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Empowerment Newsletter

August 2011

Welcome to the fourth edition of the monthly Empowerment e-bulletin for the East Midlands Empowerment Network, which will aim to keep you up-to-date on relevant empowerment news and events.

You are receiving this e-bulletin as a contact for an organisation listed on the East Midlands Empowerment Partnership Directory. If you do not wish to receive further monthly issues, please email information@one-em.org.uk.

If you have any comments, please get in touch by emailing information@one-em.org.uk. You can also visit the East Midlands Empowerment Network website at www.emep.org.uk or the One East Midlands website at www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk.

If you have any events, news articles, announcements etc that you would like to contribute to the September Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to clairechapman@one-em.org.uk by Friday 16 September 2011.

Empowerment News

£80million Community First programme

Community First is an £80million government-funded programme that will help communities come together through new and existing community groups, to identify their strengths and local priorities, plan for their future and become more resilient. It consists of the £30million Neighbourhood Match Fund small grants programme for some of the most deprived areas in the country and a national £50million Endowment Match Challenge.

The Neighbourhood Match Fund will use the £30million fund to encourage people in deprived communities to give their time and expertise to local projects, to raise money and help make their local area a better place to live. The Endowment Match Challenge will mobilise both national and local giving and philanthropy. It aims to raise £100million in donations, which will be matched with £50million of government investment. This money will continue to grow over the life of the programme ensuring a sustainable source of funding for communities in years to come.

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) will work with several organisations to deliver the Community First programme, including supermarket chain Asda. Through Asda's nationwide network, customers and colleagues will be able to identify local priorities and support local groups through fundraising in store and online.

CDF is moving quickly with partners to get these two projects up and running. The aim is to start releasing funds for the small grants programme by September.

For further information visit www.cdf.org.uk/web/quest/community-first, email communityfirst@cdf.org.uk or telephone 020 7833 1772 and press '3' for a member of the Programmes Team.

Free practical support for local communities

Building Community provides free practical support to help local communities get

involved in place-shaping and make the most of the new powers offered in the Localism Bill. The service is aimed at:

- Community anchor organisations, such as a development trust, settlement or social action centre
- Groups working inclusively for the whole community
- Groups seeking to influence the built environment

To access tailored support, advice, resources, workshops and events visit <http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community>

Building Community is a consortium led by Locality, in partnership with Glass-House Community Led Design, the Eden Project, and communityplanning.net, plus a wide range of experts and practitioners. It is one of four groups delivering the Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning scheme on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Village SOS Active campaign to inspire rural communities

Villages across the East Midlands are set to benefit from the new Village SOS Active campaign to help communities buck the trend of rural decline by starting up new community enterprises. The UK-wide campaign, launched by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) includes a £5million funding pot, which aims to inspire and equip people in rural communities to tackle local problems and help revive their local area. The campaign launches alongside the Village SOS television series, which began on BBC1 on Wednesday 10 August.

Part of the campaign, www.villagesos.org.uk will offer tools and information to help people bring their ideas for community businesses to life. It will also enable people to share advice and first-hand experiences through an online community network where people can discuss ideas and share solutions to common issues. The website will direct people to the best source of funding for their community business, including more details about the Village SOS Active competition. The competition has £5million Lottery funding in awards of £10,000 to £30,000 for the brightest ideas for new community enterprises that will make a lasting difference in rural communities with a population of less than 3,000.

BIG will also offer face-to-face advice to communities at a range of learning events across the UK, and a dedicated national advice line, run by rural community enterprise experts the Plunkett Foundation, where people can receive tailored advice on different aspects of setting up a community business.

The BBC1 series follows six UK villages, including three in the East Midlands, who received a £400,000 Big Lottery Fund grant to set up a new community-run-business to rejuvenate their local area. The three villages featured from the region are:

- **Caistor, Lincolnshire:** The Caistor Arts and Heritage Centre project was awarded Village SOS funding to breathe new life into a former Methodist chapel building in the historic rural village of Caistor. The project has created a hub for a range of arts and heritage activities, a library and cafe for refreshments.
- **Tideswell, Peak District:** The Taste Tideswell project was awarded a grant to launch a project that capitalises on the village's history of producing quality food. Based on four elements - 'Grow it, Cook it, Make it and Sell it' - the new community-run business includes a community nursery, kitchen garden, Taste Tideswell brand, micro brewery and cookery school - The Tideswell School of Food.
- **Newstead, Nottinghamshire:** The Future Newstead project was awarded a grant to transform the site of the former pit tips into a thriving Country Park. A sustainable eco-build visitor centre is being built and the original finishing and polishing ponds transformed into angling lakes and an annual music festival has been launched.

BT Community Connections open for applications

BT Community Connections is now open for applications from community groups that help, or want to help, people access the internet and improve their ICT skills. Eligible groups will receive 12 months' free broadband from BT.

The deadline for applications is 5.30pm on Thursday 15 September. For further information on the award and to apply online visit

www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/BTCommunityconnections/index.htm

BT Community Connections, which supports a range of community and charitable groups across the UK, is part of BT's Get IT Together campaign. For further information visit

www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/index.htm

Motor insurers pledge not to charge volunteer drivers premiums

54 insurance brands, representing 85 per cent of the motor insurance market, have signed up to a commitment, pledging not to charge extra premiums for volunteers who use their cars to help their local communities, according to the Association of British Insurers.

One of the concerns highlighted in Unshackling Good Neighbours, the recent report by Lord Hodgson's Big Society Deregulation Taskforce, set up to investigate ways of preventing bureaucracy from stifling charities, was that

volunteers currently have to tell insurers about their volunteer driving, which some companies do not accept as "social driving" and charge more for.

The taskforce found that the extra cost and associated burdensome form-filling deterred volunteers from using their cars for journeys such as taking old and sick people to hospital or on day trips. The commitment will apply to private car insurance policies for policyholders' own vehicles.

The Association of British Insurers said in a statement: "*Insurers will make all the necessary information publicly available so that volunteers can be fully covered to take part in community activities*".

For further information on the Association of British Insurers visit www.abi.org.uk. Unshackling Good Neighbours can be downloaded from www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/unshackling-good-neighbours.pdf

82 East Midlands green spaces awarded

A record number of 82 parks and green spaces throughout the East Midlands have received the Green Flag Award or Community Award, showing that green space is vital to communities. Of the 82 award-winning green spaces in the region this year, 62 have received a Green Flag Award and 20 have been awarded the Community Award.

The Green Flag Award Scheme is the national standard for parks in the UK and recognises well-managed, high-quality areas. Part of the same scheme, the Community Award is awarded to parks or green spaces managed by a community or voluntary group.

Throughout the UK 1,288 parks and green spaces received the Green Flag Award or Community Award this year, with award-winning sites raising their flags throughout Love Parks Week, from the 23 to 31 July. All award-winning sites now have the chance to receive a further award from the Green Flag Plus Partnership, the People's Choice Award, voted for by the public.

The Green Flag Award Scheme is managed by a consortium, comprising Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV and GreenSpace, which manages the scheme in England on behalf of Communities and Local Government. For further information visit www.keepbritaintidy.org/GreenFlag

National Independent Living Awards 2011

Nominations are now open for the National Independent Living Awards, which showcase organisations and individuals that excel in supporting independent living. The deadline for nominations is 5pm on Monday 24 October. The award categories are:

- Overall Independent Living Initiative
- Accessible Transport
- Good Practice in Employing Disabled People (Voluntary and Community groups, Social Enterprises and Charities)
- Good Practice in Employing Disabled People (Larger Organisations in the Public or Private Sectors)
- Good Practice in Employing Disabled People (SMEs in the Public or Private Sectors)
- Peer Support
- Disabled Entrepreneur of the Year
- Accessible Communities – for organisations or partnerships that have built or modified housing or public spaces to be more accessible
- Public Sector Engagement – for public sector organisations that proactively engage with disabled people in the development of policies, practices and services
- Tackling Disability Hate Crime – for organisations or projects that can demonstrate a real and positive impact on victims of disability hate crime, harassment or victimisation

Winning organisations will receive a piece of specially commissioned glass artwork designed by artist Anne Smith, a certificate and will be entitled to use the Breakthrough 2011 National ILA logo for 12 months.

For further information, including a nomination form, visit www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk/NewsAndEvents/ila_2011 or contact Jenni Byrne at j.byrne@breakthrough-uk.co.uk or on 0161 273 5412.

sported. membership begins opening up to region

sported., a national charity providing support to community sport organisations that work with young people in disadvantaged areas, has opened its membership up to Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and sported, spreading across the East Midlands by 2012. The charity will focus on supporting voluntary and community organisations across the region that use sport for development in deprived and disadvantage communities with services in capacity building and funding services.

It is anticipated that membership will be opened up to Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire in January 2012 and Leicestershire and Rutland from June 2012. In addition sported. will be recruiting mentors with an array of skills to support their Members.

For further information on sported, visit www.sported.org.uk

Empowerment Training

All of the events below can be found on the One East Midlands training and events page. (www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/infusions/one_events_panel/event_list.php).

29 September 2011 - Mentoring and Befriending Foundation Conference

In these challenging times MBF believe there is optimism and that MBF should be at the heart of the government's agenda for the Big Society, encouraging social action and participation in communities.

For information click more [here](#)

30 September 2011 - Community Assets Matter Free Training

Work with children or young people? Run a community centre or control community buildings? Looking to bring community services into your youth centre – or youth services into your community building? Community Matters is offering up to 15 free places at their participatory asset management course in Newcastle.

For information click more [here](#)

22 October 2011 - Get Up Stand Up: CDX Conference

Communities and community development are being buffeted by strong winds. Do we batten down the hatches and hope it passes, or work together to build a flying ship?

For information click more [here](#)

01 November 2011 - Locality '11 2 day National Convention - Communities ambitious for change

Locality '11 is a unique opportunity to join the UK's largest gathering of community-led organisations – to talk openly about our challenges and opportunities, to share stories and learn from others, to inspire and be inspired.

For information click more [here](#)

Empowerment Resources

All of the resources below have recently been added to the One East Midlands online library (www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/infusions/library_panel).

- [Community organisations controlling assets: a better understanding \(Joseph Rowntree Foundation, June 2011\)](#)
- [Community Right to Build; An Opportunity in the Making \(Communities & Local Government, 2011\)](#)
- [Community Rights and Neighbourhood Planning: What community activists are saying \(Urban Forum Surveys, 2011\)](#)
- [Equality Act 2010 Toolkit: A resource for the BAME community sector \(Roots Resource Centre, June 2011\)](#)
- [Inspiring Communities, Changing Behaviour: A practical guide to delivering local campaigns to change behaviour and benefit young people \(Communities and Local Government, June 2011\)](#)
- [Proposals to introduce a Community Right to Buy - Assets of Community Value - Consultation: Summary of responses \(Communities and Local Government, 12 August 2011\)](#)
- [REDP Briefing Series: Localism and Equality \(August 2011\)](#)

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

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