

## Chairman's Announcements

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Detailed Briefing Document on the Localism Act</b>
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	Alissa Davies, Principal Policy Officer – <a href="mailto:alissa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk">alissa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> , 01225 713380
<b>Weblink:</b>	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/localismact.htm">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/localismact.htm</a>

### Summary of announcement:

The Localism Act received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. **Although the Act contains a number of important measures, not all of the measures are in force. It will not be clear how the measures will work in practice until the government publishes regulations and guidance which are still awaited.**

The council has produced a detailed briefing document on the Localism Act which includes:

- an overview of the main components of the Localism Act
- the estimated timescales for measures to be introduced and regulations to be published - please see the 'Status' section for each measure
- the potential implications of the Localism Act for Wiltshire
- information on next steps for Wiltshire Council (and contact details for the lead officers for each part of the Act)

The briefing document is available online and copies are being made available to Town and Parish Councils via Area Board meetings.

## **Helping People To Live Safely In Their Own Homes**

Following extensive consultation and considerable planning, the care and support service is now in place throughout the county provided by Leonard Cheshire, Aster Living, Enara Complete Care and Somerset Care.

This service is now available to over eight hundred Wiltshire residents and is already delivering some really good outcomes for people, some examples of which include:

- Mrs A, who was able to return home after a period in a care home.
- Mr S, able to manage without support following a period of intensive support from a Help to Live at Home provider.
- Mr P was able to return home from hospital, with an intensive support package from a Help to Live at Home provider rather than take the previously traditional route of a nursing home.
- Mr G was withdrawn and uncommunicative, with the implementation of a flexible care package from a Help to Live at Home provider, within two weeks Mr G started referring to his carers by name and holding short conversations. He has now requested to go shopping with a carer once a week, and is able to manage some personal care.

All services are available to everyone in Wiltshire, not just those eligible for support from the Council and contact details for each Help to Live at Home providers below:

### **Leonard Cheshire Disability**

North and east Wiltshire  
Tel: 01225 781126

### **Aster Care Services**

East and south Wiltshire  
Tel: 01380 829000

### **Somerset Care at Home**

West and north Wiltshire  
Tel: 01225 792925

### **Enara Complete Care Services**

West Wiltshire  
01225 791015

### **Wiltshire Medical Services**

Tel: 01249 45400

### **Medequip UK**

Tel: 01249 815052

## Further service improvements:

- ✓ The **Help to Live at Home telecare response and community equipment services** are being provided by Wiltshire Medical Services (WMS), Medequip UK and Aster Living. These services have already been implemented in West Wiltshire, as part of the Help to Live at Home pilot test and will be introduced across the county in April.

Medequip UK is now the provider for all community equipment aimed at assisting customers to remain independent in their own homes. Community equipment ranges from the more traditional aids such as chair raisers, continence products, hoists etc. to more specialist technology including pendant alarms, fall sensors and pressure relief mattresses.

With an aim to make equipment more accessible Medequip is working closely with the Independent Living Centre in Semington to equip a demonstration suite for customers to visit and will be opening a number of retail units across Wiltshire. In addition Medequip will implement a mobile demonstration and assessment unit, able to visit the whole of Wiltshire.

Telecare customers have specialist equipment in their homes which, in an emergency, triggers an alarm at the Wiltshire Medical Service call centre in Chippenham. This can be responded to in a number of ways; a conversation with the customer via the Telecare equipment, contacting a key holder, or a WMS responder visiting the customer.

A telecare service without the ability to visit customers has restrictions. When an alert is triggered, a standard call centre may be able to do little else, except call an ambulance and which can lead to an inappropriate hospital admission. The benefit of the new telecare response service is that it allows customers to receive the most appropriate response, when they need it.

- ✓ **Specialist financial advice** to people seeking assistance with paying for their care is now available.

Around 40 percent of individuals, who go into residential and nursing care in the county have to finance care themselves as they have savings and assets (including their home) worth more than £23,250. Unfortunately up to 25 percent of these individuals run out of funds, leaving little or no inheritance for loved ones. This may be avoidable in some cases.

Paying for care can be an expensive and open-ended commitment so the council would strongly recommend that customers seek specialist information and advice before making any commitments.

If a customer is currently in receipt of care it is still advisable to seek specialist information and advice as there may be options available to you to protect your interests.

To support people who pay for their own care, Wiltshire Council is working with two independent care fees specialists to help customers make informed choices about their long term care and specifically how they can fund it.

Both of these Specialists are accredited by SOLLA, (Society of Later Life Advisers) through the Later Life Accreditation Scheme:

Ashton Rowan

Telephone: 01225 475359

Email: [wilts@ashcourtrowan.com](mailto:wilts@ashcourtrowan.com)  
[wilts@carefeesinvestment.co.uk](mailto:wilts@carefeesinvestment.co.uk)

Web: [www.ashcourtrowan.com/financial-planning](http://www.ashcourtrowan.com/financial-planning) Web:  
[www.carefeesinvestment.co.uk](http://www.carefeesinvestment.co.uk)

Care Fee Investments Limited

Telephone: 0845 077 5655

Email:

- ✓ The **Customer Reference Group** now has 40 members, 20 of whom have received training and are shortly to hold two coffee mornings for Help to Live at Home customers to hear their views on the service.
- ✓ A **dedicated customer helpline** has been set up for Help to Live at Home issues, this number is staffed 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday on 01225 712553.

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Paths for Communities – Grant Opportunity for Parishes</b>
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	Michael Crook, Countryside Access Development Officer 01225 713349
<b>Weblink:</b>	<a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/p4c.aspx">http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/p4c.aspx</a>
<b>Further details available:</b>	<a href="mailto:DavidAndrews@visitwiltshire.co.uk">DavidAndrews@visitwiltshire.co.uk</a> Tel: 01722 341941

## **Summary of Announcement:**

Natural England has launched a new Paths For Communities Grant scheme enabling community groups and partnerships to improve their local public rights of way network. The fund totals £2 million, to be spent before May 2014.

Paths For Communities grant is designed to improve the rights of way network and must include a new right of way either in the form of a new physical path or higher rights such as upgrading a footpath to a bridleway or restricted byway. Funding has come from the Rural Development Programme for England and any scheme must be able to demonstrate benefit to the rural economy and rural populations.

Applications for funding from £5,000 to £150,000 can be submitted by local communities or broader partnerships. Landowner support, in agreeing a voluntary path creation, is essential at the outset. The Fund is open NOW and all application agreements have to be made by the end of December 2013. The process is competitive so it's important to ensure your project secures as many benefits as possible.

As with all grants no work on the project can start before the application is approved. Natural England's Local Grants Officer will discuss any potential projects with the applicant following submission of an initial "Expression of Interest". This form is available on the website above.

Normally 75% of the project will be funded and no additional public funding is allowed for the remaining 25% and this includes National Lottery money. However, there is some flexibility to allow up to 100% funding.

## PATHS FOR COMMUNITIES

### GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR PARISHES

Natural England has launched a new Paths For Communities Grant scheme enabling community groups and partnerships to improve their local public rights of way network. The fund totals £2 million, to be spent before May 2014. Full details at

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/p4c.aspx>



**Horses welcome, cars are not**

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Routes cannot be permissive and must include an element of public right of way creation to permit cycle and horse use. The application handbook states that applicants should also

consider use by a wider range of people such as the elderly, wheelchair and pushchair users, path furniture and how there might be integration with public transport and links to popular destinations.

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The application handbook outlines areas of work that cannot be funded:

- Land acquisition
- Sections of route that are subject to claims for higher rights. Please ask the County Council Highway Authority if you require more information. Tel: 01225 713349
- Contributions towards salaried staff
- Applicants' own labour
- Elements already funded such as Higher Level Stewardship Schemes that have several years to run although consideration can be given to those HLS schemes that have or will expire by end 2013.
- Elements which should be undertaken as a "statutory duty."

Normally 75% of the project will be funded and no additional public funding is allowed for the remaining 25% and this includes National Lottery money. However, there is some flexibility to allow up to 100% funding.

Applicants should seek advice from their local tourism partnership or destination manager:

[DavidAndrews@visitwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:DavidAndrews@visitwiltshire.co.uk) Tel: 01722 341941

Projects should also be discussed with the highway authority and the local access forum:

Wiltshire County Council HA: [Michael.Crook@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Crook@wiltshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01225 713349

Wiltshire and Swindon Local Access Forum: [Alison.Stewart@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Stewart@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01225 756178



