

## Army Basing Newsletter – July 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.*

### Programme Update



**School places made ready for Army Basing** - Hundreds of children of Service Personnel will join local schools from September as Army families move from Germany to Wiltshire this summer as part of the Army Basing Programme. Hundreds of school places have been prepared to ensure the county is ready for its newest residents. The school build programme, funded by a significant contribution from the MOD, has involved creating new schools and the expansion of some school sites.

The school build programme includes:

- Expansion of Kiwi Primary School, Bulford, for additional 150 places – completed 2016
- Expansion of St Leonards Primary School, Bulford, for additional 50 pupils – completed 2016
- Creation of St Michaels Primary School, Larkhill, for 420 pupils and 60 nursery places – opened Sept 2018
- Expansion of Avon Valley College, Durrington, for additional 270 pupils – completion February 2020
- Expansion of Wellington Academy, Tidworth, for additional 300 pupils- completed
- Creation of Wellington Eagles Primary School, Tidworth, for 420 pupils and 30 nursery places – completion date Easter 2020

Wellington Eagles Primary will open in September 2019, initially operating out of a modern, recently renovated 12-classroom block at the Wellington Academy Secondary School – where it has its own self-contained playground and grassland area. A purpose built new primary school building is being constructed, and whilst construction started last year, the build time has been extended predominantly as a result of contractor insolvency; a new contractor has now been appointed and work has restarted.

**Road Works** - A condition of the planning permission consent given by Wiltshire Council to the MOD to build new Service Families Accommodation (SFA) was that the ABP undertook a series of highways improvements. Some of these works have completed but there are still improvements underway at Bulford and Tidworth.

Enabling works commenced in Bulford in March 2019 to improve a number of junctions within the vicinity of the new SFA site. The first phase of works, at Junction 16, is to provide a double mini-roundabout this includes resurfacing and re-marking the road at A3028 junction with Double Hedges and Salisbury Road. The construction of the roundabout started on 3 Jun 19, and continues for around six weeks with completion expected in mid-July. Road works will then take place at Junction 15, by the Rose and Crown pub, from mid-July for approximately one month.

The main works in Tidworth, which widen Junction 22 (by the RAM public house) and install a 'feeder lane', are currently planned (but are subject to change until a contract has been awarded and works are confirmed) from 14 Aug 19 for a duration of approximately 14 weeks. We will continue to provide updates on any further works planned at J22, J20 (Tesco), J21 (St Andrew's Road), J36 (Pennings Road) and J37 (Ordnance Road) prior to work starting.

We will endeavour to minimise disruption during the road works and appreciate the patience of the local community as we seek to improve highways infrastructure.

### **Fascinating Anglo-Saxon finds discovered in Tidworth:**

Recent archaeological investigations undertaken close to the VCP2 entrance at Tidworth Camp, where highway works are underway for the Army Basing Programme (ABP), have revealed important prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon remains.

Part of a prehistoric enclosure ditch containing Late Bronze Age (1100 to 700 BC) and Early Iron Age (700 to 400 BC) pottery was unearthed, along with a sunken-featured building

dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, which contained Early to Mid-Saxon pottery (AD 410 to 850) and an iron knife. Ruth Panes, Project Manager for Wessex Archaeology, explained: 'The building comprises a large rectangular pit and two substantial postholes cut into the natural chalk at either end. The holes would once have held timber posts to support a thatched roof. The walls are likely to have been made of wood and a planked floor may have covered the pit, forming an air space below the floor helping to keep the interior dry.'



Earlier excavations in Tidworth revealed a Mid-Saxon cemetery containing the remains of 57 men, women and children, located approximately 700m to the south-east. This was unearthed during ABP works for the Ashdown Estate.

### **Construction Programme:** Progress on delivery of barracks developments and Service Families

Accommodation continues and a significant number of barracks assets and houses are now complete and ready for use/occupation. 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. Most of the families are moving over the summer holiday period in July and August to minimise impact to children's education. The ABP has been working closely with its key stakeholders including Wiltshire Council to ensure that, in addition to infrastructure behind the wire, sufficient housing, schooling, medical and welfare provision is available. The execution of this large and complex movement programme has been well prepared for, to ensure the moving of so much military equipment and such a considerable number of people within the few months ahead goes as smoothly as possible.

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

