

# RCC Weekly Bulletin

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

23rd March 2009



## Rural Action Seminar Success



Held on Thursday 12th March at the Sparkenhoe Suite at County Hall, the Rural Action Seminar accommodated over 80 people from 58 various organisations – from parish councils and village hall committees to district and borough councils and even a family butcher!

The event was chaired by the Director of the Rural Community Council, Jeremy Prescott and attendees were welcomed by Lesley Pendleton, Chair of Leicestershire Rural Partnership.

The program included advice on energy saving and reducing CO<sub>2</sub>, recycling, reuse and waste management, various grant funds available and examples of community groups which are making a difference in their area.

Diana Cook, RCC Community Engagement Manager said, " This is the 11th Annual Rural Action Seminar and it has been one of the most successful. As usual the community projects and volunteer speakers inspired the audience to undertake similar projects that will benefit their communities."

## Renewable Energy Kit Loan Scheme

Free educational resources available to schools



Environmental Action For A Better Leicestershire (ENABLE), the Countywide environmental partnership, is launching a new scheme to loan renewable energy resource kits. to schools throughout Leicestershire

The resource includes a miniature wind turbine, PV cell and solar water heater for use as a teaching resource. ENABLE will also be providing a set of lesson plans that helps teachers to link applications of these kits to the National Curriculum.

The kits will be available to all the schools in Leicestershire for the term starting 20th April 2009. Please express your interest to borrow these kits as there are only 20 set of kits available on first come first serve basis.

To find out more or reserve the renewable energy kit, contact Hetal Patel on 0116 3057068 or [enable@leics.gov.uk](mailto:enable@leics.gov.uk). Alternatively, contact Resource Box Officer on 01455 552834 or [sherrier@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sherrier@leics.gov.uk)

[www.ruralcc.org.uk](http://www.ruralcc.org.uk)

Please email the Editor, Bridget Masters, with any news items: [bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:bmasters@ruralcc.org.uk)

## Funds & Figures

3 hour Training Session in Melton Mowbray for Voluntary Organizations, Community Groups and Registered Charities

### Strategic Fundraising and Financial Management

Thursday 2nd April 2009  
10am - 1pm

#### Including:

- Funding Strategy and Diversifying Your Income
- Planning Cycles - Taking a Long View of Budgets
- Charity Accounts, Annual Accounts and Sorp Payroll
- VAT and Tax - things you should know

Plus a chance to discuss your issues and concerns

#### £10 per person payable upon booking

To book a place or for further details please contact Christine Barrett on 01858 439264 or email [cbarrett@vasl.org.uk](mailto:cbarrett@vasl.org.uk)

*Funds and Figures is a 5 year partnership project between Voluntary Action Melton and Voluntary Action South Leicestershire. The project is supported by the Big Lottery, working across the Melton and Harborough districts of Leicestershire. We provide training, advice and information on Fundraising and Financial Management for Charities, Voluntary Organisations and Community groups, to help them achieve their aims over the longer term.*

## Council's drive to inspire others on climate change

Harborough District Council is looking at ways to reduce its carbon footprint, with the aim of inspiring other organisations to follow its lead.

It has devised a Carbon Management Plan which aims to dramatically reduce the authority's carbon emissions and energy costs over the next five years.

Some work has been undertaken in partnership with Rutland County Council by way of sharing ideas and developing proposals.

## New LFE Play Park opens



Boyer's Play Park, Leicester Forest East, was officially opened on Saturday 14th March by Mrs. Helen Fairhead and her family. Mrs. Fairhead had responded to a request by the Parish Council for suggestions for the naming of the Play Park.



County Councillor Ernie White (left) presented a plaque on behalf of the Leicestershire County Council Shire Grants to Councillor Bob Scott, Chairman of the Parish Council. Also present was District Councillor Tony Dolby, Blaby District Council.

Boyer's Play Park was part funded through the Parish Precept, £5,000 from Shires Grants and £5,000 from Blaby District Council Capital Grants.

## Cash boost for Harborough community groups

A cash grant is set to be given to three local partnership groups to help boost a number of projects.

Harborough District Council is set to agree a grant of £15,000 which will be shared equally between Harborough Improvement Team (HIT), Lutterworth Improvement Partnership (LIP) and Broughton Astley Improvement Team (BAIT).

Local Improvement Partnerships bring together local people and local organisations such as Councils, Police, Local Businesses and Community Organisations to bring a fresh approach to issues of local importance.

Each partnership will benefit from a £5,000 grant to help them involve local people in projects relating to such things as environmental issues, business, and economic initiatives and projects for young people which aim to improve the well-being of the local area.

The cash will also help attract further funding from a variety of sources.

Harborough District Council has identified community engagement as a priority and believes that local people are best placed to identify and solve local problems.

Councillors will formally decide to allocate the funding at the Executive Committee meeting on March 30.

## Springtime Treats at Blaby Farmers' Market



Shoppers and young families visiting the next Farmers' Market in Blaby on Saturday 28th March will be greeted by a special visitor, celebrating the forthcoming arrival of Easter time. Chucky the Giant Chicken will make a special guest appearance to amuse and entertain the children and present chocolate Easter Eggs to young visitors.

Blaby Farmers' Market is organised by Leicestershire Food Links and Blaby District Council and is held in the car park of Blaby Social Centre, Leicester Road, Blaby, just a stroll from Blaby Town Centre. It will be open from 9am until 1pm when lots of lovely tastes from the countryside will be on sale.

For more information contact Roger Jones, Market Manager, Leicestershire Food Links tel 07896 478780 .

Looking forward, the next market is planned for Saturday 25th April. Local children from Greenfield School in Countesthorpe will give a demonstration of Maypole Dancing starting at 10.30am .

## Free computer use at libraries

Do you need access to a computer to look for a new job? Did you know that computer use in libraries is free? All libraries, run by the Leicestershire County Council, have computers available for free for people who may need to access information for jobs, create or update a CV, research or volunteering opportunities. You will need a library card and a Personal Identification Number (PIN); ask Library staff for an application form or call your local library to register. Contact the Library Services on (0116) 3056988, e-Mail: [libraries@leics.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@leics.gov.uk) or visit [www.leics.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.leics.gov.uk/libraries) to find out more.

## Harborough schoolgirls' fitness success goes global!

Local Harborough schoolgirls Emma Booker (11), Katie Knighton (10), Laura Parker (7) and Jade Pountney (11), have been chosen from among thousands of children across the UK, to star in a video for worldwide promotion of the MEND Programme.

The success of the girls, who have become great friends, in becoming fitter, healthier and happier is testimony to the MEND Programme.



*Pictured l-r: Laura Parker, Katie Knighton, Jade Pountney and Emma Booker.*

The MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition...Do it!) Programme is a free, community based healthy lifestyle course, which aims to address childhood obesity and has the backing of the Big Lottery Fund, Sainsbury's, the Youth Sports Trust, Primary Care Trusts, local authorities and many partners around the country.

The next MEND Programme for 7 to 13 year olds is due to start at Harborough Leisure Centre on April 27th with sessions running every Monday and Tuesday 4.30pm to 6.30pm for 10 weeks. Limited free places are being offered on a first come first served basis.

If you would like more information or to join a Programme, visit Harborough District Council's website [www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk) and type 'Mend' in the search box, or phone Andrew Watson at Harborough District Council on 01858 828282.

### Chance for Barwell residents to win a cash prize

All Barwell residents should by now have received a copy of the Barwell parish plan questionnaire with the latest copy of the Hinckley and Bosworth Bulletin.

With the help of the Rural Community Council, the parish plan has been undertaken by a group of local volunteers, working together with relevant authorities and organisations, to identify what Barwell needs in the future.

It is important that as many people as possible give their views. The questionnaire is also available for online completion at: [www.ruralcc.org.uk/parishplanquestionnaire.html](http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/parishplanquestionnaire.html) Alternatively, you can pick up a copy at Barwell Parish Council Offices at 10 High Street. Only people aged over 16 years should fill in this questionnaire. For any queries regarding the questionnaire please contact Tina on 01455 844229. (Evenings only)

**Questionnaires should be returned by 1st May 2009.**

**Chance to win £50 cash prize** - one lucky winner will be drawn from the online entries

**Chance to win £10 cash prize** - one lucky winner will be drawn from the paper entries.