

Wiltshire Council Information Item

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| Subject: | Community Led Housing Project in Wiltshire |
| Web contact: | communityledhousing@wiltshire.gov.uk http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/housing-community-fund |

What is Community Led Housing?

Community led housing is about local people playing a leading and lasting role in solving local housing problems, creating genuinely affordable homes and strong communities in ways that are difficult to achieve through mainstream housing.

Community led housing can empower local communities, making them more resilient and able to address issues such as affordable housing and the need for downsizer accommodation.

What is the Wiltshire Community Led Housing Project?

Wiltshire Council, in partnership with Community First and Wiltshire Community Land Trust, has set up a partnership project to advise and support communities to address their housing needs.

The project vision is to enable and support community groups to deliver housing development that provides defined community benefits which are protected in perpetuity; and to provide a legacy for community led development. Localism and innovation lies at the heart of this and it will help to build stronger and more resilient communities. Community led housing can be complimentary of the on-going Neighbourhood Planning work of the council and its communities.

Community led housing needs to have meaningful community engagement and has to have widespread community support. This means the community needs to have a common vision and shared values; they need to be empowered. This project supports and enables groups seeking to deliver alternative solutions to their community needs beyond the mainstream delivery mechanisms. It can also support community groups working in a developer-community partnership.

The project team has been established with two project managers, a senior planning officer and a housing enabler. It is a cross service project. Grant funding is currently available to groups to help with start-up subject to qualifying terms and conditions.

What has happened so far and what will be happening?

The project is currently supporting seven community groups across Wiltshire including the formally incorporated Seend Community Land Trust. This group have been supported in their establishment, and land identification and negotiation work. Going forward, further support will be given through the planning, building and living stages of their projects as appropriate. They started as individuals, formed a steering group and became a legally recognized community led housing group formulating their own development proposals to serve their community needs.

The team are keen to build as wide a network of community led housing groups as possible throughout Wiltshire. We want to speak to anyone who is interested in trying to take a leading role in addressing community housing issues.

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For further information, or to arrange a conversation with one of the project managers please contact the project team at: communityledhousing@wiltshire.gov.uk.