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From: Claire Chapman
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Attachments: Big Lottery Fund's Torch Relay Event Invitation.doc

Empowerment Newsletter

January 2012

Happy New Year and welcome to issue 9 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.

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 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 February Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to clairechapman@one-em.org.uk by Friday 17 February 2012.

Empowerment News

Community workers recognised in 2012 New Year Honours List

The Empowerment network would like to take the opportunity to congratulate those individuals in the East Midlands who were recognised in the 2012 New Year Honours List for their community work, including:

Order of the British Empire – Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE):

- Robert James Allen – For services to ex-service men and women in Leicestershire and Rutland and to the community in Belton-in-Rutland
- Frieda Patricia Minns – For services to the community in Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire
- Winston Stephen Nurse – For services to the community in Leicester
- Michael Smith, JP – For services to the community in Netherfield,

Nottingham

- Geoffrey Eric Michael Stevens – For services to the community in Matlock, Derbyshire
- Morcea Antoinette Walker – For services to the community in Northamptonshire
- Akran Zaman, JP. President, Protocol – For services to the community in Northampton

Please note that due to the length of the New Year Honours List and some of the wording of the honours, we may have accidentally missed some people off this list. If this is the case, please accept our apologies and congratulations to those people also.

Empowerment Funding

£150million Community First endowment fund launched

The Community First endowment fund, which aims to raise £150million of investment to deliver around £12million in annual returns to provide grants to local community and social action projects from 2015 onwards. has been launched.

The endowment will be delivered by Community Development Foundation (CDF), who are also delivering a £30million small grants scheme through the government's Community First programme, encouraging in-kind investment, such as expertise or time dedicated to a cause, in return for funding of up to £30,000. CDF was chosen to deliver the Community First programme after delivering the government's four-year £130million Grassroots Grants programme which closed in March last year. It has also been chosen to deliver the £200million Big Local Trust endowment.

For further information visit www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/community-first.

Law changes to enable community groups to join credit unions

From 8 January, community groups will be able to join a credit union under changes made to the Credit Unions Act 1979. Previously, only individuals were able to be members of credit unions and use the financial services they provide. However, last November, a Legislative Reform Order was passed by Parliament, under the Credit Unions Act 1979, meaning that credit unions will be able to:

- Reach out to more people by extending membership to new groups
- Provide services to the VCS, social enterprises and businesses, not just individuals
- Choose to pay interest on savings, instead of a dividend.

As financial co-operatives, owned and controlled by their members, credit unions have no outside shareholders to pay and any profit they make stays in the community and is used to develop the credit union and provide a return to savers.

Empowerment Resources

Toolkit for community development

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has published a toolkit to help partners put communities in charge of development in their area, including guidance on how they can apply for funding to take on development themselves. The toolkit, which brings together practical resources for undertaking effective community engagement and promoting and sharing innovation and best practice, can be downloaded from www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/community-engagement.

Part of the Government's recent Housing Strategy, the HCA has also published bidding guidance and criteria on how community-led groups can apply for funding to take forward their own housing and regeneration projects. Funding is available as part of the Affordable Homes Programme, which aims to deliver up to 80,000 affordable homes by 2015, and is part of the HCA's enabling and investment role and commitment to localism.

Empowerment Events

Torch Relay East Midlands community events - February

Do you or do you know of a community group that would like to deliver a community event or celebration event this summer to support the torch relay or 2012 games? The Lottery Fund, in partnership with a range of local organisations, are delivering their Torch Relay across the East Midlands in February for community groups wanting to deliver community, environmental, educational or health projects to link in with the games Torch Relay.

Our briefings will provide information about Awards for All and other small funding opportunities to help you celebrate the games as well as informing you how you could be part of the Breath of Fresh Air strand of the East Midlands Cultural Olympiad. Find out how to make a successful application and what types of projects the Big Lottery Fund could potentially fund, at one of the events below:

- Monday 6 February, 9.30am – 12:30pm, Fairplay, Chesterfield.
- Wednesday 8 February, 9.30am – 12:30pm, Healthy Hub, Lincoln.
- Friday 10 February, 9.30am – 12:30pm, Orange Rooms, Leicester.
- Wednesday 15 February, 9.30am – 12:30pm, West Glebe Pavilion, Corby.
- Thursday 16 February, 1:30pm – 4:30pm, New Mechanics, Nottingham

To book, complete and return the registration form attached to this e-bulletin to enquiries.em@biglotteryfund.org.uk by Wednesday 1 February. For further information contact Kelly Hart on 0115 8722966 or email enquiries.em@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

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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