

MESSAGE FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL LEADER JANE SCOTT OBE

## “A GREAT CONSERVATIVE LEGACY OF 2012 WITH MORE GOOD NEWS FOR 2013.”

As all those involved with the Conservative administration in Wiltshire Council look back on 2012 we can do so with a warm sense of achievement for all that we have achieved with our community in the memorable year of 2012 - and we can do so with a positive outlook for the all important election year of 2013 ahead of us.

The end of 2012 draws to a close the last full year of a very busy first term of the new Wiltshire Council and I am proud of all that we have achieved together for our great County of Wiltshire both throughout the past four years and particularly in 2012. Let us also not forget that we started in 2009 with a great deal to prove when we amalgamated the five councils into our new unitary authority. I really believe that our team has lived up to our aspirations and accolades such as the success of our Conservative Cabinet in winning the 2010 Political Team of the Year award, the hugely positive endorsement for Wiltshire Council by Lord Heseltine in his recent Government report and the massively supportive accolades of Government Minister Baroness Hayman when she opened Phase One of our new County Hall are all indicative of just how successfully we have taken forward our new Council.

It is to the great credit of our Conservative administration that not only have we successfully delivered “One Council” for Wiltshire but we have also done this at a time of financial austerity with a zero increase in Council Tax throughout the life of this Council. We have also achieved 28% staff efficiencies and a reduction in backroom administration costs from 19% to 11%.



Let us also take a warm look back at what we have achieved in 2012 with not a little quiet pride in those achievements. Early in 2012 we took a brave decision to invest in leading the people of Wiltshire in celebrating the very special events of the year. We decided to spend public money on helping the public to celebrate Queens’ Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. In enabling huge public participation in community celebrations we not only brought communities together but also created a permanent legacy of these events for the future. Who will ever forget the Olympic Torch relays throughout the County and at the same time let us also remember that the Home Office used Wiltshire as a beacon example for other counties as how to plan these events. Nearly half the population of Wiltshire were out celebrating in 2012. What a spectacular day we also had in Salisbury when the Council sponsored the whole community event; the concert event attracted a crowd of over 40,000 Wiltshire residents.



2012 was also a year in which we delivered a new way of working for Wiltshire. We delivered on our promise to reduce the number of council offices and concentrate them into a reduced number of more efficient working hubs with better access and facilities for the public. We opened the award winning hub in Bourne Hill thereby giving the people of Salisbury a modern Council facility which they can be proud of for years to come. In Trowbridge we opened the first Phase of our new County Hall development which has proved highly popular with the public and officers alike. In our new County Hall we have a new Trowbridge Library which has seen a 50% increase in use by the public and together with our new library in Pewsey Wiltshire Council is opening new libraries at a time when most Councils are closing theirs. At the same time we have met the challenges presented to us with new policies in planning with a new Core Strategy, a reorganisation of our corporate management structure and we have met the challenges presented to us in adult care and children’s services.

**So let us step forward with pride into the New Year of 2013 when we can fight the Unitary Elections on our record of success for Wiltshire Council. We know what we have achieved and we know that we have hard work and hard choices ahead of us for the future of the County that means so much to us all. By working together and making hard decisions on difficult matters we will be delivering a bright future for Wiltshire and at the same time we can look back with pride in the legacy of 2012 and the lasting and visible improvements in the delivery of our services not least in some of the most advance Council buildings in the country.**

**And a Very Happy Christmas to you all !**

## KEEPING IN TOUCH - WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Name

Address / email

Your Concern -

We want to hear your views on Your County

Please return to Dirk Russell  
Wiltshire Conservatives,  
4 Forest Gate, Pewsham,  
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3RS

Email: [dirk@wiltshireconservatives.com](mailto:dirk@wiltshireconservatives.com)

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### MORE GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CONSERVATIVE

### ADMISTRATION IN COUNTY HALL TO ROUND OFF 2012

#### LOTTERY FUNDING HELPS SECURE LOCAL FUNDING FOR LACOCK COMMUNITY HISTORY



Conservative Cabinet Member, Stuart Wheeler, welcomes almost half a million pounds of lottery funding has been secured to keep a collection of valuable local documents about Lacock dating back to medieval times in Wiltshire.

#### GRANT TO HELP WILTSHIRE PEOPLE THROUGH WINTER



People in Wiltshire will be helped to stay warm and well this winter thanks to a number of projects which will be funded following a successful partnership bid by Wiltshire Council

for more than £240,000 of government funding. Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for public health and public protection said:

"There is a lot of good work being done already and this extra funding can build on that and help us deliver a number of projects to help more people in our communities keep warm and well this winter."

#### COUNCIL AGAIN ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED BUDGET

Wiltshire Council is on track to achieve a balanced budget at the end of the financial year. Cabinet member for finance, John Brady said:

"Our robust budget monitoring means we are continually aware of any potential overspends and can take swift action as necessary. "Service managers have been working hard to take action to address any projected overspends. I'm pleased that we are on track to achieve a balanced budget."

#### WILTSHIRE COUNCIL WELCOMES CUSTARD THE BUSTARD



**Custard the Bustard** was officially unveiled in his new home at County Hall, Trowbridge. Council Leader Jane Scott said: "When the Queen visited Salisbury, I saw the amazing bustard collection in the Warminster Area Board's jousting tent. I am so pleased the bustard collection is at County Hall and will be on display for everyone who visits and works here. The atrium is a community space and we want it to be as vibrant and as bustling as possible."

#### FIRST WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL TAKES PLACE

Following the electoral victory of Angus Macpherson, the first Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel takes place this week which will give the public one of the first opportunities to hear directly from the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

*Conservative Angus Macpherson is Wiltshire's First Police and Crime Commissioner*



#### NEWS FROM EUROPE : DEFEAT OF QUAD BIKE MADNESS IN BRUSSELS LED BY TORY MEPs

Quad bikes have become a familiar sight on the green rolling downs of Wiltshire and an indispensable piece of equipment in many farms, often used to check livestock and to haul feed.

However their proliferation on farms seems to have annoyed the European Commission who recently proposed new legislation that would have forced Utility All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) such as those used in Agriculture to meet the same rules and regulations that govern quad bikes driven on public roads. However, thanks to a concerted campaign by Conservative MEPs, the European Parliament this week saw sense and voted to reject the Commission proposal.