

# Chairman's Announcements

**Subject:**

**Funding for New Scout and Guide HQ**

A new Scout and Guide hut has been made possible in Lyneham thanks to a major contribution from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant scheme.

Lyneham Scouts and Guides are celebrating after receiving the £70,000 grant and securing planning permission for the new hut all in the same week.

Their bid for funding was fully supported by the Wiltshire Community Covenant partnership, which includes Wiltshire Council, 43 Wessex Brigade and local businesses and organisations.

Covenant grants are awarded to schemes that strengthen the links between the armed forces and civilian communities.

The Scouts and Guide Association brought together children from both communities. With the opening of the new Joint Services Training facility in Lyneham it is anticipated the new Scout and Guide hut will continue to do the same.

Jan Kelly of the Lyneham Scout and Guide Association said: "We are absolutely thrilled to receive this grant which will mean we can carry on providing Scouting and Guide services for the village's young people.

"To find out we secured the funding in the same week we also received planning permission, made it extra special.

"We have also had confirmation that our site contractor, Lawrence Burchell, (who owns Lillybrook Estate in Bradenstoke) and Rod Gill are very kindly donating their time, labour and use of machinery free of charge. This will be a huge help financially to the project and we are extremely grateful for their kindness.

"With funding and permission in place we hope to have our new HQ up and running by the end of this year."

Wiltshire launched its Armed Forces Community Covenant in August 2011. The covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local armed forces community. It aims to encourage local communities to support the service personnel in their area and nurture understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.

The MoD has set aside £30 million over four years to provide financial support to projects which strengthen those ties. Since its launch last August around £400,000 has been awarded to Wiltshire projects.

Wiltshire Council member for Lyneham, Allison Bucknell, said: "I'm delighted that the Lyneham Scout and Guide Association is the latest recipient of this grant which is doing so much to strengthen the links between the local community and the armed services.

Applications can be made for the next round of community covenant grant (closing date is August 6). More information about the covenant grants is available at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/militarycivilianintegrationpartnership](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/militarycivilianintegrationpartnership)

All projects must be endorsed by the local community covenant partnership and all completed applications should be sent to [VCS@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:VCS@wiltshire.gov.uk)