



Press information from Wiltshire Community Land Trust

6th October 2016

Tackling affordable housing issues in Wiltshire:

Wiltshire Community Land Trust helps communities to shape their future

The independent Wiltshire Community Land Trust (WCLT) is urging local people to attend its October AGM, in order that they might have a say in local housing and planning issues.

The event, which is being held at the Friends Meeting House in Devizes at 2pm – 4.30pm on Wednesday 19th October, will include a talk by Professor Stephen Walker, an economist with specialist knowledge of land, planning and housing policies. His talk will reference the Joint Parish Planning and Support Programme being undertaken by WCLT in partnership with Community First and Wiltshire Council, which is due to run until March 2017.

Wiltshire Community Land Trust recently won a Big Lottery “Awards for All” grant to provide help and support for local communities embarking on Neighbourhood Plans. The organisation will run a series of workshops this Autumn, focusing on local housing problems and the need for affordable housing.

“Local Housing is a big issue for many rural communities.” says Wiltshire Community Land Trust Chairman Trevor Cherrett. “Thanks to Big Lottery funding, the next six months’ provides a window of opportunity for us to help Wiltshire people play a key part in tackling local housing problems themselves. Come along to our AGM - Don’t let developers do just what they like!



There are a lot of options for the local community and choosing the right plan can be daunting. WCLT plan to work closely with local communities so that they can understand where there is a need for help and support workshops.

Local planning policies are needed more than ever if housing needs are to be met. Neighbourhood Development Plans and Community Land Trusts also have a crucial role to play, provided that sites are brought forward at sensible prices.”

Following the very successful Wiltshire Neighbourhood Planning Roadshow organised by Community First in Devizes on the 16th March this year, WCLT already have several parishes lined up for advice sessions, and this funding will now be able to extend this support.

The project will be in operation until March 2017, and the plan is to work closely with key independent bodies in Wiltshire, including Wiltshire Rural Housing Association, Community First, and Wiltshire Association of Local Councils; along with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough planning authorities.

Community Land Trusts are not just about housing, however. Community shops, pubs, workspaces, nature conservation and play areas are all examples of wider social and economic assets that can be developed by communities themselves.

Wiltshire Community Land Trust AGM is taking place at 2pm – 4.30 pm on Wednesday 19th October at Friends Meeting House, Sussex Wharf, The Nursery, Devizes, SN10 2AE.

Anyone interested in seeking help and advice on local planning, especially with regard to meeting affordable local housing needs, should contact WCLT members listed below:-

Chair, Trevor Cherrett: tbcherrett@btinternet.com;

Vice-Chair, Philippa Read: pipanddes@outlook.com;

WCLT Project Support Officer, Anna Maloney: anna@wiltshireclt.org.uk

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Note for Editors:

Community Land Trusts are non-profit community-based organisations run by volunteers to develop housing, workspaces, or other assets that meet the needs of the community and are owned and controlled by the community. Wiltshire Community Land Trust is a not-for-profit `umbrella` organisation whose primary purpose is to promote and support the development of community land trusts in Wiltshire, Swindon, and neighbouring counties.

Media contact:

For more information about Community Land Trusts and its aims, please contact Trevor Cherrett, Chair, Community Land Trust, Tel: 07770 895277, Email:

tbcherrett@btinternet.com

Website: www.wiltshirecommunitylandtrust.org.uk

Background to Community First

Community First is a registered charity and a private company limited by guarantee. With the aim of strengthening communities, encouraging enterprise and tackling disadvantage across Wiltshire and Swindon, it provides technical advice, practical support and grant aid to promote local initiatives. Community First also manages countywide programmes bringing benefits to local people, informing and influencing policy makers in the development of rural policies and practices.

The Big Lottery Fund

- The Big Lottery Fund supports the aspirations of people who want to make life better for their communities across the UK. We are responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by the National Lottery and invest over £650 million a year in projects big and small in health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 we have awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Every year we fund 13,000 small local projects tackling big social problems like poor mental health and homelessness.
- Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.
- Building Better Opportunities is jointly funded with the European Social Fund as part of the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England. The Department for Work and Pensions is the Managing Authority for the England European Social Fund programme. Established by the European Union, European Social Fund funds help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, skills development, job creation, social



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inclusion and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.

- To be kept informed on the latest Building Better Opportunities news register your interest on our website, www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf

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