

Case Study: Healthy Communities

Working for the benefit of the Community – Community Commissioning



Where:
Herefordshire

When:
2018

Who:
Balfour Beatty Living Places, Herefordshire

“The installation of traffic islands on the A4110 in Wigmore came about after many residents had expressed concerns about pedestrians trying to cross the road in safety. The parish council and Ward Councillor had had several meetings with Herefordshire Council and BBLP to look at options that were both allowed and were within the parish council’s budget. The installation went ahead swiftly and without incident and the traffic islands have been a success with residents.”

Jano Rochefort, Parish Clerk

The Challenge

Many local communities, often through their parish had expressed an interest in directly funding minor works or services (through raising of precepts) to resolve issues or enhance their communities.

Communities understand local need and are better placed to recognise, fund and deliver on points of local concern ahead of the timescale that can be delivered through Herefordshire Council.

The Measures

Community commissioning was developed and launched in 2017 after collaboration between Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council developing a supported process with appropriate governance in place. Community commissioning enables parishes, groups or individuals to find cost effective ways to progress projects using either an approved third party of their choice or the services of Balfour Beatty with the necessary permissions in place.

The process is managed by Balfour Beatty where responsibilities include reviewing project requests, assessing feasibility and suitability, producing quotes and then either supplying and installing or overseeing an approved contractor, acting as project manager to achieve project completion. The process takes advantage of the established contractual mechanisms with Herefordshire Council who maintain responsibility for invoicing and payments and only when a project is

completed and handed over that payment is then released to Balfour Beatty.

The Results

During 2018, 72 projects were added to the Community Commissioning register with 6 projects completed, 5 proceeding and 42 active. The most popular request to date has been for additional signage with other requests including village gateways, engineered highways schemes and street furniture.

The model allows parishes the choice of investing in their community and a choice on who they wish to deliver the projects.

With the prior approval of Balfour Beatty Living Places, Wigmore Parish Council chose to use a third party to deliver a traffic island project to assist pedestrians crossing the road through the village. This was overseen by the parish council, who procured and arranged the installation of the traffic island directly through the supplier.

The parish received compliments on the addition once installed, and commented on how quick the installation process was. This was the first parish to complete a scheme through self-delivery and both the parish and Balfour Beatty Living Places were pleased with the outcome.

For more information, please contact:
communities@balfourbeatty.com