

**Proposal:** To develop a community Firewise warden scheme under the work programme of Dorset Firewise project.

**Background:** Firewise UK is based on the international programme from The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Firewise information suggests simple practical steps for the home and garden which can reduce the risks of wildfire damage to homes close to heathlands or forest in Dorset. The information is equally relevant to individual homeowners or communities. However, the project is very much about encouraging communities to work together to reduce the risk, the emphasis is that everybody has a part to play, we can all help ourselves and our community. The project is delivered by the Urban Heath Partnership part time Firewise officer (14 hours per week). To develop a Fire Warden Scheme based around the Firewise principals would be a natural extension of the project and would naturally fit with the aims of Firewise.

**Expected Outcomes:** Develop a Community Firewise Warden scheme that will help reduce the number of fires within their communities by acting as the eyes and ears for the authorities when out and about as well as communicating key Firewise messages to others visiting their area.

The scheme will:

- Be developed by Firewise partners to ensure that there is input from all key players.
- Identify key hot spot areas that are deemed high fire risk or areas where there has been consistent issues.
- Link with a whole range of volunteers so that the duties of the Firewise warden could be in addition to what they already do in their current volunteering role.
- Recruit new volunteers to become Firewise wardens.
- An online training pack and on the ground/virtual training will be provided to ensure consistency and health and safety for those carrying out Firewise wardening activities.

Duties carried out by voluntary Firewise Wardens would include:

- Observing for any signs of fire and reporting them to the emergency services when out and about on local public open spaces and in community areas via an agreed scheme
- Distributing relevant information to key high fire risk areas
- Communicate with members of the public when out and about letting them know of the dangers of certain activities and provide them with
- Communicate via social media the key messages from FireWise
- Visit people at risk to ensure that they are aware when there is a high-risk alert.
- Support local Firewise Communities.

Work to develop the scheme will require additional staff time and resources to promote and support the new scheme.

**Costs:**

	Detail	Cost
Staff costs -	increase hours to the Firewise Officer role @ 22 hrs per week	£15,000

Travel		£ 500
Project resources	Events, leaflets, promotion	£3,000
TOTAL		£18,500
3 year TOTAL		£55,500