

# Paths Improvement Grant Scheme

## Guidance for applicants

Applications for grants to assist with the provision or improvement of footpaths and rights of way are now dealt with Wiltshire's Area Boards. This guide sets out everything you need to know.

## How it works

Examples of proposals that can be considered for funding

### Creating new public rights of way or permissive routes which:

- avoid busy roads
- link existing routes, for example, to create new circular routes
- provide links to services/schools/bus stops as well as improving countryside access

### Improvements to the existing network:

- upgrading surfaces
- replacing stiles with self-closing gates or kissing gates
- using local materials
- bespoke destination signing
- materials for promoting use of the network

### Proposals that cannot be considered for funding

- general maintenance
- short term schemes - permissive route agreements must be for a minimum 10 year period
- proposals to upgrade footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways to allow motorised vehicles (other than mobility scooters)

### Other requirements

The council's normal community grants criteria will apply. For grants under £1,000 no match funding is required, for grants over £1,000, 50% match funding is required. Check the full criteria here:

<http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/AreaboardGrants/eligibility.php>

### Working with the Rights of Way and Countryside Team

Please contact us with any ideas you have at the earliest opportunity. We will be happy to advise whether your scheme is eligible for funding and to help you develop your project.

### Information required

In addition to general information describing the scheme, benefits to residents and visitors etc., the following information must be answered / provided (if applicable).

1. If the required annual maintenance is not a statutory duty of Wiltshire Council, who will undertake the maintenance?
2. If the scheme involves creating a permissive path, how many years is the landowner willing to commit for?
3. Are you submitting written approval from all landowners involved?
4. Does the local parish / town council support the proposal?

### Timescales

You can apply any time in the financial year for a PIGS grant. The Area Boards meet every two months to consider applications

### Bid Submission

Applications must be submitted to your local Area Board using the online grants system, please see here:

<http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/AreaboardGrants/eligibility.php>

### Contact the Rights of Way and Countryside Team

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