

Update on Get Wiltshire Walking programme

Briefing Note No. 26-12

Service : *Leisure, Culture and Communities*
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Get Wiltshire Walking is a long-established walking programme run by Wiltshire Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team. Its core purpose is to make walking accessible, social and free for residents across the county. These walks are designed to support:

- Physical activity
- Mental wellbeing
- Social connection
- Community engagement

The programme is hugely popular, and we are committed to ensuring it continues to support residents across Wiltshire. While we are making some changes to how the programme is managed, we want to reassure that Get Wiltshire Walking will continue. Walks across the county will continue to be delivered by our trained volunteer Walk Leaders, and residents will continue to be able to take part in the regular walks they enjoy.

The funding available to support the programme's Walks Coordinator role has come to an end and, following a recent review, the role will cease at the end of July. The individual currently undertaking this role has made a significant contribution to developing walking groups and promoting health and wellbeing across Wiltshire, and they leave with our very best wishes.

Going forward, the programme will be managed by the council's experienced Sport and Physical Activity Team. This will involve some adjustments to coordination, communication and support arrangements. However, our priorities remain unchanged: maintaining strong volunteer engagement, ensuring reliable scheduling of walks, and continuing to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience for participants. We have informed walk volunteers of the upcoming changes and, as part of the transition to the new arrangements from 1 August, members of the Sport and Physical Activity Team will be attending walks over the coming months to meet with volunteers and participants to discuss the changes and respond to any questions they may have.

Get Wiltshire Walking remains an important part of our approach to supporting active communities and residents will continue to have access to free, friendly and accessible walks

across the county,

If you have any questions about the new arrangements, please contact
david.redfern@wiltshire.gov.uk or getwiltshirewalking@wiltshire.gov.uk

Ends.