

**Subject:** Latest news: Update on effort to tackle rising pothole numbers, help improve Wiltshire's connectivity, chatbot trialled for waste and recycling & more

**Date:** Friday, 13 February 2026 at 16:01:38 Greenwich Mean Time

**From:** Wiltshire Council

**To:** clerk@rowdeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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13 February 2026





## Council updates on countywide effort to tackle rising pothole numbers

As heavy rain continues to fall across the county, we're working with contractors around the clock to repair potholes across the road network.

Alongside our regular highway maintenance crews, we've directed all 18 Parish Stewards to concentrate exclusively on repairing potholes that meet our defect criteria over the next few weeks, helping to tackle the growing number of issues.

[Full details on our efforts to tackle potholes in the county](#)



## Government announcement on council SEND deficits

This week, government outlined its intention to write off the majority of Special Educational Needs (SEND) related deficits of councils throughout the country.

These deficits relate to the High Needs element of the Dedicated Schools Grant, which funds support for children and young people with SEND.

Together with the funding we'd already set aside to manage these pressures, this will allow us to plan budgets and services in this vital area with more certainty.

The government is also expected to confirm its plans for long-term SEND reform soon.

[More information on the government announcement on council SEND deficits](#)



## Cut paper waste and save with e-billing

A small change can make a big difference!

By switching to e-billing, you're helping us cut emissions and reduce paper waste. This simple step supports our sustainability goals and helps protect the environment. Plus, every resident who chooses e-billing saves around 90p in printing and postage costs – money that can be reinvested into vital services for our community.

Please make the switch before 23 February to ensure you receive your council tax bill for 2026/27 electronically.

[Make the switch today](#)



## Help improve Wiltshire's connectivity

Digital Wiltshire is a new online tool that lets you quickly report mobile 'not spots' (areas with poor or no signal). Whether it's at home, at work, or when you're out and about, your feedback helps build a clear picture of where improvements are most needed.

Good digital connectivity is essential for daily life. It supports emergency services, protects vulnerable residents, and ensures rural communities aren't left behind. Many coverage problems go unreported, so local insight is crucial in shaping future investment and strengthening Wiltshire's digital infrastructure.

Please explore the Digital Wiltshire platform, report any known mobile coverage issues and share the tool with your friends and families.

[Find out more about Digital Wiltshire](#)

[Take part in the survey and report mobile 'not spots in Wiltshire](#)



Try our new  
**Waste and recycling chatbot!**

Look for the green chat bubble in the bottom right corner of our webpage

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling)

**Wiltshire Council**

## Get quick, reliable support for your waste and recycling queries

We're trialling an online chatbot to make it easier for you to access clear, up-to-date information about waste and recycling services. Whether you need to check your collection day, understand what can be recycled, or find guidance on reporting an issue, the chatbot provides instant answers to the most common questions.

This new tool is part of our ongoing work to improve access to services and ensure you can quickly find the right information, whenever you need it. You can find it on the waste and recycling pages and by clicking on the speech bubble icon.

Check out the waste and recycling chatbot



Photo by Peter Milford

## Don't miss a very special event!

For three days only, from Saturday 21 to Monday 23 February, Salisbury Railway Station will host The Inspiration Tour - a unique exhibition train on a year-long journey across Britain. This family-friendly experience is free to enter, but booking is essential as few places remain available. Over 50,000 visitors have already enjoyed the exhibition, make sure you're next!

Travel by train, bus (lots of buses pass close to the station and all single fares are £3 or less) or car - use one of five Park & Ride sites and benefit from free parking and buses every 30 minutes. Return tickets cost £3.50 for adults or £4.50 for a group of up to four.

[Book your free place now](#)

## Other news



### Other news

Here's a round-up of our other news and updates:

- [Still time to join the Great British Spring Clean for 2026](#)
- [Young people across Wiltshire elect new Youth Councillors](#)
- [Breaking Barriers: Improving Access to Cancer Services – Including Screening](#) - have your say on NHS survey
- [How to have a fun and healthy farm visit with the family](#)

## Job vacancies



### Council vacancies - apply now!

We currently have a number of vacancies available, which include:

- [SENDCo \(Prep School\) - Calne](#)
- [Headteacher - Newbridge Primary School, Bath](#)
- [Teaching Assistant and MDSA - Salisbury](#)
- [Nursery Manager - Devizes](#)

- [Headteacher - Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School, Salisbury](#)

You can find more recruitment posts on our Wilts Promoting Partners [Facebook](#) and [X](#) accounts.

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## Keep up-to-date with improvement works

You can also see the full list of all roadworks taking place in the county by visiting the [One Network map](#) and typing 'Wiltshire' into the search box.

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