

Army Basing Newsletter – February 2019

This publication aims to regularly update you on the Army Basing Programme (ABP) announced in 2013 stating some 4,000 additional Service personnel plus their families would relocate to Salisbury Plain by 2020.



Tree off-setting plan delivers at Bulford – As a result of the extensive construction work being carried out in the area under the Army Basing Programme, to minimise the impact on trees in the community, an initiative is underway at the Double Hedges site in Bulford where 2.5 hectares of new woodland is being planted. The 3,000 plus trees and shrubs are a mixture of native species including aspen, hazel, hawthorn, privet and common beech.

Programme Update – Significant progress has been made behind the wire and on the delivery of Service Families Accommodation (SFA) – further detail below. The completion of this working and living accommodation is critical to enable the Service personnel and their families to move to the UK this summer. With less than six months to go until the units start relocating to Wiltshire detailed planning is being refined to ensure a smooth transition. To support those moving MOD funded a two day visit to Germany in Sept 18 for Wiltshire Council to brief families and provide information on education, healthcare, employment, service provision and the local area. In addition to the wide range of information provided through WC, BFG and the ABP, families have also received support from AFF, HIVE and through BFBS. Once all school places have been allocated DCYP will fund a visit for all Head Teachers from the local schools to meet with the families in BFG and answer any queries they may have on the schools their children will attend.

Road Improvements - Essential highways improvements work is underway, as a condition of the planning permission given by Wiltshire Council to MOD's application to build SFA at three sites across Salisbury Plain. The main areas impacted are Tidworth, Bulford and Larkhill and those affected are being kept up to date through regular Travel Notices, residents' letters and press releases. Some of this construction work will require the felling of a number of trees, these are being felled safely and securely and again prior notice is being given. Replacement planting will be undertaken. Queries on local traffic management should be directed to DIO-ABPSPTARoadworks@mod.uk.

Lovell Service Families Accommodation (SFA) Update:

Bulford SFA - All timber kits are now complete at Bulford with the final roof being lifted on November 30, 2018. We commenced handovers of completed SFA in December 2018 as of the January 19, 2019, 33 homes have been handed over to the DIO at Bulford. A steady train of handovers will continue at The Plumer Estate with between 8-10 properties per week being prepared for Acceptance.

Ludgershall SFA - Over 200 timber kits of the 242 SFA are now complete at Ludgershall and final fit out works have concluded on the first tranche of homes being handed over to the DIO. Handover of these properties commenced week ending January 19, 2019 with 10 homes being accepted. Henceforth at Ludgershall the handover programme allows for 8-10 homes per week to be readied for Acceptance by the DIO.

Larkhill SFA - As of January 19, 2019 over 80 timber kits have been erected, more than 60 plots have been roofed and over 35 homes have been brick wrapped. The site progresses well and at a pace in accordance to the programme schedule.

All sites are progressing well and are performing in line with the DIO Project Programme.

BFBS file 'Wiltshire Location Guide' for service personnel and families – Six short films have been produced for service personnel and their families returning from Germany or relocating from elsewhere in the UK. The films cover topics including housing, education, employment, healthcare and leisure in the local area.

Future Activity

- By August 2019: Additional school capacity required by the Army Basing Programme will be completed
- Summer 2019: Majority of Service personnel are due to move to Salisbury Plain

For more information visit: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/mci-new.htm>

