

Claire Chapman

From: Claire Chapman

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Subject: Community Empowerment network newsletter - June 2012

Community Empowerment Newsletter June 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 July Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to clairechapman@one-em.org.uk by Friday 20 July 2012.

One East Midlands News

REMINDER: 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

Sustainable Communities Act

Decentralisation Minister Greg Clark has announced that community groups, social enterprises and volunteers keen to get things done in their area will have new rights to ensure their bureaucracy cutting proposals get heard through the Sustainable Communities Act, which will provide a way for people to ask, via their local council, that central government removes barriers that hinder them from improving their area.

Many community action groups have come up against bureaucracy that holds them back from delivering innovative ideas that will make their village or town a better place to live - such as planning regulations or bye-laws. The Act provides a clear process to reduce or remove barriers affecting local action. Groups or individuals using the Act will have more opportunity to ensure their bureaucracy cutting proposals are successful, including a new light-touch duty that ensures previously dismissed proposals can be reconsidered.

A third party selector will be able to provide a robust challenge by asking Government to review its decision on behalf of a local authority so that the Government has to fully justify its reasons for rejecting the original proposal, making it more accountable. The Government will also need to consult and try and reach an agreement with the selector before a decision is made on whether the proposal should be implemented.

A consultation on whether town and parish councils should be given the power to submit Sustainable Communities Act proposals, which they currently have to submit via their local authority, has also been launched. The consultation recognises the important role these councils play in their area and acknowledges they often know best the barriers they face on the ground in bringing about local improvements.

The Sustainable Community Act regulations will come into force on 26 July. For further information on the consultation, which closes on 5 September, visit www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/scaconsultation2012. For a summary of the responses to the consultation on Sustainable Community Act regulations visit www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/scaresponses.

Community Life survey

The Cabinet Office is commissioning Community Life, a new survey for 2012/13, which will track the latest trends and developments across key areas to encouraging social action and empowering communities. For further information on the survey, which will cover volunteering, charitable giving, local action and networks and wellbeing, visit www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/community-life-survey-commissioned?utm_source=Linux+234+-+21+June&utm_campaign=linux234&utm_medium=email.

Empowerment Funding

Community Learning Innovation Fund

The Community Learning Innovation Fund, which is designed to support new and imaginative community learning opportunities that encourage adults to take up, succeed and progress in learning, is now open for applications.

Organisations can bid for a share of £4 million for projects that develop and offer creative learning opportunities that engage and motivate, in particular, disadvantaged adults. Projects will be funded to run from September 2012 to 31 July 2013.

The minimum amount for any bid is £10,000 and the maximum £65,000. The deadline for applications for less than £50,000 is 12noon on Thursday 5 July and for applications for more than £50,000 12noon on Thursday 28 June.

For further information and to apply online to the fund, which is administered by NIACE on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency, visit www.niace.org.uk/current-work/clif/community-learning-innovation-fund?utm_source=http%3a%2f%2flists.niace.org.uk%2f%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=507+CLIFlaunchemail22May&utm_term=507%20CLIFlaunchemail22May&utm_content=131732. Successful projects will be contacted on Thursday 16 August 2012.

Communitybuilders Fund

Set up by the Department of Communities and Local Government and managed by the Social Investment Business, the Communitybuilders Fund opened for a new round of loan and grant applications on 11 June.

The aim of the fund is to increase sustainability and social impact of community enterprises. For further information, including how to apply, visit www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk.

Empowerment Resources

New tools to map and manage community assets

Locality, the UK network for community organisations, has launched two new online tools to help communities manage their local areas as part of their new rights under the 2011 Localism Act.

The Place Station, which can be accessed at www.theplacestation.org.uk, allows communities to map land and buildings that are valued by local residents. It also invites users to add or find assets and encourages private sector professionals to offer their

support to help get projects off the ground.

The Building Calculator, which can be accessed at www.buildingcalculator.org.uk, offers communities professional advice on how to work out the long-term costs of a building. Using up-to-date building component data, and the whole life costing methodology employed by surveyors and construction professionals, the tool enables communities to plan ahead for future building maintenance and replacement costs.

Can You Plan It?

Community Matters has launched Can You Plan It?, an new tool for community organisations that aims to help make business planning participatory and fun. The tool works like a game and offers a new approach for organisations to use with trustees, volunteers, staff and users, and offers a new perspective on business planning and collaboration.

The tool is flexible, enabling users can either to adopt an imagined organisation based in the fictional town of Blaybeck to learn more about the process of business planning, or adapt it to model situations for their own organisation., helping them to engage in and bring creativity and imagination to their strategic planning.

To download the free tool, which includes session-based resources, instructions for facilitation, further guidance, templates and information on the business planning process, visit www.communitymatters.org.uk/content.aspx?CategoryID=553.

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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T: 0115 934 8471 **F:** 0115 934 8436 **W:** www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk

One East Midlands, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB
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