

From the Editor

August is meant to be the 'silly season' when nothing much happens but this year that has definitely not been the case. There are a lot of things going on as you will see from this edition of Trust News, and as always, we need to be vigilant.

Wiltshire Council has called for a referendum to take place on the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan. Voting will take place on 17th September. We cover the process in more detail on this page. Please come along to the Trust's public meeting on Friday 11th September to find out more.

Sadly, though, despite all the hard work that has gone into the Plan, it seems as if it was too late to stop the building of another 123 houses on the field off Quakers Walk. The application for the change from a residential care home and dementia centre was submitted by the Merchant Venturers earlier this year. After months of negotiation between Wiltshire Council and the applicants, the application was discussed by the Planning Committee on August 6th, bang in the middle of the holiday season.

Although a number of Devizes and Wiltshire Councillors and residents attended the meeting, the Wiltshire Planning Officer supported the application for change of use and it went ahead on a vote of 5 - 2. Hopefully, there can be some mitigation of the effects on London Road traffic and Councillor Laura Mayes is taking the lead on that.

One piece of good news is that the Trust will be working with the Town Council to open up the whole of the Town Hall as part of this year's Devizes Heritage Open Day on Saturday 12th September. We have invited as many of the former Town Mayors as we can find to take part in this event, and they will be congregating in the Town Hall at 11am. Maybe we should hold a competition to match them against their mayoral portraits!

Philippa Morgan

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM ON 17TH SEPTEMBER - YOUR VOTE COUNTS



We have reported the progress of the development of the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Plan in past issues of Trust News. We can now announce that the Plan has finally been approved by Wiltshire Council subject to changes required by the Planning Inspectorate.

The next, and final, stage in the process involves a Referendum. This will mean a trip to the Polling Station where you will be asked to answer the question "Do you want Wiltshire Council to use the neighbourhood plan for the Devizes Area to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area? Yes or No." If you are a Devizes area resident and you are on the Electoral Register you will be eligible to vote in the Referendum - a polling card will be delivered to your registered address.

The decision on whether to vote Yes or No is, of course, up to each individual. However, if you have been following the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, you will be aware that this has been a process which has included community consultation at every stage. Many of you may have commented and the Plan has been refined to take account of those comments.

A "Yes" vote will mean that you support the Plan which allows Devizes to meet the demand for additional housing in a

way that respects and enhances the existing community. We can be confident that there will be protection for the rural character of the town through the control of green space. It will also mean that there will be no more unwanted developments such as the Coate Bridge proposal.

If the majority of those who vote in the referendum are in favour of the draft Neighbourhood Plan then it must be brought into legal force by Wiltshire Council. This will ensure that future planning decisions are made according to the contents of the Plan until at least 2026.

More information on the Neighbourhood Plan is available here:
<http://tinyurl.com/NPDevizes>

If you cannot vote in person, you can register for a postal vote - you must do this by 2nd September. Or you can appoint a proxy, which must be done by 9th September. Visit <https://gov.uk/register-to-vote> or call 0300 456 0112.

Documents related to the Plan and to the Referendum can be viewed at Wiltshire Council Offices, Crossmolina Buildings, Snuff Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1FG and Devizes Library, Sheep Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1DL.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY AND
CAST YOUR VOTE!**

The John Kent house



The courtyard garden at the front of John Kent's House (No. 16 the Market Place) is a lovely example of what can be done in a relatively small space with a little imagination. The house dates from the 17th Century. John Kent represented Devizes in the Houses of Parliament at various times between 1597 and 1624. He was Mayor of Devizes from 1602 to 1603 and is buried in St John's churchyard.

A new home for the "Pyramid"



As part of the refurbishment of Albion Place, the Pyramid sculpture has been resited closer to Handel House.

Traffic Management

Tony Duck responds with an alternative view



The Market Place has always been a versatile space

In the May issue of Trust News Tony Sedgwick put forward a number of suggestions for what he considers would be better and more beneficial management of the circulation of traffic in the town. I disagree with most of his proposals.

Let us start with The Market Place which, he suggests, could become a haven of peace and tranquillity for outdoor dining and coffee quaffing. This would be fine if we enjoyed a Mediterranean climate. The reality is that the days when this might be possible are greatly outnumbered by those days when it would be a bleak, windswept, rain sodden space, devoid of people, life and movement.

Since its inception The Market Place has been used as a vehicle park, all that has changed is what is parked there, be it ox wagon, horse and cart or horseless carriage. People met to do business or to socialise according to the season pretty much as we do today. It is a flexible space and should be kept as such. Some minor changes could be made to make it more pedestrian-friendly, but wholesale pedestrianisation simply flies in the face of history and commercial sense.

The suggestion to pedestrianise Maryport Street by reversing the flow of traffic in Monday Market Street would cause unnecessary internal journeys, increase congestion and aggravate pollution levels. In short, it will add greatly to those problems which the Trust, and Tony in particular, have been fighting for years!

Currently traffic on the A361 destined for the Central and/or Vales Lane car parks leave the main road at the Castle Hotel roundabout and travel a short distance along Monday Market Street. Loss of that

route will add to the existing congestion and force traffic to go to Rose's roundabout, a pollution hot spot, to turn into Sidmouth Street, a much longer route. Some drivers could undoubtedly choose to leave the A361 at Brewery Corner and travel via The Market Place, Long Street and Sheep Street: thus causing even more avoidable emissions.

A much simpler solution lies in Tony's own reference to Long Eaton: improve the design of Maryport Street to emphasise the dominance of the pedestrian. If parking on one side of the street was sacrificed, pavements could be widened and the street made to look more attractive. Much of the current congestion in Maryport Street is caused by the inability of traffic to emerge at the roundabout, this is mostly the result of stationary traffic blocking the exit. Simply repainting the almost obliterated "Keep Clear" sign would greatly improve that. Better still, introducing a half-box junction would greatly reduce the amount of waiting.

These solutions are reasonably cheap and achievable whereas reversing Monday Market Street would involve considerable and expensive engineering work and serve only to increase conflict between people and vehicles.

On the issue of cycling generally, I would suggest that all fully and semi-pedestrianised areas should have ample secure parking facilities for bikes on their periphery and cyclists should be required to dismount and remain so. While most cyclists are responsible, there are a substantial minority who have little knowledge of the Highway Code and even less of good manners.

Traffic and air pollution

John Baumber reports on our public meeting



On Friday 26 June 2015 the Trust held a public meeting in Devizes Town Hall. The meeting was chaired by John Baumber and addressed by Tony Sedgwick, our traffic and parking expert, and Philip Whitehead, Wiltshire Council Cabinet member for Highways and Transport.

The background data presented by our two speakers had two key messages. First, that 70% of the vehicle journeys in Devizes start and end in Devizes. This means that Devizes residents are largely responsible for the volume of traffic and resultant congestion / emissions.

Second, that a reduction in traffic of just 5% would result in the air quality dropping to the legislative, acceptable levels.

In effect, the problem can be addressed by achieving a 5% reduction in journeys by the residents of the town. For someone who makes a daily trip into town, this means changing their plans so that on one in 20 days their trip is not made. Is this reduction achievable?

Following the presentations, the table-groups were asked to consider two questions; what would they like the Wiltshire Council to do; what could they do personally to improve the situation regarding air quality and traffic?

While there was some overlap of the points made, the summary of the thoughts are shown below:

What would we like Wiltshire Council to consider?

1. Create travel plans with each school seeking that 5% reduction in journeys.
2. Engage employers to sponsor travel plans seeking 5% reduction - encourage provision of pool car for off-site journeys for employees who have to leave site?
3. Provide separation of bicycle lanes/tracks from motorised vehicles.
4. Provide improved surfaces to the cycle ways (better drainage and more even surfaces)
5. Pedestrianise the streets around lower end of the Brittox.
6. Enforce rules covering "no cycling on pavements" (separating cycle from pedestrians)
7. Repair the road surface around road drain covers and grids to reduce cyclists' needs to enter main traffic flows.
8. Plant more trees along the streets.
9. Establish the efficiency and suitability of the bus units used for school runs (often old and inefficient diesel engine units without particulate filters).
10. Ensure that public service vehicles are equipped with the appropriate latest technology (a stationary bus with its diesel engine idling emits a

Museum News

A selection of forthcoming events

EXHIBITION: Devizes Camera Club

Sunday, 13 September, 2015

The [Devizes Camera Club](#) Biennial Print Exhibition is taking place at Wiltshire Museum between 13 September and 11 October 2015.

OUTING: Walking the Dead: Exploring the Stonehenge Ceremonial Landscape

10:30 am, Saturday, 19 September, 2015

A guided tour of the amazing collections of the Wiltshire Museum, followed by a guided walk from Durrington Walls to Stonehenge. This full day tour will be led by Museum Director, David Dawson.

LECTURE SERIES: An Introduction to Ancient Egypt

2:30 pm, Thursday, 01 October, 2015

Organised and run by the WEA (Workers' Educational Association) this course will be led by John Billman and take place in the lecture hall at Wiltshire Museum.

SOCIETY TRIP TO POMPEII, HERCULANEUM AND CLASSICAL CAMPANIA

12:00 am, Monday, 05 October, 2015

The Society has arranged for Andante Travel of Salisbury to organise a private trip for the members of WANHS, Salisbury and Dorchester Museums.

LECTURE: Bottoms Up! The Story of Wine, Its Rituals & Glasses

7:30 pm, Wednesday, 21 October, 2015

A fundraising lecture by Andy McConnell, one of Britain's leading authorities on glassware of all types and the first glass specialist recruited to BBC TV's Antiques Roadshow.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2015

9:30 am, Saturday, 31 October, 2015

The Biennial Industrial Archaeology Symposium with talks on a variety of topics.

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Museum News

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LECTURE: the Wiltshire Regiment

2:30 pm, Saturday, 07 November, 2015

A Saturday afternoon lecture by Michael Cornwell.

LECTURE: Old Stones, New ideas: Sourcing the Stonehenge Bluestones

2:30 pm, Saturday, 21 November, 2015

A Saturday afternoon lecture by Richard Bevins.

Bookings and enquiries:

www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

Or call 01380 727369

A message from the Treasurer

Some members will find a note with the newsletter reminding them that apparently they have not paid the sub for 2015. A swift reply would be appreciated.

I am grateful to all the members who pay by standing order as it makes my task so much easier!

Many thanks to all members who completed and returned the Gift Aid forms which were sent out with the last issue. It's not too late to send yours in if you haven't yet done so.

Inez Skinner

Correction

In the May edition of Trust News we published an obituary of Hugh Burn in which we referred to "Major John Page". This should have been "Major-General John Page". Apologies!

Dates for your diary

Friday 11th September at 7pm for 7:30 in the Town Hall

PUBLIC MEETING - The Neighbourhood Plan

Rick Rowlands will describe the neighbourhood plan and its implications for local planning in the years to come. Open to all.

Saturday 12th September

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

See enclosed leaflet

Thursday 17th September

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

Please cast your vote!

Traffic and air pollution

continued

- disproportionate amount of contaminants)
11. Introduce "Boris Bikes" for the town.
 12. Progress the Shane's Castle pavement and road alignment improvements a.s.a.p.
 13. Review the Highways Restrictions (e.g. one way streets, and byways within the town) regarding providing sensible routes for cyclist to access and egress the town.
 14. Provide car parking for employees in suitable areas of car parks.
 15. Share the publicity with parents, schools and employers of the effect of 5% reduction in journeys has on achieving compliant air pollution levels.

16. Reduce intrusive foliage and growth that obscure road traffic signs.
17. Improve public car park signage to direct people to the next available car park to reduce "space hunting" journey time.

What can you do?

- Plant at least one tree.
- Cycle more often.
- Walk into town

These comments will be reviewed at the next Trust for Devizes Committee meeting and a plan developed on how these ideas can be pursued.

John Baumber
Trustee, Trust for Devizes.

Join the discussion!

If you have any comments about the issues discussed in Trust News - or if you have ideas of your own - share them on our website where you will find a lively forum in the Members area.

Go to <http://www.trustfordevizes.info>, log in and select "Members Area" then click on "Discussion Forum".

If you don't have a login yet, send an email to info@trustfordevizes.info and request an invitation to register.

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