

Claire Chapman

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Subject: Community Empowerment network newsletter - May 2012

Community Empowerment Newsletter May 2012

Welcome to the monthly Community Empowerment e-bulletin for the East Midlands Community Empowerment Network, which aims to keep you up-to-date on relevant community empowerment news and events.

If you have any comments, please get in touch by emailing information@one-em.org.uk. You can also visit the Community Empowerment Network page at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/viewpage.php?page_id=120. If you do not wish to receive further monthly issues, please email information@one-em.org.uk.

If you have any events, news articles, announcements etc that you would like to contribute to the June Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to clairechapman@one-em.org.uk by Friday 15 June 2012.

One East Midlands News

Join your local Safer Future Communities network

As you may be aware, One East Midlands has recently been appointed to work in partnership with NAVCA and CLINKS to run four local networks in Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, as part of the Safer Future Communities (SFC) programme. Voluntary Action Leicestershire will run the network in Leicestershire.

The SFC programme aims to support frontline VCS organisations in preparation for the arrival of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012, by building a strong, vibrant and influential VCS network in each of the police and crime commissioners areas.

As an existing member of the Community Empowerment Network, we would

like to take this opportunity to invite you to join your local SFC network, where you will have the opportunity to inform your Police and Crime Commissioner with the knowledge they need of the local needs of your community.

As a member of the SFC network, you will receive regular e-bulletins and have the opportunity to participate in a range of events and activities, including the forthcoming network launches. For further information on the SFC programme click [here](#).

If you are interested in joining your local SFC network email information@one-em.org.uk or telephone 0115 934 8471 with your contact details and the name of the county whose network you want to join. Please also pass this email onto any of your contacts who might be interested in getting involved with the networks.

Empowerment News

Consultation on rural issues within LEPs

The Commission for Rural Communities wants to hear views from Local Enterprise Partnerships, the VCS, the business community, and those operating in the public sector on how LEPs are including rural areas within their work, including what you think are the top priorities that will help ensure that rural areas are considered by LEPs, and the different ways in which LEPs are recognising rural interests.

The responses received will inform a workshop for LEPs and others representing rural businesses and communities, as well as Government Departments, to be held in the Autumn. The closing date for responses is the end of June 2012.

For further information and to download the call for evidence visit www.defra.gov.uk/crc/how-are-rural-interests-being-recognised-within-local-enterprise-partnerships.

Online map showcases community services

Community and voluntary groups across the country are being encouraged by the Department for Communities and Local Government to showcase how they are driving improvements in local services on a new interactive map at www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/newsroom/2150454.

The 'Communities in Action' online map aims to highlight local projects that are making a real difference and keeping much-loved assets, including community pubs, local shops and post offices alive.

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To share what you are doing in your community through the map email a short description of your project and a web-link to BigSocietyIdeas@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Empowerment Funding

Rural Community Broadband Fund

The second round of the £20million Rural Community Broadband Fund has opened, which aims to enable whole communities in remote rural areas to get superfast broadband to help transform their businesses and the wider community.

The fund complements the Government's £530 million Broadband Delivery UK programme to provide superfast broadband to 90 percent of every county. The Rural Community Broadband Fund allows for communities in the remaining ten percent to develop projects for a superfast broadband connection.

For further information on the fund, which is jointly funded by Defra and Broadband Delivery UK and is being delivered through the Rural Development Programme for England, visit <http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/rural-community-broadband-fund>. Applications close on 6 July.

Paths for Communities grant scheme

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has asked Natural England to develop and run a new Paths for Communities grant

scheme, to encourage and enable local communities to work with land owners to develop and enhance local public paths.

Expected wider benefits of the scheme include more appeal to visitors and tourists and boosting the rural economy through improved support for local services such as shops, pubs, hotels, bed & breakfasts, equestrian and cycle businesses.

The anticipated funding for the scheme will be £1million a year for 2012/13 and 2013/14. For further information on the grant scheme, including how to apply, visit www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/default.aspx.

Funding for volunteers to improve communities

vInspired, the Volunteering Charity, has announced that its Cashpoint grants scheme is once open for applications. The scheme offers grants of up to £500 to give young people (aged 14-25) the opportunity to bring their ideas to improve their local community to life. For further information on the funding, which is available to individual young people or small groups who have developed a project idea and will run the project themselves, visit <http://vinspired.com/vcashpoint/opportunities/10066-vinspiredcashpoint/activities/157789-fundingfor-your-project>.

Empowerment Resources

Community Right to Build support service

Locality, in partnership with HACT and Urban Forum, has announced that they are running the Community Right to Build support service. The Community Right to Build will allow people to build homes and facilities for the community without going through the usual planning process.

Locality and its partners will provide free expert support through the new website <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk>, which includes information and resources supporting communities at all stages of the process, including getting started, looking for legal advice or information on a business case. There will also be a dedicated advice service with access to specialists in the Community Right to Build.

Part of the Localism Act, the Community Right to Build is one of four rights contained in the Localism Act. The Community Rights support services are funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government with the Community Right to Bid and to Challenge in effect from June/July 2012.

Community Rights website

The Department for Communities and Local Government has launched Community Rights, a new website aimed at promoting community ownership of local amenities, ahead of new regulations on the issue coming into force next month. The Community Rights website has been launched by the Communities and Local Government department before regulations on community ownership come into force next month.

The website at <http://communityrights.communities.gov.uk> highlights changes in the law intended to help community groups take over buildings or public services, or build new facilities through an abridged planning process. It also includes case studies and maps of schemes where community groups took over the running of buildings or services or been involved in designing a new development.

Top Tips for Public Events

Community Matters, together with the Big Lunch, the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Streets Alive, the Department for Transport and the Local Government Association have brought together the main information you might need when organising a public event.

To download the guide, which covers events including fetes, parades and charity fundraisers that will attract an audience of several hundred people and may feature sales of food and alcohol, visit www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10171/3577671/PUBLICATION-TEMPLATE.

Host a Nation Week

Taking place from 16 to 22 July, Host a Nation Week aims to encourage local communities across the country to celebrate a positive link with the UK whose teams are based in the UK for pre-games training camps. As part of this, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has published a guide aimed at local communities, community groups, business groups and sports clubs to help them to make the most of the opportunities available. To download the guide visit www.culture.gov.uk/publications/9005.aspx.

You are receiving this as a member of the Empowerment network. Please feel free to share this e-bulletin or any of the information in it with your members and contacts. If you have something you would like us to publicise that's of regional interest to the Empowerment network, you can email us at information@one-em.org.uk
If you no longer wish to receive these emails or if you would like to change your

contact details, email us at information@one-em.org.uk

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