

**Claire Chapman**

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**From:** Claire Chapman

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**Subject:** Empowerment network newsletter - Issue 6, October 2011

# Empowerment Newsletter

## October 2011

**Welcome to issue 6 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.**

You are receiving this e-bulletin as a contact for an organisation listed on the East Midlands Empowerment Partnership Directory. 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 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 have any events, news articles, announcements etc that you would like to contribute to the November Empowerment e-bulletin, please email them to [clairechapman@one-em.org.uk](mailto:clairechapman@one-em.org.uk) by Friday 18 November 2011.

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## Empowerment News

### Consultation on neighbourhood planning regulations

The Department for Communities and Local Government has opened a consultation on the proposed new planning powers giving communities the ability to shape the character of their neighbourhood.

Under the neighbourhood planning regulations, communities will have a voice in deciding the look and feel of development in their area, including the location of new homes, the design of buildings, the shops they want in their high street, and the green spaces that should be protected. The new powers being will also give local people the power to decide the types of development that can be granted automatic planning permission, through a Neighbourhood Development Order.

The regulations include how a neighbourhood area will be defined, how to set up the forums that will propose plans, and outlines the requirements for establishing a Neighbourhood Development Order. The regulations draw on existing procedures where possible to minimise the time communities and councils need to become familiar with the new system.

For further information on the consultation, which closes on 5 January 2012, visit [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningregulationsconsultation](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningregulationsconsultation).

## **New £20million Social Action Fund**

The Social Investment Business are managing the new £20million Social Action Fund on behalf of the Office for Civil Society. The fund aims to inspire organisations to create new social action opportunities through people giving what they have. The fund aims to support social action in three areas:

- Social action in the community – projects that will encourage people to come together in their neighbourhoods to support each other.
- Social action inspired by the Olympics and Paralympics – projects that will capitalise on the momentum and enthusiasm generated by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games to create a legacy of social action.
- Social action for all ages – projects that motivate people across all generations to get involved in volunteering and charitable giving – from school children and students, to working professionals and those near or of retirement age.

The fund is open for applications from civil society organisations, public sector bodies and businesses with a track record of delivering social action programmes. Organisations must have operated for more than two years and have a minimum turnover of £100,000.

For further information and to apply visit [www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org](http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org), telephone 0191 269 2276 or email [info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org](mailto:info@thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org).

## **Power for communities to bring empty houses back into use**

Communities Minister Andrew Stunell has announced that community groups will be able to apply for Government funding to bring empty homes that blight neighbourhoods back into use.

VCS organisations will be able to bid for part of £100million Government funding for pioneering housing schemes, which will ensure that the 700,000 empty homes across the country are lived in and provide affordable housing. Formal bidding guidance will be published shortly on how the VCS can apply for financial support to tackle empty homes. Previously only conventional housing providers could apply for this.

The Government will also shortly publish its approach to tackling empty homes, as part of its wider Housing Strategy. This will include consulting on plans to allow councils local discretion to introduce a council tax premium on homes that have been empty for more than two years.

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# **Empowerment Resources**

## **Your Square Mile launches volunteer public liability insurance**

Your Square Mile, which aims to encourage members of the public to take part in community activities, has launched a new mutual organisation offering public liability insurance to

volunteers. The mutual charges members £10 a year, which provides them with public liability insurance worth up to £1million for incidents that take place while they are volunteering. It will also offer a legal services helpline for people involved in community work.

The organisation has been set up by Paul Twivy, Former Chief Executive of the Big Society Network, who advised the previous government and current governments on community

engagement. For further information on Your Square Mile visit <http://yoursquaremile.co.uk>.

## Affordable e-learning

My Learning Pool is a new on-line training resource providing cost effective training resources for volunteers and staff working for community groups, small charities and social enterprises.

The resource contains a growing list of 28 modules on topics including health & safety, personal development, social media, understanding technology and building organisation effectiveness. The modules have been developed specifically for the VCS and are suitable for groups and organisations of any size, as well as individual staff and volunteers. On completion of each module a certificate can be printed.

The cost of the training for 12 months, covering all modules, is £25 for an individual, £20 per person for 25 to 100 people, and £15 for over 100 people. For further information visit [www.mylearningpool.com](http://www.mylearningpool.com) or email [hello@mylearningpool.com](mailto:hello@mylearningpool.com).

# Empowerment Jobs

## Trainee Community Organiser vacancies at Saffron Resource Centre

The Saffron Resource Centre in Leicester, one of the first organisations in the East Midlands to be chosen as a host for the new Community Organiser programme, is recruiting for three Trainee Community Organisers. The positions are for 51 weeks and the hours are 30-35 hours per week full-time (preferably) or 15-17.5 hours per week part-time (possible). The salary is £8.50 per hour, subject to tax and national insurance deductions.

The successful applicants will help residents, groups, associations and businesses in the Saffron, Eyres Monsell and Aylestone Wards to develop their collective power to act together for the common good, by using 'Root Solution - Listening Matters', a dialogue and action-based programme that supports transformational change. It is essential that applicants have good listening and organisational skills, and that they have the desire to learn and develop tools and approaches for animating, developing and catalysing community action.

The Saffron Resource Centre's role as host will be to provide the Community Organisers with office facilities, local support and management, and a learning environment, but they will work independently of the centre, employed by Locality who are delivering the national contract for Community Organisers.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 1 November. Interviews are expected to be held during the following week and candidates must be available to attend a three-day residential training course from 7 to 9 December.

For further information attend the informal recruitment information event between 3.30pm and 6.30pm on 25 October or by requesting an application pack by emailing [info@srcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@srcentre.org.uk). For an informal chat about the roles telephone Neil Hodgkin or Beverley Hall on 0116 283 1765.

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## Empowerment Training

All of the events below can be found on the One East Midlands training and events page. ([www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/infusions/one\\_events\\_panel/event\\_list.php](http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/infusions/one_events_panel/event_list.php)).

### **08 November 2011 - Participatory Budgeting Master Class: Neighbourhoods & PB**

Participatory Budgeting can play a crucial role in helping deliver genuine localism by offering people a direct say in how money is spent in their communities. The Participatory Budgeting Unit is a project of the charity Church Action on Poverty, based in Manchester in the UK. They support public sector and community groups in developing participatory budgeting processes in their local areas within the UK.

**For information click more [here](#)**

### **18 November 2011 - East Midlands event to help rural communities transform their villages**

Rural communities across the East Midlands are being urged to attend a free event in Melton Mowbray that will see business experts and rural specialists descend on the town to help struggling communities revive their villages.

**For information click more [here](#)**

### **28 November 2011 - East Midlands Asset Based Community Development Two Day Event**

It may be as simple as ABC(D) and it's definitely common sense, but it's also back in fashion, government-approved and, therefore, the gateway to funding for local community projects that stand a chance of sustaining themselves.

**For information click more [here](#)**

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