**Proposed change of Wiltshire Federation of WIs to a**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**

Dear WI President,

As you may be aware, the Wiltshire Federation of WIs is currently an Unincorporated Federation. This means that it has no legal status of its own, having Trustees who hold assets on behalf of the Federation. The Trustees of an Unincorporated Federation are personally liable for any debts incurred or any legal action that may be directed at the Federation.

The board of Trustees has discussed the proposal that the Federation become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); this is a bespoke legal vehicle for charities. A CIO is registered with the Charity Commission. The principal intended benefits are that it has a legal status, the ability to conduct business in its own name and limited liability; meaning that its members and Trustees would not have to contribute in the event of financial loss.

Your Board of Trustees believe that the status of CIO is better suited to our Federation than the current Unincorporated position. The advantages and disadvantages are set out in the attached sheet.

A resolution proposing the transfer of the Federation to a CIO, and the subsequent dissolution of the Unincorporated Federation will be presented at the Annual Council Meeting on Saturday, October 16th, via Zoom. If this resolution is approved then it will be put before the NFWI Annual meeting on June 11th 2022, for ratification of the creation of the new, Incorporated Federation and the dissolution of the old, Unincorporated Federation.

We are sending this information in order for you to consult your members and decide how you would like your Delegate to vote at the Annual Council Meeting.

There will be an information and discussion evening on Monday, September 6th at 7pm (via Zoom). Please would you contact WI House for details of how to attend.