Town & Parish Conference: 2014

COMMUNITY ROAD WARDEN
&
COMMUNITY SELF-HELP

Peter Brunt
Neighbourhood Highway Manager
Devon Highways
COMMUNITY ROAD WARDEN SCHEME

Increasingly communities around Devon are expressing a desire to undertake small tasks within their towns and parishes, tasks that on completion add value to the lives of local residents.

Faced with significantly declining budgets, Devon County Council are having to make very difficult decisions between what is essential to keep the highways safe to what would be nice to do to enhance the quality of highway environment.
Consequently, communities are to be encouraged to come together and help each other to deliver much needed minor maintenance works. However, it is vital that community self-help is well managed to ensure that resources are used effectively and safely.

This could be delivered through a formal community self-help arrangement, overseen by a locally appointed Road Warden.
ROAD WARDEN

The Road Warden is the primary point of contact between the local community and Devon County Council.

The Road Warden will act in a coordination role and help identify the appropriate training to be delivered to all community self-help volunteers and keep an up-to-date register of active volunteers.
A **Road Warden** must:

- Be nominated as suitable by the Town or Parish Council;
- Have received the appropriate training by DCC;
- Agree to work within the guidelines as set down by DCC;
- Be registered with DCC.
A Road Warden will:-

- Be responsible for working with the community to identify minor works that can be undertaken by community self-help volunteers;
- Be responsible for carrying out the appropriate risk assessments to ensure that all practical considerations and precautions are taken into account before starting any minor maintenance works;
- Be responsible for the organisation of any small works programme from planning through to delivery;
- Be responsible for liaising with DCC on a regular basis to ensure that the noticing of intended minor works is issued in good time.
Town or Parish Council Commitment

Devon County Council would like to encourage Parish & Town Councils to agree to:-

- **Register** with the Road Warden Scheme;
- **Determine** minor works that can be undertaken by community self-help volunteers;
- **Take Responsibility** for delivering local self-help; and, where appropriate, ensure that the arrangements for the supply of materials are carried out in good time;
- **Demonstrate** that arrangements are in place to enable the supply of materials to be stored safely and securely;
- **Communicate** on a regular basis with DCC.
Devon County Council Commitment

Devon County Council will commit to:-

• **Train** Road Wardens as an integral part of the Community Self Help initiative;
• **Supply**, where appropriate, a limited range of construction materials suitable for the works that are being undertaken in accordance with the agreed programme;
• **Provide Public Liability Insurance** (but not other forms of insurance) as identified within the scheme.
Health & Safety Training

Devon County Council will provide Highway Safety Awareness Workshop Training and additional training as appropriate, to both Town and Parish Council representatives to allow them to participate in the voluntary Community Self-Help initiative.

The nominated Town and Parish Council representative will be the designated Road Warden who will act as the community co-ordinator of the voluntary self-help scheme. Road Wardens will be given the appropriate training and will undertake the role at their own risk while they engage in minor maintenance work within the community.
Public Liability

In the unlikely event of a claim being made, Devon County Council will cover the public liability aspect of insurance for voluntary maintenance work undertaken on or in the area of the public highway or footway, providing that it is undertaken in a safe manner according to Devon County Councils advice.

Devon County Council will not provide any other form of insurance cover for maintenance activities which must be undertaken at the volunteer’s own risk. If a community group considers that further insurance cover is required, then this should be sought from their own insurance company.
Supply of Materials

Devon County Council will provide a limited range of construction materials for minor maintenance works for tasks that require specific materials.

Devon County Council will provide guidance about the safe storage and use of materials supplied to carry out specific maintenance activities. The Road Warden will ensure that materials are used appropriately and ensure that any left-over following the completion of works are disposed appropriately.
Benefits of Road Warden: Community Self-Help Schemes

The benefits of Town and Parish Councils registering to become a member are:-

• Empowering communities to take local action;
• Being in a position to co-ordinate local effort and resources to where it is most needed;
• Provide a communication network between community groups and DCC local area staff.
How to enquire about registering your Town or Parish Council

If you already have regular contact with your Neighbourhood Highway Team, please contact them in the first instance about becoming involved and registering for the Road Warden: Community Self-Help scheme.

If you do not have a local contact, please call My Devon Customer Service Centre on 03845 155 1004 who will be able to link you with your local Neighbourhood Highway Team.
COMMUNITY SELF-HELP SCHEME

3 Activity Levels

Devon County Council (DCC) has a duty of care to maintain the public highway together with its legal responsibilities to ensure that the safety of both those working on the highway and the users of the highway is protected.

The Guidance Notes set down when and where town and parish community groups, working as volunteers, will be permitted to carry out activities within the boundaries of the public highway.
The Guidance Notes also give information in relation to the levels of experience, training and qualification required to maintain safe working within three basic categories:-

**LEVEL 1:** Working at a safe distance from the live carriageway / footway or under a Temporary Road Closure;

**LEVEL 2:** Working within the boundaries of a live carriageway/footway in an established low speed / low risk environment;

**LEVEL 3:** Working within the live carriageway/footway outside speed restricted zone and subject to national speed limits.
The type of works that will be undertaken by volunteer groups working under the community self – help initiative will include the following activities:

- Weed Clearance
- Sign Cleaning
- Gully Clearing
- Small Drainage Works
- Grass Cutting
- Finger Post Repairs
- Hedge Cutting
- Pothole and small surface defect repairs
- Surveys (ecological, geological, historical)
Thank You

Any Questions?