

RCC Weekly Bulletin

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

20th April 2009

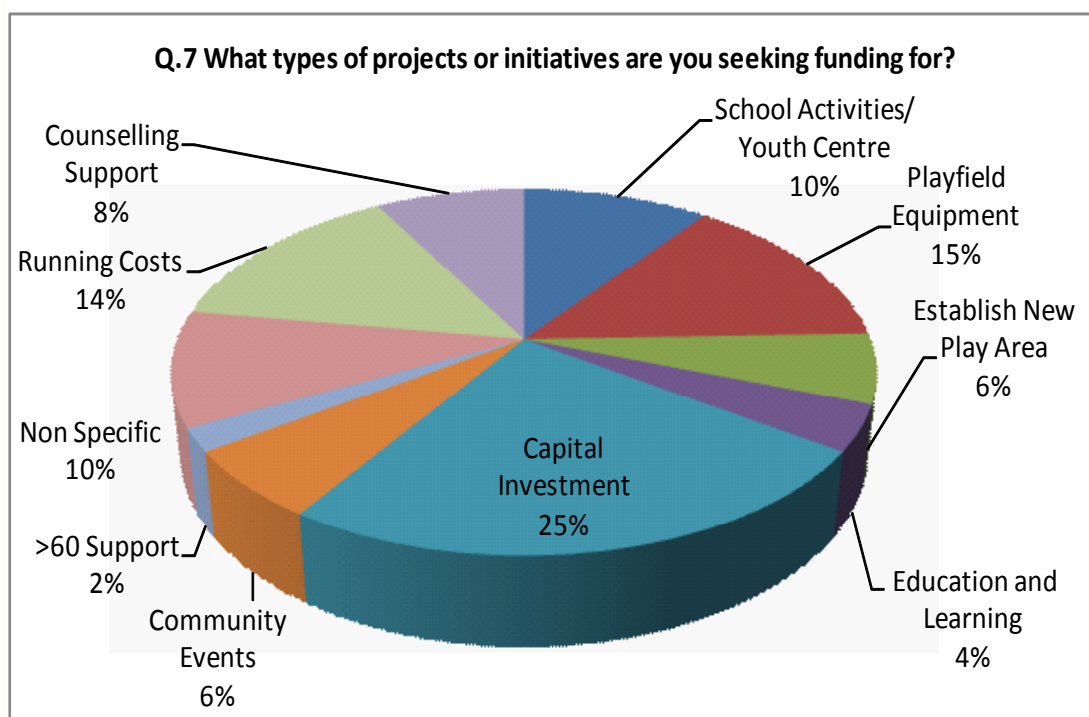


FUNDING FAIR 2009 proves a success

This year's RCC funding event was held at Gover House in Rutland. Funders were on hand throughout the day to provide advice and information and a series of workshops gave an insight into some of the skills required to attract volunteers and plan and run a successful community project.



Feed back from those attending was very positive and it was interesting to note the types of projects and initiatives throughout the 2 counties which are seeking funding at the moment. The chart below gives a breakdown.



Tourism development projects get the green light

The tourism industry in Leicestershire has received a welcome boost with the announcement that three major tourism development projects have been given the go ahead. The applications for the projects at Foxton Locks, The National Forest and Twycross Zoo have been supported by Leicester Shire Promotions and agreed by East Midlands Tourism, the tourism arm of the East Midlands Development Agency (emda).

The 'Foxton Locks Boat Lift (Masterplanning) 2008-11' project will undertake the development work needed to test the feasibility of rebuilding a working boat lift on the Inclined Plane. This would provide a landmark attraction of national importance and aim to increase annual visitor numbers to half a million by 2016.

The 'National Forest Visitor Gateways (Stage 2) 2008-10' project will introduce a number of new and developing attractions over eight gateway sites to engage and encourage existing and potential visitors.

The 'Twycross Zoo (Masterplanning) 2008-11' project will produce a complete and detailed set of costed Masterplans (based on existing feasibility studies) to secure a vision for its long-term future to 2030. The study will incorporate a Concept Development Plan, Economic Impact Assessment, along with technical and business plans that will develop the site's attractiveness for future investors.

Martin Peters, Chief Executive of Leicester Shire Promotions concluded: "At a time when the economic climate is hitting local tourism businesses hard, it's encouraging to see that the development plans of some of our major attractions are being supported on a regional level. Such investment will help to provide a solid infrastructure that will support future growth of the local visitor economy."

New footbridge for Medbourne



Pictured cutting the ribbon are Rosalind Willatts (Conservation Officer, Market Harborough DC - since retired) and Dr Kevin Feltham, (Leics County Council Support Lead Member for Highways, Transportation and Waste Management)

The Leicestershire village of Medbourne celebrated its new footbridge with an official opening ceremony on Monday 6th April.

The new, 'Nevill Arms' footbridge costing £62,000, was completed in mid-March by Leicestershire County Council.

The bridge, which crosses the Medbourne Brook, has many improved features, particularly for wheelchair and pushchair users, including wider access, improved gradients and removal of a step. The approach paths on both sides have also been re-laid.

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New-look Branchline springs into action

Leicestershire County Council is offering you the chance to catch up on the latest environment and heritage news with its new look, free publication Branchline.

It offers opportunities to find out about and get involved with the work of local heritage groups and volunteer archaeology, heritage and tree wardens who are recording and celebrating their natural heritage.

Spring highlights include details of a new project – recording of war memorials, information on funding for historical buildings, a guide on how to study your village layout, dissecting owl pellets and much more.

Copies are available by post from Leicestershire County Council, Holly Hayes, 216 Birstall Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4DG. emailing wildlife@leics.gov.uk or by calling 0116 267 0003. Copies can also be downloaded at www.leics.gov.uk/branchline

Do you need a Green Doctor visit for your home?

Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire is running a Green Doctor service in both the county and the city.

Thanks to funding from Sanctuary Group, one of the UK's leading housing associations, The Green Doctor is able to visit homes in Ashby, Charnwood and Leicester and give householders a free assessment of their energy efficiency.

The Green Doctor will even fit a range of devices to help reduce householders' energy bills - absolutely free.

Contact Mat Scull to find out if you are eligible on 0116 222 0253.



People's Millions is back!

Entry packs for The Peoples Millions are now available and the deadline for completed applications for this year's competition is 12 noon on Friday 15 May 2009

The aim of the competition is to fund projects that provide opportunities for people to enjoy their local area, whether indoors or out, and improve local facilities for all to enjoy.

Priority will be given to projects that are original and imaginative, get people involved in their local community and help people in the community who are most in need

This year £3.5 million has been set aside for the competition. The intention is to fund 69 projects with grants of up to £50,000 (including VAT) across the 15 ITV regional news areas

Applications are encouraged from a wide range of organisations that can submit community-based projects. The following organisations are eligible:

- Voluntary and community groups
- Local authorities; schools; statutory health bodies
- Social enterprises

Visit the Big Lottery Fund web site at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk to find out more.

New look for public transport website



Library users try out the new features

A makeover for transport website 'Traveline' will make finding up-to-the-minute train and bus information easier.

The website, www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk, allows users to search by postcode and places of interest, as well as local 'alternative' names for places such as 'Foxhunter Roundabout' or 'Walkers Stadium'. The new website also includes detailed maps of the journey.

The same information will also be available to residents who call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33. The number is available seven-days-a-week between 7am and 9pm.

Maypole Fun for Blaby Farmers' Market



Visit Blaby Farmers' Market next Saturday and be treated to a display of Maypole Dancing.

The Farmers' Market runs from 9am until 1.30pm in Blaby Social Centre's car park on Leicester Road

Grants for war memorials Deadline date 30th April



English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation, in association with the War Memorials Trust, are providing grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England.

These grants are intended to help those who are responsible for the upkeep of war memorials. They are designed to support the care and preservation of war memorials to a high standard, and to prevent the decay of this important part of our built heritage

Grants are normally offered for up to 50% of the eligible costs or £10,000, whichever is the smaller. Grants are not normally offered for projects costing less than £500 in total.

Applications for this scheme are assessed in batches every six months. The closing dates for applications are 30 April and 31 October each year.

You are encouraged to discuss your repair project before you apply. Please contact the Conservation Officer at War Memorials Trust, 4 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LA. Telephone: 020 7881 0862

Email: info@warmemorials.org
Website: www.warmemorials.org