YOUTH ACTION WILTSHIRE 70TH ANNIVERSARY!
Join us in celebrating 70 years of Youth Action Wiltshire

COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING
Delivering community-led housing schemes, with Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Community Land Trust

THE ARCHIVE PROJECT
Building Bridges Programme: An exciting new skills-based volunteering project for people with Autism

OUR MISSION
Connecting Communities
Tackling Disadvantage
Encouraging Enterprise
Inspire Ideas & Innovate

Cover Photo: Dorothy House Hospice Care
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

• Two new strategic partnerships supporting our Health in the Community strand – Dorothy House Hospice Care and Macmillan Cancer Support generating over £60k of investment
• Strengthened partnership with Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Community Land Trust in community-led housing development
• Increased schools participation through the delivery of Young Enterprise programmes

PROJECT INSPIRE

• 63 young people accessed support
• 81% of young people supported gained accreditation
• 77% of leavers have confirmed a place in Education Employment or Training

SPLASH

• 296 young people engaged in Splash activities
• 1,027 group work places provided
• 27 young people accessed individual support and mentoring
• 102 young people gained accreditation with 137 awards achieved
• 92% reported increase in self-esteem and confidence
• 94% reported increased happiness

YOUNG CARERS

• 89 new referrals into Wiltshire Young Carers Service
• 101 young carers accessed intensive support
• 38 young carers accessed mentoring programmes
• 66% of young carers reported they felt safer in their caring role
• 94% reported increase in confidence

YOUTH CLUB SUPPORT & YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

• 105 adult youth leaders and 54 young leaders completed accredited training courses
• Regular youth leader staffing provided for 5 youth clubs
• 222 young people engaged in our youth volunteering projects

LISTENERS MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

• 127 individuals trained in Community Organising with 46% under the age of 25 engaged in community action projects
• £80k investment in Wiltshire for rural communities to become more active through the LACE UP project with ACRE and Sport England

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

• Autumn re-launch of Wheels to Work Scheme
• Wiltshire Link schemes have an estimated value of £560 per volunteer (per year) and £1.6 million overall
• 135-113 hours of time was given by 1,748 Wiltshire Link scheme volunteers
• The number of everyday tasks completed by Wiltshire Link Scheme volunteers totalled 48,900. This ranged from weekly shops, to picking up prescriptions

BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAMME

• Total of 1,252 referrals into the programme since October 2016
• A further 14% are ready to receive support from partners as soon as their eligibility is confirmed
• Over 54% of participants who have registered with the programme are actively engaging with the help and support on offer
• 259 participants have already moved into employment or education
• On average, participants self-reported a 10% improvement in their overall wellbeing score, after completing their programme journey

PRIORITY: DELIVERING EXCELLENCE

• Ensure financial stability and growth in trading such as community insurance

PRIORITY: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

• In partnership with Wiltshire Community Land Trust and Wiltshire Council, develop and strengthen the Community-Led Housing offer
• Diversify training offers to community groups including WACL, LINK, Village and Community Halls
• Develop our community health work through partnerships such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Dorothy House Hospice Care

PRIORITY: TACKLING DISADVANTAGE

• Explore and secure an extension to the Building Bridges programme
• Continue to grow and sustain the young carers offer and work for young people with barriers through SPLASH

LEADER PROGRAMMES

• Of the £2.6m available, 18% has been spent on completed projects. With 30% on projects that are running and 55% on projects that are in preparation
• There is a further pipeline of enquiries being brought to the first stage of application that equate to 48% of available funds

£484,000

NEW INCOME SECURED

• Total income £1,745,218 versus total expenditure £1,755,913
• 225 members of Community First
• 261 members in oil buying scheme
• 484 village halls and community buildings insured through our insurance scheme
• 352 Parish Councils insured

ENHANCED COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

• 2018 also marks the 70th anniversary of Youth Action Wiltshire. This unique and celebrated service has changed the lives of so many young people in Wiltshire and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the hard-working staff, volunteers and the Youth Action Wiltshire committee, whether so much passion and dedication to supporting our work with young people.

Community First is a thriving charity that it is.

With warm regards,

Lynn Gibson
Chief Executive
Community First
In Education, Employment or Training lives' and young people who are Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

YAW supports young carers, young people aged 5-19 years.

Volunteering - Youth Clubs Support & Youth Volunteering

- 296 young people engaged in Splash activities
- 1027 group work places provided
- 27 young people accessed individual support and mentoring
- 102 young people gained accreditation with 137 awards achieved

Following interventions:
- 96% of young carers reported they felt safer in their caring role
- 94% reported increase in confidence
- 82% reported increase in Key Skills and attainment
- 85% reported improved health & well-being

SPASH

- 9g new referrals into Wiltshire Young Carers Service
- 193 young carers accessed intensive support
- 38 young carers accessed mentoring programmes
- 27 young carers provided with equipment to keep themselves & family safe
- 63 young carers provided with advocacy & support work in schools
- 29 young carers provided with I.A.G on Post 16 options
- 1,347 respite day places provided breaks for 192 young carers

- 101 young carers gained accreditation through respite activities
- 174 accredited awards achieved

Following interventions:
- 96% of young carers reported they felt safer in their caring role
- 94% reported increase in confidence
- 82% reported increase in Key Skills and attainment
- 85% reported improved health & well-being

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 17/18

- 63 young people accessed support
- 660 group work day places and 58 residential group work places were provided
- 51 young people have gained accreditation with 134 accredited awards achieved

Following our interventions:
- 12% increase for young people’s self-assessed scores by using Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS)
- 77% of leavers confirmed a place in Education Employment or Training

YOUTH ACTIION WILTSHIRE

- Young carers in Wiltshire
- Young people facing challenges in their lives
- Young people who are Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

I would like to become a Friend of Youth Action Wiltshire

Name: 
Address: 
Postcode: 
Tel: 
Email: 

Payment Options: 
1. Bankers Order - preferred payment method (please see below)
2. Cheque - Please make these payable to Youth Action Wiltshire.

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.
Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid my donation to Youth Action Wiltshire and any donations I make to this charity in the future. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Bankers Order:
To: Youth Action Wiltshire: Account Number: 51448714 Sort Code: 40:17:17

HSBC Bank plc, 2 Market Place Chippenham, SN15 5HE

Signed: 
Account Name: (BLOCK CAPITALS) ...................................................................................

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF SPLASH

Splash our out of school activities programme delivered by Youth Action Wiltshire (YAW) provided 84 days of fun activities with 1,027 contact sessions between the period April 2017 – March 2018 (with the average engagement per young person totaling 26 hours). The programme supports young people aged 9-16 who are facing challenges in their lives including those who have special educational needs or disabilities, child protection plans, in care, at risk of anti-social behaviour, young carers, or from families facing bereavement, substance misuse, breakdown, financial hardship or rural isolation.

Our Splash activities aim to increase young people’s confidence and self-esteem, social and practical skills. This Summer alone our Splash programme delivered 31 days of fun activities directed at young people across Wiltshire who are facing challenges.

We highly experienced staff and volunteers provide positive, inspiring adult interaction which makes a real difference for the young people that attend Splash. Results from the March 2018 parent/referrer feedback survey recorded 100% of responses having recognised increased confidence, social skills and happiness in the young people they referred to the programme.

Feedback from one parent stated: ‘The support in the last year has been phenomenal. Our family life has been really strained due to my ill-health and Splash has given my child so much confidence.’

To ensure the programme activities remain new, relevant and exciting, Splash regularly works to develop new partnerships with other organisations, charities and voluntary groups. This year we have worked with 296 young people across the county involving fun activities with Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team (WOLT), Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Roaring Rugby, Anybody Can Cook, Help for Heroes, Jamie McDine, Skillset Learning, Head for Heights, Oxfordwood Outdoor Education Centre, Hugo Halkes, Tall Ships and Magdalen Environmental Trust.

All activity days are designed to be fun, welcoming and inclusive; providing young people with opportunities to develop new skills, form positive friendships and create happy memories which they can draw on in times of need. The team work hard to instil an acceptance of others, empathy and support for each other which empowers the young people and begins to build their confidence, self-esteem and social skills and equips them to make safe and independent choices about their future leisure time.

The wide range of sessions delivered included cookery, fishing, music, watersports, archery, treasure hunts, wheelchair basketball, music lessons, high ropes, animation and much more. We truly value the strong, resilient, long-term partnerships we have with our partner organisations, and recognise the amazing impact they have on young people at Splash.

A breakdown of 9-16 year olds attending the sessions 61% of male and 39% female revealed 50% of referrals came from family members, guardians and friends. The remaining 50% of referrals came from a variety of professionals supporting the families.

In addition to group activities, 27 young people accessed individual support and mentoring during this time. Action plans were put in place and together, the mentor and young person met to work through them. This incredible tool enables Splash users to prepare to access group work sessions, in addition to addressing specific issues in their lives.

Benefits of Engaging in Splash

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>CIU Reported Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self esteem - feeling of pride and self worth</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self confidence - belief in themselves and their abilities</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude &amp; behaviour - towards you and others</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social skills - communication and interaction with yourself &amp; others</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happiness</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Life</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance at School</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time playing outside</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As this was the first time my son had attended a ‘Splash’ activity he was terribly nervous. However, I could feel him physically calm down when the team arrived to take the session due to everyone’s friendly manner. It is now three hours since I picked him up and we are unusually still hearing about his ‘awesome’ day and he would like to show us some things he did when his Dad gets home. Once again thank you to those special people who are happy to work with children like my son, we are very grateful.

We welcome feedback from parents and carers as well as young people as this is vital for our evaluation and planning.

“The support in the last year has been phenomenal. Our family life has been really strained due to my ill-health and Splash has given my child so much confidence.”

Email: info@splash-wiltshire.org.uk
Telephone: 01380 732829
www.splash-wiltshire.org.uk

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Youth Action Wiltshire (YAW) celebrates 70 years of service this year. Launched in 1948, YAW provides key ‘social lifelines’ for young people across Wiltshire and Swindon.

We are extremely proud that the work YAW carries out, has stood the test of time and that it remains a fantastic source of support for local youth clubs and young people facing challenges in their lives.

**Splashing Around In Summer**

Our iconic service Splash is a free to access out of school activity programme.

Police officers from Chippenham launched the pilot of Splash in 1989 to tackle anti-social behaviour. To this day, Splash prides itself on being a positive place, dedicated to creating a safe space for young people.

Not only does Splash help to increase the skill set of every young person involved, but it also aims to increase the confidence and self-esteem for hundreds of young people each year, and young people facing challenges in their lives.

**ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE UK**

Our Wiltshire Young Carers Service was one of the first launched in the UK. Established in 1988, we aim to keep young carers aged 9-18 years safe in their caring role and equip them for the future by providing respite activities, 1:1 support and advocacy.

17-year old Sam Connor has been involved in our Wiltshire Young Carers Service for the last six years. "It was brilliant, intense, challenging and I learnt so much.”

If I could pass on a word of advice, it would be to embrace something that you have done yourself, then give back through voluntary and learning - it’s a great feeling.

Alongside YAW’s 70th anniversary, Splash will celebrate its 30th birthday next year. Wiltshire Young Carers Service will turn 20 and Project Inspire, which supports people aged 16 to 19 years who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), will celebrate 10 years of delivery.

**Why not celebrate with us at one of our upcoming fundraising events?**

YAW’s Beethoven’s ‘Beyond the Firmament’, event is on October 19th and this is not one to be missed. Tickets are still available. For information contact Ginnie Keen at ginniekeen@gmail.com or telephone 01666 822263.

Visit the exclusive ‘Mary Howard Christmas Fair 2018’ which takes place at Malmsbury Abbey on December 14th, 7-9PM. You can book tickets for this special event by contacting: beccaworsley@gmail.com

To end Youth Action Wiltshire’s birthday celebrations, join us for ‘Carols by Candlelight’, which takes place at Cotswold Airport on December 14th, 7-9PM. You can book tickets for this special event by contacting: beccaworsley@gmail.com

**To find out more, visit:**

www.justgiving.com/yaw

Youth Action Wiltshire is reliant on sponsorships and donations. If you would like to donate visit:

www.justgiving.com/yaw
Connecting Communities

Wiltshire Link & Community Transport

Recent 2017-2018 Link Audit, 60% of surveyed passengers using the service reported using their local Link Scheme at least once a week or more.

Over the past 12 months, Link Scheme volunteers travelled over 903,711 miles to help keep local communities connected. Volunteers used their own cars to provide the services for members of the public with duties ranging from trips to the local shops, runs to lunch clubs, picking up prescriptions, visiting GP surgeries, shopping, offering door-to-door transport and supporting with tasks around the home.

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Access to transport for people in rural areas is an integral part of our commitment to supporting local communities. By 2035 it is estimated that 20,000 Wiltshire and Swindon households will need help to get out and about, that’s why we’re proud to offer an advisory and support service to local Link Schemes and Community Minibus groups across the county.

There are 43 Local Link Schemes and 21 Minibus groups in Wiltshire and Swindon, both offering a valuable lifeline to people who would otherwise struggle to get around. For Wiltshire, this is such an invaluable service and one that we are proud to support and benefit from. The Wiltshire Link Scheme, supported by Community First, is one of the most successful community transport schemes in the country. As part of our recent 2017 - 2018 Link Audit, 60% of surveyed passengers using the service reported using their local Link Scheme at least once a week or more.

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To find details of your local Link Scheme or Community Minibus Group visit: communityfirst.org.uk/transport, call 01380 722475 or email transport@communityfirst.org.uk.

New Community Transport Development Manager

We hope you will join us in welcoming our new Community Transport Development Manager, Harry Tipple.

Harry is a transport professional with over 10 years’ experience and a diverse background, having worked in the UK and internationally. Harry has experience in road safety, sustainable travel and transport strategy on major infrastructure projects both in the public and private sectors.

Helping us to progress with new developments in Community Transport, Harry has already rolled up his sleeves and begun knocking on doors in Seend to talk to residents about the local Link Scheme.

“I am incredibly excited to be joining Community First and very much look forward to meeting the members and local groups in the near future.”

Link Scheme Audit 17/18

- Based on average hourly rate calculations, Wiltshire Link schemes have an estimated value of £60 per volunteer (per year) and £1.6 million overall, in Wiltshire.

- An impressive 135,113 hours of time was given by 1,768 volunteers.

- The number of everyday tasks ranging from weekly shops, to picking up prescriptions totalled 48,900, with other services including small tasks around the house and garden.

- Of surveyed passengers using the service reported using their local Link Scheme at least once a week or more.

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Midas Training: Developing Skills for Community Minibus Groups

Nationally recognised minibus MIDAS training offer to Wiltshire community groups. Consisting of two elements: theory and practical – the MIDAS Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme is organised by the Community Transport Association (C.T.A). MIDAS Training promotes a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers.

Theory: Your MIDAS trainer will give you a presentation covering safe minibus driving and operation. This will be followed by a 30 minute multiple choice assessment consisting of 20 questions. Drivers will be required to answer at least 15 of these correctly to pass their MIDAS theory.

Practical: Each driver’s MIDAS practical will last just over an hour. Assessment is 30 minutes and will include: A demonstration drive by your Driver Assessor/Trainer (DAT), an opportunity for you to familiarise yourself with the vehicle, the opportunity for you receive on road vehicle familiarisation and Driving Skills Training and an assessment of your Driving Skills.

If you pass your practical assessment and theory assessment you will receive a MIDAS certificate. This will allow you to drive minibuses belonging to other MIDAS accredited organisations without the need to be re-assessed.

Your certificate is valid for 4 years, after which you will need to attend a MIDAS refresher training session in order to renew your certificate.

If you fail your practical assessment or your theory assessment, your instructor will advise you about what the next steps are. You may be able to re-take your assessment(s).

Any driver who passes their theory assessment but fails their practical assessment drive will need to attend a driving skills training session and assessment drive on a separate day if this is deemed appropriate. In this instance the theory assessment will remain valid.

More information on the pass/fail criteria and what you will need to bring with you on the day, email transport@communityfirst.org.uk. Alternatively, telephone 01380 722241 or 01380 732817.

In 2017 Link Volunteers Offered:

135,113 Hours

-1%

Percentage change in link volunteers since 2016

903,711 Miles Travelled by Link Schemes

Economic Value Based on Hourly Rate

£1,686,210

Average economic value in 2017 for each link volunteer.

£960.96

Based on ONS South West Average hourly pay - gross (3) - For all employees jobs £13.68 per hour.
Wiltshire Village Halls Association

Village halls ‘LACE UP’ to support health and wellbeing

Working alongside Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and Sport England, Community First recently launched a 1-year pilot project in Wiltshire, offering not-for-profit organisations and community groups (including village halls) the chance to apply for up to £10,000 to support the creation of new and sustainable leisure and exercise activities.

Eight VVHA members have already applied for a grant, with various projects at different stages of development. Applications for projects in Leigh Park Community Centre (below) and South Wraxall Village Hall (above) have recently been approved by ACRE and Sport England.

Leigh Park will focus on a range of fitness sessions that are not currently available, to improve mental health. South Wraxall will receive start-up funding for bootcamps and yoga dances to increase local exercise.

For more information on LACE UP visit: communityfirst.org.uk/grants to download an application pack.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)

Membership of Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) increased from 207 members to 218 members in 2017-18.

WALC held 29 training courses – a mixture of bookable events and whole-council commissioned training sessions. 376 clerks and councillors attended these events which included Councillor Training, CLCA support sessions, GDPR briefings, Information Governance and The Clerk’s Year (for newer clerks).

Responding to queries from member councils makes up a huge part of WALC’s work and this year was no exception. In fact, elections in Wiltshire and the preparations for the GDPR caused an increase in queries with 1,489 recorded from member councils. In addition, WALC provided a County Circular newsletter to member councils in ten months of the year. Over the past year the circular has included regular updates from NALC – particularly on progress with lobbying on GDPR, information on legislation change, details of available consultation papers, information on training and relevant conferences, and seminars and information on topics that frequently arise in enquiries to the WALC office.

Important information that cannot wait for a newsletter is disseminated regularly through email networks.

WALC administers a sub-regional panel for the Local Council Award Scheme. In the year 17-18, seven councils were awarded under this scheme. One of these councils, Warminster Town Council, was from WALC’s area.

The Transparency Fund for those councils subject to the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities i.e. those with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 ended in February 2018. WALC provided the initial administration of applications to this fund, which were then passed to NALC and a national panel for approval. Over the duration of the Transparency Fund, £50,000 was granted to 70 councils in the WALC area to aid them in achieving the requirements of the Transparency Code.

Clerks take-up community organising training offer

In October 2018 Clerks from several Local Councils across the county attended a free training session led by Community Organisers Aidan Neale and Katrina Watson. The ‘Introduction to Community Organising’ training session introduced Clerks to the principles of Community Organising including listening without agenda and bringing people together to take action for a better community.
As an early-adopter of the Community Organising approach, Community First recognises that listening is vital in engaging with communities. Our unique approach combines the power of listening with traditional research methodology, to deliver an innovative model for powerful and effective community engagement.

Community Organising is the work of bringing people together to take action around their common concerns and overcome social injustice. This approach has long been recognised as an effective method of supporting grassroots social action. Community First has developed a new and innovative consultation and research methodology which puts community organising front and centre in supporting better healthcare outcomes for people affected by cancer, life-limiting illness, associated loss and bereavement.

‘Eveyday, Everyday’
An innovative community engagement project with Dorothy House Hospice Care.

Local charity, Dorothy House Hospice Care provides inpatient and community-based palliative and end of life care for people living with a life-limiting illness, their families and carers in Somerset, Wiltshire, Bath and Bath and North-East Somerset. The hospice was keen to engage with the Mendip community in Somerset, as part of a needs analysis to understand what support was felt to be needed locally in terms of life-limiting illness, associated loss and bereavement.

With the recent release of their new strategic plan for 2018-2025 called ‘Everyday, Everyday’, engaging with the community is a big priority for the hospice. As a compassionate organisation which is committed to the needs of the experience, Dorothy House identified that listening to the needs of the community was the first step to ensuring that everyone in its area has access to outstanding palliative and end of life care. The hospice was rated ‘Outstanding’ by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in January 2017.

Following the success of the Young Listeners project, delivered by Community Organisers from Community First and youth workers from Youth Action Wiltshire, Community First was commissioned by Dorothy House Hospice Care to deliver a needs analysis in the Mendip area of Somerton, Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury. The hospice was keen to utilise Community Organising techniques to gather detailed feedback from local residents and understand local care needs.

The project kicked off in 2018 and aimed to talk to residents about life-limiting illness, associated loss and bereavement. As well as finding out what local people had to say about their experiences, Community Organisers Alex Neale and Katrina Watson also set out to identify and find solutions to perceived gaps in local service provision, by asking people what support they felt was needed locally and identifying any barriers to accessing palliative and end of life care.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND
Life-limiting illness, associated loss and bereavement is a difficult subject for anyone to talk about and almost half of residents we spoke to had an experience to share with the Community Organisers. The project initially aimed to speak to 60 local residents face-to-face, with 120 additional responses from a digital survey with questions provided by Dorothy House Hospice Care. In the early stages of the project it became clear that local residents greatly valued the opportunity to talk face-to-face with the Community Organisers and that Mendip residents felt unable (or unwilling) to share their thoughts, experiences and ideas through the survey. Following this feedback, the team at Community First decided to focus on face-to-face listening as the primary method of engaging with Mendip residents, eventually listening to over 250 people as part of the project.

Although the decision to focus on collecting qualitative data was the right one for the project, it also presented its own challenge in the form of quantifying a large number of interviews and responses. Community First first prides itself on being a forward-thinking charity, committed to new ways of listening to the needs of residents. The team (including a qualified researcher) came together to develop a new data methodology and coding framework for analysing the qualitative listenings collected by the Community Organisers. It was a big task, with over 60,000 words recorded from listenings with Mendip residents.

Analysis from listenings with over 250 residents was combined in a final report with an in-depth analysis of experiences in Mendip to identify perceived gaps in the provision of local services. Community First also offered practical support and advice to residents affected by cancer across the county.

RURALITY & CANCER OUTCOMES

Recent research has identified that cancer patients who live more than an hour away from a major hospital, are diagnosed and treated faster than those who live closer to the hospital. Whilst statistics for the diagnosis and treatment of rurally isolated cancer patients were reassuring, researchers at the University of Aberdeen also uncovered worrying trends in cancer outcomes for rurally isolated patients in Scotland.

Despite faster diagnosis and treatment, rurally isolated patients in the Scottish Highlands were more likely to die from cancer in the first year of treatment, when compared with patients who were less rurally isolated. Lead researcher Dr Peter Murchie, clinical consultant at the University of Aberdeen, has called for more research to help identify what (if any) factors affect the apparent disconnect between treatment time and clinical outcomes for cancer patients who live in rural areas of the United Kingdom.

This research is of particular interest to leading cancer charities like Macmillan, as well as other healthcare professionals and organisations that support people affected by cancer in a rural county like Wiltshire.

What treatment choices do patients in Wiltshire make after they are diagnosed with cancer? Could travelling further to hospital be a barrier to effective treatment for patients across the county? Are there any other factors that affect treatment outcomes? And perhaps most importantly, what can be done to improve outcomes for cancer patients in rural parts of Wiltshire?

The Macmillan Cancer Connections project in Wiltshire, aims to find out.

As Macmillan Community Development Coordinator, Alex Neale will be responsible for reaching out to people affected by cancer in Wiltshire and listening to what they have to say about their experience. Alongside this, Alex’s role also involves building community capacity by developing, delivering and coordinating a broad range of community-based initiatives, which addresses the health and wellbeing needs of people affected by cancer across the county.

Julian Backhouse, Macmillan Partnership Manager for Berkshire & Wiltshire said: “We are delighted to join forces with Community First and their new brand-new initiative. It is so important to listen to local people and understand the issues that are making it difficult for them to access cancer services and support their wellbeing. I’m looking forward to seeing the project develop over the next two years, the insights it will bring, and most of all, the positive impact it is going to make on people living with cancer in Wiltshire.”

Stay tuned for updates on these exciting new health in the community projects throughout 2018-2019, via social media, e-newsletters and the Community First blog.

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Supporting Volunteer-Led Social Action

Find out how Community First is supporting grassroots, volunteer-led social action with free training and mentoring from Social Action Hub Wiltshire and Swindon.

In the last edition of ‘First News’ we introduced an exciting new project funded by the Office for Civil Society and managed by the national Community Organising network Community Organisers Ltd. This year, qualified Community Organisers Alex Neale and Katrina Watson have been hard at work delivering free training to charities, volunteers, groups and Local Councils, as part of the Social Action Hub training and development programme.

Over the last year the Social Action Hub project in Wiltshire and Swindon has recruited and trained new teams of volunteer Community Organisers to play an important role in helping communities identify and find solutions to important local issues. By training local leaders and volunteers at a neighbourhood level, Community First is actively developing Community Organising networks throughout the region.

The success of Social Action Hub should come as no surprise. The Community Organising approach delivers real results and offers viable solutions to often complex problems.

We caught up with Social Action Hub participant Emma, to find out what she had to say about the training and what she has been up to since:

“The one-day training was a fun, high energy, and yet intense day. We bonded as a group very quickly and shared so much. We were guided and encouraged the whole way through. I left feeling focused and enthusiastic and also had made some brilliant new friends.

So far (since completing the training) I have done door knocking, attended Col. Ltd conference, organized and completed litter picking, volunteered and helped someone with their paperwork. supported someone with their own project, attended an Old Town Business Association meeting on behalf of local residents, attended a local residents’ association meeting, helped set up a Facebook community group for local civic issues, liaising with Health from Nationwide to help him; joined a community art group and am applying for a job!”

Emma’s Experience

Community First is excited to be involved in delivering new Community Organising projects like Social Action Hub Wiltshire and Swindon, as well as embedding Community Organising into our partnership work, most notably with Dorothy House Hospice Care and Macmillan Cancer Support (see page 14).

There is growing awareness about the positive impact of Community Organising. And not just in the voluntary sector! Nationwide Building Society recently became one of the first corporate organisations in the country to employ a qualified Community Organiser. As a result of the changing community engagement landscape, the success of Social Action Hub.

Find out more about Social Action Hub Wiltshire + Swindon or book a place on one of our free Community Organising training sessions:

hello@socialactionhubwilts.org.uk Telephone: 01380 722 475

For updates visit Alex + Katrina’s blog: socialactionhubwilts.org.uk Or find us on Instagram: @socialactionhub
In the last edition of 'First News', we introduced a community-led housing partnership with Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Community Land Trust (WCLT) to launch the Wiltshire Community-Led Housing Project, including support, advice and funding for communities who are looking to develop affordable homes. The project is particularly interested in supporting communities to establish new Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to manage the assets on behalf of the community, as well as exploring other methods of providing new affordable homes. The Wiltshire Community-Led Housing Project is also supported by a Community Housing Fund Grant for schemes for communities in Wiltshire.

Schemes can also apply for up to £40,000 of funding to cover other costs (e.g., architects’ fees) to be repaid once the scheme is up and running. There are about 225 CLTs around the country, with numbers rapidly growing in Wiltshire. Community Housing Project Manager Vicky Bodman is currently working with CLTs in Cricklade, Broad Chalke, Seend, Tisbury and Wilton who are keen to deliver new homes for people at affordable prices. Community representatives and organisations in Bradford-on-Avon, Great Bedwyn, Pewsey and Bratton have also expressed an interest in the project and utilising the Community Land Trust model in their own areas. Community Land Trusts are a popular model in their own areas.

Community Land Trusts are a popular and effective way of delivering local housing schemes that are run for the benefit of the community. By purchasing the freehold or leasehold of a development site, a Community Land Trust can reserve the homes for local needs, by placing legal conditions on the sale of any homes built as part of the scheme. Local communities would typically work with a local housing association or similar organisation (like Wiltshire Council), rather than acting as the developer for the schemes. To date, 5 Parishes in Wiltshire have formed a Community Land Trust with support from the project. This includes the community of Cricklade, which has received advice, guidance and funding from the Wiltshire Community Housing Project (along with the National CLT Network), to develop a new Community Land Trust. The community hopes that the CLT model will support them to deliver affordable housing and strengthen the High Street. Cricklade Development Foundation, the group which has received support from the project said: “Setting up a Community Group to deliver services and affordable housing locally is quite daunting. Deciding on legal status for the group is one of the first hurdles. In this, the help of the Wiltshire Community-Led Housing Project has been invaluable. Initially we were given help and advice from the Community Housing Project Manager and then access to a Community Housing Fund Grant to allow us to pay for the solicitor to become a formal legal organisation”.

For more information about the programme: Visit our website: www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk

The Building Bridges programme is an ambitious partnership of 40 organisations working together to help people overcome their barriers to employment and education across Swindon and Wiltshire, by offering one to one support, training, skills development and other support services. The programme is jointly funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery via the Big Lottery Fund.

The programme will run until 2019 and our overall aim is to work with 1,827 participants with at least 21% of these individuals moving into employment and a further 29% moving into education or training. Our partners continue to deliver great results with individuals facing multiple, complex challenges and barriers to work or education.

For more information about the programme: Visit our website: www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk

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BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAMME: SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERING IN WILTSHIRE

Alongside our role as managing partner for the Building Bridges programme, Community First also delivers support for volunteering as part of the programme in Wiltshire. Volunteering can play a really important role in helping participants develop the skills and experience they need to help them on their journey towards the world of work or education.

We caught up with Volunteer Coordinator Laura Naylor to find out more about the volunteering service, her ongoing work to support the Archive Project with programme partners Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council, as well as some individual stories from participants who have volunteered as part of their programme journey.

Research from the Department for Education and Skills suggests that volunteering can have a positive impact on employment outcomes, particularly for people in the ‘career building’ stage between the ages of 25-44 years. This research also indicates that people who volunteer for employment reasons are more likely to move off the unemployment register.

Volunteering is linked with employability and is an important part of the Building Bridges programme. Laura’s role as Volunteer Coordinator involves meeting with programme participants who are interested in volunteering and finding out about their interests, experience and goals. Laura also works alongside partner organisations, Key Workers and other stakeholders to identify and promote volunteering opportunities.

By acting as a broker for volunteering placements, Laura is able to match programme participants to suitable volunteering roles that will help them to develop confidence, skills, and experience. Whilst doing something they enjoy.

**TOM’S SUCCESS STORY**

Tom was referred to Building Bridges by a partner organisation in 2018. He had been unemployed for just over a year and was struggling with isolation. Tom also had caring responsibilities which made it hard for him to get back into work. After being referred to the programme, Tom met with Key Worker Elegia from Active Plus. Tom wanted to get out of the house more and feel useful by doing something meaningful to support his wellbeing. Elegia prioritised building Tom’s confidence and skills through volunteering.

Tom and Elegia had a one-to-one session with Laura to find a volunteering role that allowed him to develop his interests in practical activities like carpentry, driving and the outdoors. Tom was keen to start volunteering straight away and Laura was able to place him in an ideal role as a driver at a local furniture charity. Tom proved to be a conscientious and dedicated volunteer and his confidence grew immeasurably. As well as volunteering, Tom is working towards Maths and English qualifications and has received support from programme partner Wiltshire Citizens Advice to understand how moving into paid work might impact upon his benefit entitlement. As a result of support received through the programme and his enthusiasm for volunteering, Tom has been offered paid employment with the furniture charity.

**NEIL’S VOLUNTEERING JOURNEY**

Neil is a Building Bridges programme participant that has been volunteering with Waste Not Want Not since November 2017. When Neil first joined the charity as a volunteer, he was nervous about meeting new people and struggled with a lack of confidence. Neil originally volunteered one day a week but, as his confidence grew, he increased this to two days a week.

Neil is now fully at home at Waste Not Want Not and the team feel that volunteering has helped him build his inner confidence. He is happy to provide cover for holidays and sickness absence and has, on occasion, volunteered up to 4 days a week. As well as volunteering with the warehouse team, Neil has also expressed an interest in gaining new skills in customer service by helping in the shop. Waste Not Want Not is currently supporting Neil with training to help him develop these skills.

Neil’s long-term goal as part of his programme journey is to complete an apprenticeship. The charity continues to support him by offering coaching on submitting applications and interview techniques.

**SUPPORTING THE ARCHIVE PROJECT**

The Archive Project is an exciting new volunteering project devised by Building Bridges programme partners Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council, working in partnership with Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. Whilst attending a learning and skills event, Annette Holdsworth from Wiltshire Council and Volunteer Coordinator Laura Naylor were inspired by a speaker from the Museum of London who spoke about a Volunteer Inclusion Project run by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive which supported young people with Autism to access and engage with museums.

People with Autism or those with Anxiety disorders can struggle to cope in the hustle and bustle of a regular working environment. The Museum of London model offered an opportunity to support participants to develop valuable archive skills in a quiet and predictable environment. It also offered the chance help participants develop confidence and make a valuable contribution to preserving and cataloguing important historical records for future generations.

Wiltshire, Swindon and History Centre is home to the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives and the Wiltshire local studies library. The Centre, which has 13km of archives covering 800 years of history, was keen to engage with a new project which supported its objective of building new skills, improving health and wellbeing, developing its volunteer base and protecting the archive.

In 2018, Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre launched the Archive Project, a new skills-based volunteering course for Building Bridges participants and those from outside the programme that could benefit from the quiet, structured and meticulous work of archiving. The Archive Project offers a unique experience for the volunteers involved and participants are expected to make a commitment to attending the full 10-week course.

There are currently four Building Bridges programme participants enrolled in the volunteering project which kicked-off in August 2018. The participants are supporting the Centre to archive and catalogue items from the late 1800’s to the 1970’s, including a collection of solicitors’ documents.

As part of the project, the volunteers are learning useful skills including Palaeography (the reading of old handwriting), conservation techniques and environmental factors that can degrade historical documents. The participants, all of whom have additional needs such as Autism or Anxiety disorder, are enjoying the opportunity to learn and working towards an ‘Open Day’ to promote the work they have been doing to support the archive. The group has also developed friendships and improved resilience, as well as new skills to help them on their journey to employment or education.

The first course as part of the Archive Project concludes in mid-October and programme partners Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council hope to extend the opportunity to other Building Bridges participants and those could benefit from volunteering as part of the project, as well as bringing new museums and archives on board.

*Names and identifying details have been changed*
Bold is a service designed especially for charities, community groups and voluntary organisations. Community First believes that good design shouldn’t cost the earth, that’s why we’re proud to offer quality, affordable creative services to charities, voluntary organisations and community groups. We are passionate about helping our clients to harness the power of design to promote their cause and make local communities better places to live and work.

Whether we’re building Wordpress websites that look great and are easy to use and keep updated, or designing a brand identity from the ground up, we use the latest technology, tools and techniques you’d expect from a creative design agency.

What’s more when you work with Bold you are helping to support vibrant communities and brighter futures for the people who live and work in Wiltshire and Swindon. All of the funds raised through this unique creative design service are used to support the charitable aims of Community First.

Some of the highlights from our 17/18 portfolio can be found on this page. For more information visit: www.communityfirst.org.uk/bold or email: bold@communityfirst.org.uk.

### Big Breakfast Plus

Big Breakfast Plus is a registered charity that offers a cooked breakfast and access to support services for homeless people in Swindon between 7-9AM, 7 days a week. The charity recently celebrated it’s 25th anniversary.

Bold was commissioned to create a new visual identity and website to help raise the profile of Big Breakfast Plus and support with the charity’s fundraising objectives. Big Breakfast Plus was keen to emphasise that it is more than breakfast club and also wanted to highlight it’s 25 year record of service to the homeless.

Bold developed a new logo (above), which has a retro look and feel along with a colour scheme and typography for Big Breakfast Plus.

The new website, which launched in September 2018 (top) is a fully responsive Wordpress website, which helps the charity tell its unique story through graphics and photographs, as well as attracting new volunteers, supporters and donations.

www.bigbreakfastplus.org.uk

### New website for Community First

Community First was launched in 2018. The website (designed by Bold), was an ambitious project which brought various programme websites including Youth Action Wiltshire, Splash, Link and Community Transport, under one roof.

As well as replicating the functionality of existing programme websites, the new website also integrates the Volunteering Portal for Wiltshire and a new, searchable community transport directory. Most of the legacy website URLs are now being redirected to their new programme areas on the Community First website.

At over 50 pages, the project involved hours of development time and thousands of images. We are delighted with the feedback on the website from our sector colleagues, supporters and other stakeholders.

Over the coming months, Bold will develop a new membership area for the Wiltshire Link and Community Transport Good Practice Guides as well as refreshing the Wiltshire Village Halls Association website to integrate the forum and members area with member hall profile pages.

www.communityfirst.org.uk

In 2016 Bold completed a successful website design project for Healthwatch Wiltshire, this design was later rolled out to two additional local Healthwatch services. The website featured a bespoke Volunteer Portal and login area and was a significant driver of increased involvement and participation by volunteers.

Over time, Healthwatch Wiltshire had evolved to deliver services in Somerset and Gloucestershire, as well as launching an independent health and social care research, evaluation and engagement service. The new parent company Evolving Communities CIC, commissioned Bold to develop a new visual identity and website for the organisation to support and promote growth in the consultancy business.

The brief was to create a visual identity which worked alongside the Healthwatch brand (but without replicating it). Bold created a new logo and visual identity guidelines.

www.evolvingcommunities.co.uk

Bold also worked with Evolving Communities to design and develop a new website which launched in Spring 2018. The new website features a modern, contemporary, grid designed to take the visitor on a journey through services, testimonials and the expertise of the research team.

www.evolvingcommunities.co.uk
With help and support from Zurich, a leading insurance provider who underwrites the insurance policies we offer - Community First has assisted parish councils, village halls and community buildings across the region for a number of years.

Renowned as being one of the few insurance companies operating on a global basis, Zurich’s mission is to help customers understand and protect themselves from risk. With over 55,000 employees in more than 170 countries, their trusted reputation is what makes them the best insurer measured by both customers and shareholders.

In Wiltshire, we are immensely proud of the scheme’s 5 Star customer rating and we aim to provide the best insurance advice possible. Our local network, village halls, community buildings and local councils provide an invaluable service across the county and we aim to support them by offering services that meet their unique needs.

As members of the ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) network, our socially responsible ethos, combined with years of experience in the not for profit sector has been the catalyst for the insurance schemes now run by Village Halls Plus Group. Our first insurance schemes were designed specifically for Village Halls in Suffolk 25 years ago. As a member of ACRE, we found that the village halls and community buildings we support were finding their insurance covers expensive and insufficient. Working with Zurich insurance, we formed a group insurance scheme to offer the benefits of appropriate cover, sharp risk and reduced premiums. Community Action Suffolk and Community First currently these benefits to all village halls in England, Wales and Scotland, via the Village Hall Plus Group.

If you would like to find out more about the scheme or get a quote, please call 01380 738 809 or email jemery@communityfirst.org.uk

**MEMBERS SAVE MONEY THROUGH OIL BUYING SCHEME**

D id you know? For every bulk oil order purchased, we help to reduce emissions and delivery costs one journey at a time. Wiltshire’s oil buying scheme, managed by Oil Fuel Poverty Solutions (OFPS) allows members to fuel their homes while saving money on their heating bills.

Order as much oil throughout the year and as many times as you like. With the help of our efficient delivery service, you simply pay a small annual fee and we’ll sort the rest.

With various memberships readily available: Domestic, Community Building and Business - those who previously ordered from Boilerjuice during September 2018 made £25.25 in savings for every 500 litres bought.

A single delivery tanker gets as little as eight miles to the gallon, so we’ve made it our number one priority to coordinate bulk orders to reduce the number of miles driven to deliver oil to your home or premises.

Under this scheme, oil tankers deliver bulk orders to different members in the same village. Not only does this prevent undue traffic in small villages, but we’re also helping to drastically reduce CO2 emissions and oil delivery costs, one journey at a time!

Members can buy any type of oil, including kerosene (with or without an additive), red diesel or white diesel. The scheme has been running since 2012 and currently has 166 members.

**HOW DOES THE SCHEME WORK?**

- Choose your membership category: £24 per annum for domestic members, £36 per annum for community buildings and £120 per annum for businesses.
- Fill in a membership form (available from www.communityfirst.org.uk) and email it to info@ofps.co.uk. Alternatively, post it to OFPS, 5 Courtlands Road, Shipton-u-Wychoxfordshire, OX7 6DF.
- Wait to hear back from your local co-ordinator who will be your main contact when you order your oil in bulk or single use (minimum order of 500 litres.)
- We work our magic to negotiate with suppliers to ensure the best prices, quantity orders, and delivery timescales. Your local co-ordinator will advise you who the supplier is, the price per litre (exclusive of VAT, currently at 5%) and the approximate date of delivery.
- Your oil will be delivered as soon as possible and you pay the company supplying the oil, directly.

Do want to save money on your heating oil? Join our new community-based county-wide buying scheme and see how easy it is.

For further information, please contact Oil Fuel Poverty Solutions by email info@ofps.co.uk or telephone 01993 225011.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

An oil tanker uses a gallon of fuel for every 8 miles travelled!

- Domestic Membership £24/ YEAR
- Community Building Membership £36/ YEAR
- Business Membership £120/ YEAR

**LATEST OIL PRICES**

49.44ppl (+ 5% VAT)

**Choose your membership category:**

- Domestic Members £24/ YEAR
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**VILLAGE HALLS PLUS GROUP**

As members of the ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) network, our socially responsible ethos, combined with years of experience in the not for profit sector has been the catalyst for the insurance schemes now run by Village Halls Plus Group. Our first insurance schemes were designed specifically for Village Halls in Suffolk 25 years ago. As a member of ACRE, we found that the village halls and community buildings we support were finding their insurance covers expensive and insufficient. Working with Zurich insurance, we formed a group insurance scheme to offer the benefits of appropriate cover, sharp risk and reduced premiums. Community Action Suffolk and Community First currently these benefits to all village halls in England, Wales and Scotland, via the Village Hall Plus Group.

If you would like to find out more about the scheme or get a quote, please call 01380 738 809 or email jemery@communityfirst.org.uk
2017 - 2018 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Meysey Hampton Pavilion was awarded £15,000 to replace the pavilion at Meysey Hampton playing fields
- Kilminster & Stourton Cricket Club near Warminster was awarded £2,500 to purchase a new gang mower
- Broad Town, Christchurch in Swindon was awarded £10,000 for repairs to the roof
- Colerne Rugby Football Club in Colerne was awarded £10,000 towards the cost of new changing rooms
- Wiltshire’s Guild of Spinners Weavers and Dyers in Steeple Ashton was awarded £6,825 for a disabled ramp

LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND GRANTS

Across Wiltshire and Swindon, Community First helps manage and administer the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). The LCF offers capital funding for environmental, heritage and local community projects in areas where local landfill operators sites or depots are located.

In 1996, the Government introduced a tax on landfill waste to prevent and reduce waste. The aim of this tax was to promote more environmentally sustainable methods of waste management.

The LCF allows Landfill Operators (LOs) to contribute a portion of their landfill tax liability to community and environmental organisations to ‘offset’ some of the negative impacts of living in the vicinity of a landfill site. The LO’s which contributed to the LCF grants scheme in Wiltshire and Swindon in 2017/2018, for which Community First provided administration for were: Hills Group, CSG and Crapper & Sons.

Between 2017-2018, Community First distributed £396,545 of LCF grants, an annual increase of £116,545 to invest in community projects. These projects have not only helped improve local facilities, but further supported local community assets across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Examples of successful projects include: Village Halls and community centres, public recreation grounds or play areas, community-run sports and leisure facilities, restoration of public access to facilities, cycle path and canal improvements and community farm and community garden improvements.

For more information about LCF grants please visit our website: www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants

FEEDBACK FROM A GRANT RECIPIENT

“The condition of the roof at Broad Town Church was so bad that rainwater was getting inside the building, damaging the walls and floor and urgent action was required before the need to temporarily close the Church was inevitable. A minimum sum of £25,000 was required to renew the roof but the Church did not have sufficient funds to meet the cost. In addition to local fundraising it was decided to seek grants.

Community First was approached and, following an initial discussion, we were encouraged to submit a grant application to the Hills Group Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund.

From this stage onwards we were given excellent support and advice from the Community First team, our application was approved, the roof has been renewed and the Church can now be safely used. We even had a member of the Community First team attend the blessing of the roof carried out by the Archdeacon of Wiltshire! Thank you Community First.

Ray Manley (Broad Town Church)
PLAIN ACTION & VALE ACTION LEADER PROGRAMME

The Plain Action and Vale Action LEADER programmes provide grants to help to increase rural jobs, boost tourism, help businesses grow and support the local economy. These programmes are funded by the European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy and aim to support the rural economy by providing grants to improve the local environment, promote rural development and support the agricultural sector. The grants are awarded to local groups or organizations to fund projects that benefit the rural community. The programme covers a rural area with a population of approximately 150,000.

Projects include:

- **Farm efficiencies**: helping a young sheep farmer purchase data recording software
- **Business Support**: help to start up an artisan ice cream producer and a livery yard
- **Farm diversification**: funding a campsite/holiday accommodation and a 2-acre carp fishing lake
- **Rural services**: helping a museum to convert an old chapel into display space and a Parish Council convert an old Victorian schoolroom into a community space
- **Heritage and Culture**: providing interactive tours around the town, better signage and innovative gift card offer to tourists
- **Forestry**: helping to purchase firewood conversion equipment

Achievements to date:

- A total of £2.36m project grant funding is available for Plain Action and Vale Action LEADER projects.
- 34 projects contracted for delivery for a total value of £1,151,000
- £1,085,000 of funds available for Plain Action and Vale Action LEADER projects.
- A further 35 projects are full applications which are currently in preparation, with a total value of £1.282k
- There are 32 project applications currently in the pipeline with a total value of £1,085,000
- 55 applications have been made for business start-up or expansion
- 25 applications have been made for farming efficiency/productivity projects
- 10 grants awarded for tourism related projects. Tourism figures have increased by 21,000 day visitors per year and overnight stays have increased by 10,500 per year
- 5 grants have been awarded to support rural services
- 1 grant has been awarded for a heritage project
- 1 application has been received in the forestry sector
- A total of 57 jobs have been created
- The smallest grant was £3,800 to a sheep farmer for the purchase of a mobile handling system
- The largest grant was £58,000 to a Parish Council to help them turn a Victorian Schoolroom into a community space

The race is on...

Following the 2016 EU referendum, Plain Action and Vale Action are required to have all grant funding agreements in place and signed before the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019. Both LAGs are currently on target to achieve the 29 March 2019 deadline - nearly two years before the original programme finish date.

Of the £2.36m available currently:
- 48% has been spent on completed projects. With 90% on projects that are running and 55% on projects that are in preparation
- There is a further pipeline of enquiries being brought to the first stage of application that equate to 46% of available funds
- However there is a drop out rate with the pipeline projects and those in preparation that mean the available funds may not be overspent
- Since 2015, more than 700 enquiries have been received, with 150 since the beginning of January 2018

Case Study: The Organic Dairy – Luscious Ice Cream

In early 2016 Doug and Kate approached Vale Action to enquire about funding to convert the old milking parlour on the Home Farm of Neston Park Estate into an organic ice cream production facility.

The work involved stripping out the old dairy and preparing the building as a food production area. By lining the inside of the building with impervious surfaces and installing temperature control equipment to provide the right ambient temperature.

The ice cream manufacturing equipment was to be sourced from all over the world including Italy and America. Finally they needed ice cream storage, so a large walk in freezer was installed and to deliver it, a refrigerated van.

All these items came to £247,503.57 and Vale Action provided a grant of £49,901.09.

Work began in early 2017 and was completed in late 2017 following a series of quality control tests by the Vale Action staff.

Doug and Kate have seen their business grow, as the demand for the organic Jersey cow ice cream has expanded, to where it is now distributed and sold across south and southwest England at over 60 outlets including Sainsburys in London and Daylesford Organic.

The demand has been such that, with less than a year of full production, Doug and Kate are looking to expand their production.

For more information on this article, please email info@plainaction.org.uk or telephone: 01380 732814

www.plainaction.org.uk

www.valeaction.org.uk

If you would like to know more about Luscious Ice Cream visit their website: lusciousorganics.co.uk

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The financial report uses information taken from the full financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2018, prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) “Financial Reporting for Smaller Entities” 2015 and applicable accounting standards which received an unqualified audit. The finance report may not contain sufficient information to enable a full understanding of the financial affairs of Community First. For further information the full Report and Financial Statements and the Independent Auditors report can be obtained from the Company Secretary. The full report and Financial Statements were approved by members of the Board of Trustees on 16th July 2018 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

The work of Community first has been made possible with financial support and contributions from the following groups and organisations:

- The Accommodation Welfare Committee
- ACRE
- Ambition
- Asda
- The Ashendene Trust
- Big Energy Saving Network
- Big Lottery Fund
- The Blagrave Trust
- Brewster Maude Charitable Trust
- Caernhill Countryside Centre
- Calstone Parochial Church Council
- Chaloner Lodge Benevolent Fund
- Chippenham Borough Lands Charity
- Crapper & Sons Landfill Ltd
- Dame Kelly Holmes Trust
- DEFRA – Department of The Environment
- Devizes Town Council
- Edington Parish Council
- The Endangered Wildlife Trust
- ERSF – Erach & Roshan Sadri Foundation
- Fred & Marjorie Sainsbury Trust
- Friends of Youth Action Wiltshire
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- Friends of Youth Action Wiltshire
- The Galanthus Trust
- The Good Afternoon Choir
- Greensquare Group
- Heathwatch Wiltshire
- Henry C Hoare Charitable Trust
- Henry Smith Charity
- Hills Minerals & Waste Limited
- The Henry C Hoare Charitable Trust
- The Inception Foundation
- The James Dyson Foundation
- The James Weir Foundation
- The Julius Sliman Charitable Trust
- JH King Charity
- Landsdowne Lodge of Unity
- The Lions Club of Chippenham
- The Lions Club of Devizes
- The Lions Club of Warminster
- Locality
- Local Giving
- Magdalen Farm
- Marlborough Bridge Club
- The May Mile
- Melksham Town Council
- Hon Mary A Morrison GCVO Charitable Trust
- Nationwide Building Society
- NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Plain Arts Salisbury
- Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon
- Preshute Parish Council
- Reed in Partnership
- Rotary Club of Bradford on Avon
- Salisbury Museum
- Santander
- Seend Fawley Players
- The Seend Singers
- EAP Sells 2007 Trust
- Sport England
- The Seend Singers
- St Georges Church, Preshute
- St James Place Foundation
- St Johns Parochial Church Council
- Devizes
- St Lawrence Church, Stratford sub Castle
- St Mary’s School, Calne
- Steppes Travel Limited
- Stratford sub Castle Guild
- The Stratford Singers
- Tall Ships
- The Underwood Trust
- The Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust
- Waitrose
- WASP – Wiltshire & Swindon Sport
- Westbury Town Council
- Wilton Middle School Educational Trust
- Wiltshire Association of Local Councils
- Wiltshire Community Foundation
- Wiltshire Council
- Wiltshire High Sheriff 2017, Lady Marland
- Wiltshire Music Centre
- Wiltshire Village Halls Association
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Winterbourne Bassett Parochial Church Council
- Youth Action Wiltshire Committee
- Zurich Community Trust