

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Wiltshire CLT supporting communities to develop their own assets
Officer Contact Details:	Rose Seagrief, Wiltshire Community Land Trust, rose@wiltshireclt.org.uk or 01380 850 916
Weblink:	www.wiltshireclt.org.uk
Further details available:	From Rose Seagrief, as above

Summary of announcement:

In a world of rapidly changing fortunes and continuing economic pressure, many communities are seeing their shops, pubs and libraries and other community facilities closing. For some, finding somewhere to live locally for work or to be near family is difficult. In many places earnings are far outstripped by rents and house prices. And there are those who would like to downsize, but can't find anywhere that meets their needs locally, in the community they know in which they wish to remain.

Community land trusts (CLTs) are not-for-profit membership organisations that are based in and run by the community. CLTs own and manage land and property for the long term benefit of local people, for example, homes affordable to people on local wages; affordable work space; community shops and pubs; libraries, day centres and other meeting places; play areas and spaces for relaxation and recreation; or food growing areas.

Around the UK and in Wiltshire, there are now a growing number of communities with vision and drive that have decided to develop some of these assets and facilities themselves by setting up CLTs. By taking ownership and control they are creating a better quality of life for local people and transforming the futures of their local community, both by running much loved and needed local facilities as well as a range of other activities.

Wiltshire CLT was set up in 2011. It is a community land trust in its own right, but its main purpose is to provide advice, support and guidance to individuals, communities and organisations across Wiltshire and Swindon that wish to set up community land trusts. We work with groups to give them all the help they may need to take ownership of buildings and facilities that are important to them. We help equip a community with the knowledge, skills and confidence to set up a CLT of its own, so that important and valuable assets remain in community ownership and cannot be sold off for private profit. We also help communities to find good partners to work with to get their projects off the ground and taken through to completion.

Introductory advice and informal guidance is provided at no cost, as Wiltshire CLT understands that new organisations have limited resources. As projects develop, consultancy fees are charged for more technical expertise and professional development services and these fees help to sustain on going work with other new groups. Any fees are agreed in advance on a case-by case basis and grants may be available to cover them, or they can be built into overall development costs.

If your community would like to find out more about some of the exciting CLT projects on the go, contact Rose Seagrief on 01380 850 916 or email rose@wiltshireclt.org.uk