



Update - July 2015

Gaining Approval to Build

There's a new way to gain approval for a building project and it's called a **Community Right to Build Order** (CRtBO). This is a part of the government's initiative to devolve power to local communities and it was introduced in the 2011 Localism Act. The CRtBO process allows people to propose development in their local area and obtain permission for it. It is an alternative route to encouraging development, allowing communities to decide for themselves what is built.

The CRtBO replaces traditional planning permission but it is still a formal process with clearly defined steps.

This is how a successful CRtBO works:

- A community group develops and submits a plan
- The plan is examined against a set of criteria by an independent assessor. This is a rigorous process to ensure that all the relevant regulations and considerations have been addressed.
- The assessor recommends to the local authority that the plan proceed to referendum
- A referendum is held within the community - very similar to voting at an election.
- If a majority votes in favour, the plan proceeds and the building is built

The Steering Group feels that this approach is the right one for the new village hall which is a project for the community and should be approved by the community. Substantial grants are also available to support CRtBO applications and they will enable the Project to proceed from outline plans to a full application.

This procedure is so new it has never been used in Wiltshire before. We are feeling our way through the process and will be drawing on the experience of other groups in the UK who have successfully used the procedure for a variety of purposes - including building new village halls.