

**Claire Chapman**

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**From:** Claire Chapman

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**Subject:** Community Empowerment network newsletter - August 2012

# Community Empowerment Newsletter August 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](mailto:information@one-em.org.uk). You can also visit the Community Empowerment Network page at [www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/viewpage.php?page\\_id=120](http://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](mailto:information@one-em.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](mailto:clairechapman@one-em.org.uk) by Friday 21 September 2012.

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## Empowerment News

### Sustainable Communities Act consultation

The Government is consulting on whether to allow Town and Parish Councils to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act. At a time when communities are suffering from cuts to local services and an economic recession, Town and Parish councils could use the Act to provide a vital lifeline to struggling local areas. To take part in the consultation, which closes on 5 September, visit [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/scaconsultation2012?utm\\_source=Linx+242+-+16+August&utm\\_campaign=linx242&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/scaconsultation2012?utm_source=Linx+242+-+16+August&utm_campaign=linx242&utm_medium=email).

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# Empowerment Funding

## **£16.7million asset transfer fund**

The Community Ownership and Management of Assets (including Right to Bid) Grant Programme, a £16.7million grant fund managed by the Social Investment Business on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government, has been opened to support community groups to buy publicly owned assets.

Community organisations will be able to get support to acquire and manage assets through pre-feasibility grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 to help them build the internal capacity needed to take ownership of assets. Organisations that can show evidence of plans to take over land or buildings can apply for grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 to help undertake feasibility studies to take on asset ownership and management.

For further information on the Grant Programme, which will also support local authorities with Community Asset Transfer, visit <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/> and [www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/communityrights/](http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/communityrights/).

## **See it and Believe it fund**

The National Community and Trust Network's peer to peer learning exchange programme for community organisations, See it and Believe it, is now open for applications. The programme gives new projects the chance to visit successful Community Land Trusts across the country, to learn from their experience and share ideas.

For further information on the programme, which is open to existing and prospective members of the National CLT Network and offers grants of up to £500 per group, visit [www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/See-it-and-Believe-it/see-it-and-believe-it-grant?utm\\_source=Linx+242+-+16+August&utm\\_campaign=linx242&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/See-it-and-Believe-it/see-it-and-believe-it-grant?utm_source=Linx+242+-+16+August&utm_campaign=linx242&utm_medium=email).

## **Low carbon heat grants**

Community groups across the country are now eligible to apply for a share of £8million to install low carbon heating, including solar thermal panels, biomass boilers and heat pumps into homes in their local area.

To apply groups need to submit a first stage application to the Energy Saving

Trust by 7 September. Applications will be judged on a range of criteria, including the project's vision, potential benefits for the local area, potential partners and any relevant experience of delivering similar projects.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change expects to support between 50 and 100 projects through the £8million fund and will announce the winners in December this year. For further information visit

[www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn12\\_087/pn12\\_087.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn12_087/pn12_087.aspx).

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## Empowerment Resources

### Community grown food

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published new 'how-to' advice to inspire communities to spot disused green spaces in their local areas and its use for food growing. A recent survey revealed that nearly two thirds of adults want to grow their own food. Unfortunately it is increasingly difficult as local authority allotments are significantly oversubscribed, with waiting lists over ten times longer than those in 1996.

The publication, which can be downloaded at [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/foodgrowingguide](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/foodgrowingguide), gives local people practical advice on new ways to get access to less conventional sources of land and green space to grow their own food as well as suggestions for wider community involvement, helpful tips on how to get funding and examples of projects already in bloom.

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## Empowerment Events

### Community Organising through Inclusive Collective Action

Taking place on Wednesday 12 September from 9.30am to 4pm at Queens Walk Community Centre, Nottingham, this one day course is aimed at community activists and paid and unpaid workers who, within their ongoing roles, support the learning, development and actions of small groups and networks. For further information and to book visit [www.fcdl.org/events/344](http://www.fcdl.org/events/344).

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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](mailto: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](mailto:information@one-em.org.uk)

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