

**Claire Chapman**

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**From:** Claire Chapman

**Sent:** 19 March 2012 10:29

**Subject:** Empowerment network newsletter - Issue 11, March 2012

# Empowerment Newsletter

## March 2012

Welcome to issue 11 of the monthly Empowerment e-bulletin for the East Midlands Empowerment Network, which will aim 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 East Midlands Empowerment Network website at [www.emep.org.uk](http://www.emep.org.uk) or the One East Midlands website at [www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk](http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk). 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 April Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to [clairechapman@one-em.org.uk](mailto:clairechapman@one-em.org.uk) by Friday 19 April 2012.

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## One East Midlands News

### **One EM appointed to deliver Safer Future Communities networks**

One East Midlands has been appointed to work in partnership with NAVCA and CLINKS to run four local networks engaging communities with police and crime commissioners in Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, as part of the Safer Future Communities programme.

The programme aims to support frontline VCS organisations in preparation for the arrival of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012. Its aim is to build a strong, vibrant and influential VCS network in each of the police and crime commissioners areas, which are replacing police authorities, in England and Wales to ensure knowledge of local needs is recognised in developing local policing plans.

One EM will be working to establish these networks in the four counties, with the aim of making them self-sufficient and locally managed in the future. Voluntary Action Leicestershire will run the network in Leicestershire.

If you are interested in joining one of the networks or in supporting One EM with this programme email [information@one-em.org.uk](mailto:information@one-em.org.uk). For further information on Safer Future Communities visit [www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/viewpage.php?page\\_id=117](http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/viewpage.php?page_id=117).

## **One EM organises Community Insight Visits**

One East Midlands, in partnership with Business in the Community, has organised three free Community Insight Visits in March to Soft Touch Arts in Leicester, and Ecoworks in Nottingham, both of which have now taken place, and to Oasis Community Centre in Worksop on Wednesday 28 March, which some places are still available for.

The aim of these three free, informal and interactive, half-day site visits is for up to 15 participants to learn from the experiences, struggles, successes and good practices of these fantastic community organisations. Visitors will:

- See how the organisation do what they do and where they operate from
- Be able to share and learn from their good practice
- Talk to key members of staff about how they can support and replicate similar community empowerment work in their area.

The organisations were chosen following a request for nominations last Autumn. As part of the project, case studies have been produced on the successful organisations and the other nominees.

For further information and to book on to the Oasis Community Centre visit on Wednesday 28 March visit [www.cambridge-experiential.org/oasis](http://www.cambridge-experiential.org/oasis).

To view all the case studies on the Community Insight Visits and the nominees visit [www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/casestudies](http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/casestudies).

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# **Empowerment News**

## **Buy Better Together Challenge**

The Buy Better Together Challenge is an initiative by Co-operatives UK and the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) to inspire new models of community buying, stimulate enterprise and promote shared learning. £60,000 is available to go towards training, mentoring and seed funding for stand out projects, including £15,000 for the overall winner.

The Challenge is open to groups and organisations within the public, voluntary or business sectors, which focus on creating new or developing existing community buying schemes. Entrants should address one or more of the following challenges:

- **Challenge One:** creating a platform, tool or vehicle to help individuals to come together and form a community buying group.
- **Challenge Two:** enabling existing or new community groups to develop their purchasing power by working collectively on behalf of individual consumers.
- **Challenge Three:** businesses empowering their employees or consumers to group for community buying.

For further information, including how to apply, visit

<http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/buying/the-buy-better-together-challenge-feb-2012/>.

The closing date for applications is 15 May.

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## Empowerment Funding

### Ordnance Survey Geovation Challenge

The Ordnance Survey, Britain's national mapping agency, is offering funding of £115,000 for new ideas that use geography to help solve problems in communities. The GeoVation Challenge will award a first prize of £40,000 and three runner-up prizes of £25,000 to entrants with the best suggestions for improving the quality of life and enhancing community spirit in their local areas.

The programme aims to tackle issues including anti-social behaviour, graffiti, fly-tipping and litter, the degeneration of high streets, and citizen apathy. Entries must feature the use of Ordnance Survey products, including the free-to-use data and services OS OpenData and OS OpenSpace.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 28 March. For further information, including how to apply, visit [www.geovation.org.uk](http://www.geovation.org.uk).

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## Empowerment Resources

### New Community Led Planning toolkit

The second edition of ACRE's, the national umbrella body of the Rural Community Action Network, toolkit for Community Led Planning, which provides guidance for communities who want to produce a holistic plan that will improve the wellbeing and sustainability of their neighbourhood, is now available.

The toolkit, which outlines nine steps that communities should take to produce plans that are well researched, inclusive and achieve the actions they propose, includes:

- Information Sheets introduce community led planning

- Advice Sheets explain what communities are expected to do at each step of a community led plan
- Resource Sheets provide a range of materials that communities can use to help them undertake specific tasks
- Topic Sheets introduce a range of topics that communities may consider when producing their plan.

All sections of the toolkit are available either online at [www.acre.org.uk/our-work/community-led-planning/NEW+CLP+Toolkit](http://www.acre.org.uk/our-work/community-led-planning/NEW+CLP+Toolkit) or by contacting your local RCAN member, whose contact details can be found at [www.acre.org.uk/Resources/useful-links/useful-links-rcan](http://www.acre.org.uk/Resources/useful-links/useful-links-rcan).

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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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