

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING NOTE

No 140

Service Area: Neighbourhood Services **Further Enquiries to:** Ali Stewart

Date Prepared: March 2013 **Direct Line:** 01225 756178

Paths Improvement Grant Scheme 2013

The Paths Improvement Grants Scheme (PIGS) aims to help local people make innovative improvements to countryside access and the rights of way network in their area. The scheme is a partnership between Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way and Countryside section and the Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum. Parishes can bid for up to 50% match funding, if their proposal is approved they then undertake the schemes themselves. Projects that can be considered for PIGS funding include;

- improvements to the existing rights of way network such as upgrading surfaces and replacing stiles with self-closing gates or kissing gates
- creating new rights of way or permissive routes to avoid busy roads or provide links to existing routes or services
- creating areas of informal recreation/exercise
- providing parking areas
- meeting changed needs of the community

Anyone can put together the background work for bids. However, the bids themselves have to be submitted from parish or town councils in Wiltshire. The reason for this is to demonstrate support for the scheme from the local council.

If you have suggestions for a scheme, please contact Mike Crook at Wiltshire Council as soon as possible to discuss whether or not it might meet the criteria.

Telephone: 01225 713349 e-mail: michael.crook@wiltshire.gov.uk

Further details of the scheme and some examples from previous years can be found on the Countryside Access Forum website:

www.swindonlaf.org.uk

The scheme is open for bids until Friday 24 May 2013.

Summary of 2012 PIGS schemes

In 2012:

- Around 45 parishes and individuals contacted Wiltshire Council to discuss possible ideas, 38 of these had potential as PIGS schemes
- Applications were made for schemes in 15 parishes, there was also a "group submission" for gates for 7 parishes from Wiltshire's Southern Area Board

- 13 schemes were agreed in principle, as follows. Most have now been delivered by the parish councils

Parish	Scheme
Alderbury	Alderbury to Whaddon new link
Bishops Cannings	Replace 3 stiles with gates
Burbage	Hard surfacing a route within the village
Cricklade	Hard surfacing a route within the town
Hindon	Replace 2 stiles with gates
Hullavington	Reopen a link severed by the MoD site
Idmiston	Hard surfacing a route within the village
Market Lavington	Info board at new row MoD are proposing
Poulshot	Replace 3 stiles with gates
Steeple Ashton	Ditch works and surfacing route within village
Sutton Mandeville	Repair a characterful small bridge
West Ashton	Replace 6 stiles with gates
Southern Area Board	Combined submission from numerous parishes to replaces stiles with gates