

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland)

23rd December 2008



Leicestershire Together Conference



Leicestershire Together held its annual conference in Loughborough on 5th December.

The aim of the conference was to establish how different organisations sit within the partnership and how they can help develop agreed strategic objectives.

Over 100 delegates attended the event. The conference began with Cllr Ross Willmott, Leader of Leicester City Council, and Cllr David Parsons, Leader of Leicestershire County Council, launching the Multi Area Agreement.

A series of workshops, presentations and networking opportunities followed, allowing delegates to pick and choose between them.

The RCC assisted Enable in running a workshop on Climate Change and how best the partnership can raise awareness within communities of this key agenda.

Good Neighbour Scheme launched in Rutland



The RCC's Rutland Community Spirit Project launched a Good Neighbour Scheme at the Volunteer Centre in Oakham on 9th December.

The Good Neighbour Scheme, which has been developed very successfully in other parts of the country, will provide an add-on to the already very successful Rutland Community Spirit project.

Communities are invited to set up small groups within their settlements and, through each group, to identify volunteers who may be able to offer assistance to anyone needing help. These networks will be supported by the Rutland Community Spirit Team who will offer advice on a range of different aspects.

Any Parish Council or existing Community Group in Rutland that is interested in taking part in this new project is asked to make contact with Sue Renton at the Rutland Community Spirit office. Tel: 01572 720282 or email srenton@ruralcc.org.uk

www.ruralcc.org.uk

Please email the Editor, Bridget Masters, with any news items: bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk

Comedy Festival Seeks Public Opinion

Leicester Comedy Festival is seeking members of the public who are crazy about comedy and want to help judge some of the performances taking place as part of the 2009 festival.

The Leicester Comedy Festival Awards are designed to recognise the artists, promoters and groups who get involved in the annual event. Members of the public are being invited to join the judging panel which will give members of the public a voice in the voting procedure. Successful applicants will work with festival organisers and get priority access to events taking place between 6-15th February.

The award ceremony will take place in March and public judges will also receive invitations to the event. Interested individuals should contact lucy@comedy-festival.co.uk stating why you would make a great judge in 250 words or less.

The deadline is 5th January 2009. A shortlist of 8 possible judges will be invited to attend The Preview Show on Friday 16th January 2009 and a final decision will be made and announced on Friday 23rd January 2009.

Calling all Rural Sparks Carnegie hunt for rural champions

The Carnegie UK Trust is running a widespread search for excellence in rural areas. The purpose is to recognise some of the country's unsung rural champions who have helped to transform the communities in which they live.

Nominations for Rural Sparks are invited from anyone who considers themselves or someone they know to have achieved something remarkable within their rural community. The types of initiatives the assessment panel may consider include community-run renewable energy schemes; projects promoting local produce; or residents who set up their own Community Land Trust.

Visit www.carnegietrust.org.uk for more details and to download an application form.

Deadline date for entries is
Monday 29th December 2008.

Diseworth Rural Housing consultation



(l to r) Ruth Robinson, Affordable Housing Officer NWLDC, Lesley Pendleton, Chair Leicestershire Rural Partnership, Judith Wise, Development Officer for Waterloo Housing Group, Peter Wilmott, Architect and Richard Windley, Rural Housing Enabler for Leicestershire & Rutland

A meeting which took place in Diseworth Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 16th December attracted over 100 residents.

The event followed a Housing Needs Survey which was completed by villagers after the Long Whatton & Diseworth Parish Plan highlighted the need for affordable rural housing in the village.

Lesley Pendleton, Cabinet Minister for Rural Affairs at Leicestershire County Council addressed the meeting and encouraged those present to support the aim to provide 6 homes in Diseworth.

Blaby Farmers' Market offers festive treat

Saturday 20 December 9am until 1.30pm in the car park of Blaby Social Centre, Leicester Road.

Shoppers have the chance to buy a tempting selection of produce including local vegetables, meat, cheese, honey, cakes, pies, eggs, bread and flour. The producers' stalls will also be trimmed up for Christmas and shoppers can vote for their choice of most festive stall and costume.

The Phoenix Youth Chorale will lead the Carol Singing from 10.30am.

Packington Memorial Hall



Christmas has come early to the village of Packington in the form of a £250,000 Big Lottery Fund Grant.

The Hall was originally built in the 1950's after 13 years of fund raising and was dedicated to the memory of those from the village and surrounding areas who lost their lives in the two world wars. In its fifty years of existence the hall has been the centre for village activities of every kind.

Surveys conducted during the 1990s disclosed that the hall was in need of major refurbishment and following a Village Appraisal in 2002 it was decided to refurbish and extend the existing hall rather than build a new one on another site.

Chris Miles, Chairman of the Management Committee said 'This is a fantastic Christmas present for the village of Packington and this part of North West Leicestershire. The Memorial Hall will now continue to be the hub of village life for another 50 years'.

Packington Memorial Hall Refurbishment and Extension Project' will provide more space and more flexible facilities so that the existing hall can be used by more people and is able to offer a greater range of activities.

It will be an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable building that will directly benefit those living in Packington. Funded through the Big Lottery Fund's 'Community Buildings Programme' it will provide opportunities for young people to take part in healthy activities and give greater access to services for elderly people and those with disabilities. It will take seven months to complete.

Community group wins almost £7,000 to tackle climate change

Tilton Green, a group formed by the residents of Tilton On The Hill to tackle climate change issues, has been successful in gaining £6,907 of a £10,000 grant fund.

The one off CO2 fund was offered across the East Midlands by GOEM (Government Office East Midlands) to help communities to tackle climate change issues and make their communities greener.

Tilton Green applied following a need identified in their Parish Plan. The group received practical help and support from The Rural Community Council in carrying out their Parish Plan, setting up the Tilton Green Group and submitting the application.

The Rural Community Council will now be working closely with Tilton Green to encourage other Community Groups to make use of the resource packs and toolkits so that the project will benefit many other communities across Leicestershire and Rutland.

**A very merry Christmas to all
our readers and a Happy New Year**

Quorn and Newtown Linford celebrate Village Design statement success.



Quorn and Newtown Linford have had their Village Design Statements adopted as Supplementary Planning documents by Charnwood Borough Council.

A Village Design Statement describes the visual qualities and characteristics that people value in the parish and its surroundings. Its preparation takes into account the buildings, spaces, settings and landscapes which give the village its unique characteristics, striking a balance between traditions and the demands of modern day life. The Report also contains information about the local ecology of the villages and their surroundings.

The Village Design Statement was devised by a group of local residents following a public meeting led by The Rural Community Council. The Rural Community Council also trained the residents steering group, and facilitated throughout the process. The VDS group set up photographic walkabouts and public consultation exhibitions, and wrote the draft statements, and negotiated with Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department (who also supplied a Sustainability Appraisal) on the final draft before publication and gave guidance to the group. Newtown Linford and Quorn are delighted