



Press information from Wiltshire Community Land Trust

10th May 2016

Helping Wiltshire`s rural communities to face their future

Help is on the way for rural communities in Wiltshire seeking to get involved in planning the future of their towns and villages.

The independent Wiltshire Community Land Trust (WCLT) has recently won a Big Lottery "Awards for All" grant to provide help and support for local communities embarking on Neighbourhood Plans, focusing on local housing problems and needs, and on the mechanisms they can use to ensure delivery.

"This is a great opportunity to help local people get to grips with planning the future of their communities ", said WCLT Chair Trevor Cherrett. " It will enable us to offer advice and guidance through one-to-one planning surgeries and workshops."

Following the very successful Wiltshire Neighbourhood Planning Roadshow organised by Community First in Devizes on the 16th March, 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.

WCLT Board member Cllr Jonathon Seed, Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Housing, welcomed the initiative and offered the Council's support. "Wiltshire Council is keen to address the County's housing problems and we are equally keen to encourage local communities to get more involved", he said; "We particularly endorse and support both the Community Land Trust ethos and the exciting work of Wiltshire Community Land Trust."



Community First's Head of Development, Dave Potts, says: "Community First warmly welcomes the project. This fits in perfectly with our programme of support for rural communities in developing Neighbourhood Plans, and we will be working closely with the WCLT."

The WCLT has been promoting the idea of community-led approaches to local planning for several years, with funding support from the Wiltshire Rural Housing Association. "Community Land Trusts are taking off round the country now, especially since it has become so difficult to provide affordable housing for local needs" said Trevor. "The allocation of £60m in the Budget to help develop CLTs, especially in the South West is a welcome boost".

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

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

---ENDS---

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



LOTTERY FUNDED

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 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
-

Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
Twitter: [@biglotteryfund](https://twitter.com/biglotteryfund) #BigLottery
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BigLotteryFund