Welcome to South Wiltshire Community Web!

The South Wiltshire Community Web has been set up by the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance, a not-for-profit partnership that brings together all of South Wiltshire's major public and private sector agencies. Funding was secured from the Government's Pathfinder programme.

The idea is simple - to allow local groups, businesses and individuals the chance to build and maintain websites for free. **www.southwilts.com** uses simple templates to create web pages - so users don't need to know anything about computing to set up a site - simply type-and-go! It really is that easy. The templates enable users to put items in the South Wiltshire Online Diary, add press releases to South Wiltshire's Online News Service, maintain a document library, create a brochure, add a page of web links and set up a mailing list for supporters or customers. In fact, most of the features you would expect from a professionally designed site. If you already have a website, that is no problem - South Wiltshire Community Web enables you to create a link straight to your existing site.

Why are we targeting businesses? The Alliance has been consulting with local businesses over the last four years and one recurring theme is the need for additional business promotion. This is a particular issue for businesses in rural areas. The community web will enable local businesses to benefit from additional exposure without the additional costs that would normally be involved!

So, what does the Alliance get out of it? We want to create a single local point of access to all community information - a site built and maintained by the community for the community. In that way, local people will have improved access to local businesses, services, facilities, information and events available to them. Already, there are over 375 community sites online generating over 160,000 hits every month - and we have not yet officially launched the site to the community! We hope to drive that number up to over 1000 sites and 250,000 hits by the end of this year.   Once the business community is online we will launch to the general public with a massive publicity campaign backed by all of the Alliance partner organisations.

Community Web is a *public service*. It is free from the usual irritating pop-up adverts, unsolicited email and dubious content that you get with many so-called 'free' internet services. However, we do have sponsors to cover our ongoing maintenance costs - that is the way we make sure the service remains free for our users.

If you would like to know more about the service, or if you need help in getting started, please feel free to contact the Project Team. Alternatively, there is a user guide available online - simply click the link on the home page at www.southwilts.com.

Please help to support www.southwilts.com by creating a site, setting up a link to your existing site or simply by telling your friends, neighbours and customers about it. It is only with the support of the local community that this site will be a success.
And if you don't have a computer at work or home, that's no problem because you can now use computers with Broadband Internet access in your local library to access the service for free!

This is a genuine opportunity to support a fantastic local community project and promote your business at the same time - all for free. Why wait any longer?

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