

# Churchfields

NEWSLETTER FOR CHURCHFIELDS BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

## Major study to improve business centre

**A major study that will reveal the needs of the biggest business centre in South Wiltshire has been taking place over the last few months.**

Salisbury District Council's economic development officers are in the process of conducting an 'options appraisal' of the Churchfields Industrial Estate. So just what is an options appraisal? It is a major study that will look at all the current issues facing the estate and which may affect its future development. Findings from the study will be used to establish possible future options for Churchfields and an action plan for the long-term direction of the site.

The options appraisal will:

- Describe the site and the buildings that exist on it.
- Identify development plan policies that affect the site.

- Highlight the constraints and attributes which affect the site.
- Produce an updated traffic assessment.
- Outline the types of development that would be acceptable in principle for the site.

So why is Salisbury District Council undertaking this appraisal? Over the years Churchfields has developed in an ad hoc fashion. This study will give a more strategic guideline for its future development for the benefit of all the businesses on the site and the local economy as a whole. A recent survey of businesses on the site identified several areas of concern, including a lack of room for expansion, poor access and excessive congestion. Developing an options appraisal to help determine the best way forward for Churchfields is one of Salisbury District Council's three economic priorities.

Churchfields is the largest concentration of business activity in South Wiltshire and the district council is very aware of its important contribution to the local economy. The South Wiltshire Economic Partnership also supports the Churchfields Business Action Group which looks at issues concerning the site.

When the options appraisal has been completed it will produce a number of options for Churchfields and will make recommendations based on the long-term future of the site. In early autumn businesses, local residents and statutory organisations will be consulted on the various options for Churchfields that have been identified from the appraisal. A preferred option will then be chosen and from that an action plan will be developed. It may not necessarily involve any radical changes, but it will propose ways to improve the estate for current and future businesses on the site, and for the Salisbury and South Wiltshire economy as a whole.

There are around 161 businesses employing approximately 4,500 people on the Churchfields Industrial Estate, with an estimated combined annual turnover of almost £600 million.

If you would like to find out more about the Churchfields option appraisal please contact the economic development team at Salisbury District Council on 01722 434677.



### An end to dangerous parking on Churchfields?

A new programme of yellow lining around dangerous junctions and corners on the estate is almost complete. This was just one of the latest on-going improvements on the estate initiated by the Churchfields Business Action Group. Parked cars and blocked access was recognised as a serious and dangerous problem by the group, causing difficulties for large vehicles and customers alike, trying to navigate the estate and accessing premises. The new lines have so far received a positive response from many businesses.

**Those that do choose to ignore the restrictions are reminded that these will be enforced.**

# Let the police know what's going on

The police really want to catch the criminals that prey on the business community but find their hands are tied if the information they need doesn't get through or comes too late. It is really important to our investigations to gather evidence at the earliest opportunity so don't hesitate to let us know if you see anyone snooping around. Even if a crime is not committed you would be surprised how much intelligence we can gather from traders and members of the public keeping us informed. It all goes to help us anticipate crime waves and provide you with the information you need to protect your business.

It really can be a two-way flow of information so that, between us, we can help crack crime and

reduce losses to your business. Thank you to all who have contributed with information so far. Keep it rolling!

Obviously you should call '999' if you see something happening, otherwise call our control room on 01722 411444. If your business is located on Churchfields Industrial Estate you can also call your community beat manager Wpc Wendy Mason on 01722 435256.

The business watch packs that were given out to every business contain incident reporting forms. Do let us know if you require more forms as these can assist you in recording the details that the police need.

# NEWS

## Diesel Dippers

Once again a spate of diesel theft is being reported across trading estates in Salisbury whereby suspects are siphoning fuel from petrol tanks and are removing diesel tanks from vehicles. If at all possible park vehicles with petrol caps and tanks close to other objects such as walls and other vehicles. This will discourage access to the tanks and fuel caps. If vehicles are left unattended over the weekends leave the vehicle tanks low in fuel. Notices in windscreens can alert suspects that little fuel is present in the tanks.

## Easy access – don't make it easy for the potential thief!

During regular foot patrol on the estate it was found that numerous businesses are left unsecure whilst staff have been out or busy doing their jobs. Valuable property such as wallets, mobile phones, purses and handbags have been seen unattended and ripe for the pickings to the opportunist thief. Valuable equipment such as power tools and computer equipment is clearly visible to prospective villains 'casing' the premises.

Yards have been seen with stock leaning up against the inside of fencing allowing easy access into the yards. Don't let them in. Wheelie bins and other large items act as ladders allowing thieves to scale roof spaces where sky lights and other non assuming points of entry into buildings can be gained.

Don't leave valuables on display in vehicles and remember to lock the vehicle when not in use.

## Join the broadband experience

Where can you watch film trailers, top up your training or shop and surf your way around the world all under one roof? The answer is here in Churchfields.

Salisbury is one of just two locations in the county to benefit from its very own broadband internet experience centre signalling the public launch of the eWiltshire campaign.

This exciting facility gives businesses and members of the public the chance to drop in and try out a high-speed internet connection as well as explore the opportunities it offers for instant communication, e-commerce, e-learning and even entertainment. Every month there is an 'open experience' session with business, training and IT experts on hand to answer questions.

The eWiltshire campaign is run by the Wiltshire Smartplace Partnership of which Salisbury District Council is a member. The three year programme aims to make broadband available throughout the county and to ensure that businesses and individuals are able to make the most of high speed internet technology.

Businesses can also save between £500 and £1500 on setting up online trading, with grant support, free specialist ICT advice, exclusive deals on eCommerce software and help with setting up online payment systems.

To register for the latest discounts and offers call our hotline on 0845 600 3331, log-on to [www.ewiltshire.com](http://www.ewiltshire.com) or why not come along to the experience centre?

You can contact the experience centre direct on Tel: 01722 335377. Experience Centre, Chalk House, 3 Brunel Road.

Other Info: Opening hours: 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday  
Open Experience – First Thursday of every month 11am to 2pm



Produced by:  
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