

**23 SEPTEMBER 2009**

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## **Request for representatives of Community Area Boards to sit on Viridor Credits Panel/Steering Group - Wiltshire**

### **Introduction**

As the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire, Community First has responsibility for the distribution of over half a million pounds of Landfill Communities Fund grant-aid each year on behalf of several landfill operators. Since 1996 landfill operators have had to pay tax on every tonne of waste they dispose of, the idea being to encourage everyone to create less waste and to recycle or reuse more. Fortunately, they are allowed to give part of their landfill tax to certain types of good causes under the watchful eye of the national registering and monitoring body known as Entrust. The Landfill Communities Fund (formerly known as Landfill Tax Credits) is a scheme for funding community and environmental projects within 10 miles of landfill sites. The landfill operator Viridor Waste Management Limited has only one site in the county in Calne and therefore all applications considered by the panel are for projects sited within a 10 mile radius of this site.

These grants are managed through Community First. Landfill operators have considerable freedom on how they allocate their funds, within the rules of the scheme and Viridor has chosen to support three types of projects which are:

1. Provision or maintenance of public amenities
2. Conservation or promotion of biological diversity through:
  - a) the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat
  - b) the maintenance or recovery of a species or its habitat on land or water
3. maintenance, restoration or renovation of buildings of historical or architectural importance or those used for religious worship, provided they offer public access.

Community First and Viridor like to receive applications from groups, organisations and projects that provide wide community use and therefore give best value for the funds that are available. Applications for Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) grants are handled by Community First and once complete, applications are considered by the Panel on a quarterly basis.

### **The proposed new structure**

As a result of the structure changes within the county, the Area Boards that come within the qualifying area for Viridor LCF grants are as follows: Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, Marlborough, Melksham and Wootton Bassett and Cricklade. Community First are looking for each of the above Area Boards to nominate a

relevant representative who will be available to attend panel meetings when applications are being considered for grant-aid. The representatives will have a good knowledge of their own area, its activities and developments. Panels will be staffed as follows:

A Community First Trustee will act as Chair to the following:

- a representative of Viridor Credits as the fund provider
- a Council representative
- three representatives of Area Boards selected according to the location of applications
- the Community First Programme Manager and Grants Assistant

At least three of the Community Area Board representatives will be required to attend each meeting in order to ensure a balanced representation. Invitations will be issued as follows:

- Representatives of the areas in which the applications being considered will be invited as a priority
- Other representatives will be invited to attend in turn in order to best use people's time

In addition:

- Dates of meetings will be agreed and shared well in advance
- Agendas and detailed applications will be sent out in advance of the meetings to enable members to make any enquires they consider necessary.

**Recommended:**

The Area Board is invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Grants Panel.

**Note** – *as a matter of interest Community First handles Landfill Communities Fund money for the Hills Group Limited through a similar process and, as a registered Distributive Environmental Body, handles applications to other Landfill Operators. As a result, applications for grants for appropriate projects can be considered for almost the whole of Wiltshire.*