new tool.

https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fexperience.arcgis.com%2Fexperience%2F2b3a19902e3e4b81bac90326a2a2dec5%2Fpage%2FInteractivemap&data=05%7C02%7Cnigel.white%40wiltshire.gov.uk%7Ced136fdc4a9d4142045d08de16d13469%7C5546e75e3be14813b0ff26651ea2fe19%7C0%7C0%7C638973284983957586%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tWHw0uUy06qruadJs8pGZNlQxfh%2BzUYbmbRPuZEjvV0%3D&reserved=0

4.Fly Tipper in our ward prosecuted

Wiltshire Council's Environmental Enforcement team launched an investigation after a report by a resident, followed up by your Unitary Councillor, regarding dumped waste in a location near Upper Westwood Road in Westwood, Bradford on Avon. This has resulted in a £1,000 fixed penalty notice (FPN) for a Wiltshire resident.

Wiltshire Council's latest micro asphalt road treatment programme under way across the county – with much more to come

5. Improving our roads

Wiltshire Council is repairing and extending the life of more roads around the county, with its latest micro asphalt treatment programme under way. Micro-asphalt surface treatment is a fast and cost-effective way to maintain and improve road surfaces. It helps extend the life of roads for several years by sealing them to prevent water damage and by restoring the surface texture, which improves safety and durability. This can be done with minimal disruption, as traffic can use the road again in an hour after the treatment is complete.

6. Discover the latest in disability equipment at County Hall event

People wanting to find out about the latest disability equipment and technology aids to help promote independence are invited to a Disability Equipment Fair next month.

As part of Occupational Therapy Week, Wiltshire Council is hosting the fair on Wednesday 5 November, from 12.30pm to 4pm in the Atrium at County Hall, Trowbridge with 34 stalls featuring equipment companies, charities, and information services.

This free event offers a unique opportunity to:

- Explore a wide range of assistive equipment and technology
- Get hands-on demonstrations and expert advice
- Learn how equipment can support independence and wellbeing

Nigel White, Unitary Councillor for Winsley and Westwood Ward, October 29th, 2025