

## Councillors' Briefing Note

### No. 156

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**Title: Update on new Highways and Streetscene contract - Community Days**

Wiltshire Council's new Highway and Streetscene contract includes a provision to support community lead priorities.

Communities, through their local parish or town council, are able to request that Wiltshire Council provides staff and equipment to assist in a community improvement activity. This will be provided on an allocated day known as a Community Day.

The idea is to encourage communities to identify local highway and amenity issues and then work in partnership with the council to resolve them.

This allows the council's limited resources to work in partnership with volunteer groups to deliver more in the community. Usually the council undertakes work on its land, with community groups assisting on privately owned land. There is much anecdotal evidence that if you improve whole areas this leads to greater community ownership and long term improvements in the maintenance of those areas.

The council can also offer advice and provide loan litter picking equipment, personal protective equipment, bags, and fluorescent vests to aid community groups.

Services provided during a Community Day include: grass cutting, litter collection, graffiti removal, pot hole filling, hedge cutting and other maintenance services.

The number of Community Days available are limited, with priority given to community activities that offer the maximum benefit to their areas.

If a parish or town council is interested in a Community Day they are requested to express interest to their Wiltshire Council coordinator and provide details of the proposals.

Parish and town council clerks have all been issued with contact details of their local community coordinator.