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Subject: Community Empowerment network newsletter - July 2012

Community Empowerment Newsletter July 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 August Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to clairechapman@one-em.org.uk by Friday 24 August 2012.

Empowerment Funding

£30million funding for local communities

Two new sources of funding have been announced for communities, worth a total of £30million. The £19million Community Ownership of Assets programme offers grants to communities wanting to take control of a local asset such as a pub, shop, or library. The programme is part of the Community Right to Bid, which comes into force in the autumn.

The Community Right to Challenge, which has recently become law, has £11million of grants available to communities with ideas about how they can run a local service. The grants programme is provided by the Social Investment Business. For further information and to register your interest in The Right to Challenge grants, which launched on 16 July, visit <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/>.

Cooperative Community Fund

The Co-Community Fund provides grants of £100 and £2,000 are awarded to community groups to cover everything from equipment to event costs, help towards rent or fixtures, sport and computer equipment. For further information including how to apply to the fund, which also now supports running costs including salary costs, rent and heating, visit www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities/community-fund.

Empowerment Resources

Free BT broadband

The BT Community Connections award scheme is offering community groups who helps the community access the internet and improves people's ICT skills, a possible year of free broadband. For further information visit www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclus

Free neighbourhood planning support

Cabe at the Design Council is offering free independent support to a community groups working on neighbourhood planning projects to help communities take their aspirations for their neighbourhoods forward. The

support is free to those in local authorities that have front runner funding from DCLG, which include the following in the East Midlands:

- Blaby District Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- East Northamptonshire Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- Kettering Borough Council
- Melton Borough Council
- Newark & Sherwood District Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Rutland County Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Northamptonshire Council
- West Lindsey District Council

The Cabe team will work with community groups to tailor a support package of hands-on expert help, using their pool of architects, planners, urban designers, landscape architects and those with community involvement experience to provide the expertise needed.

Help can include exploring potential, delivering training, providing technical expertise, reviewing documents produced, helping to overcome sticking points or advising on writing briefs, visions and plans.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 20 August, with the free support provided between September 2012 and March 2013. For further information, including how to apply visit www.designcouncil.org.uk/NeighbourhoodPlanningSupport.

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Designing a Community Website

Software company Serif has producing a list of five dos and don'ts for creating community websites, which are:

- Do include valuable content - Design your site around your content and, before you start designing, ensure the content is concise, will interest visitors and hold their attention.
- Don't distract visitors - Keep things as simple as possible and make it clear where you want your customer to click next.
- Do make your website easy to read - Let your content to do the talking and don't make it difficult to digest. Keep sentences and paragraphs short. Stick to Arial, Tahoma, or Verdana fonts.
- Do make it easy to navigate - Keep pages structured, consistent and uncluttered, with menus in a fixed place throughout a site and images aligned with text for example.
- Do think about SEO in the design phase - Incorporate search engine optimisation into the design process.

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.

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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