

# RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

30th November 2009



## RCC to host Climate Change officer

The RCC is delighted to announce that, following a successful bid to the Knowledge Transfer partnership, a Climate Change officer will be appointed early next year.

Due to the strong links the RCC has with local communities, the Climate Change Officer will be based at our offices for the next 2 years and will provide a focus for this important agenda.

A total of 9 communities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland will be supported to provide them with an opportunity to develop their own climate change initiatives. The project officer will continue with undertaking research in supporting communities on this agenda which can then be used to further shape future involvement and expertise.

The joint bid to the Knowledge Transfer Partnership was made in partnership with De Montfort University, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council and all District Councils.

## Narborough Parish Plan launched

Narborough and Littlethorpe celebrated the completion of their Parish Plan at a highly successful launch event held on Saturday 21st November. 'Our Village Day 2009' was held in both the Parish Centre and the All Saints Church Hall and featured stalls and displays from a wide range of local groups and societies as well as the RCC, the Rural Housing Enabler, Voluntary Action Blaby and the Police.

Visitors on the day included local MP Andrew Robathan and Cllr Guy Jackson as well as a wealth of local residents. In addition to launching and raising awareness of the recently completed Parish Plan the event also aimed to showcase and promote local groups, projects and activities as well as inspiring more residents to get involved.

The community are now moving onto implementing their Parish Action plan which has already led to a number of litter picks, the formation of a new Theatre Group and improved parking provision within the parish.



[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)

## 3rd Round of ESF Community Grants

The East Midlands ESF Community Grants programme will provide grants of up to £5,000 to third sector, voluntary and community organisations (including organisations already in receipt of an ESF Community Grant).

Grants will be awarded to engage with local communities to deliver a range of skills and employment support activities to enable people from the hardest to reach communities, experiencing multiple disadvantages, to make progress towards the labour market.

A Regional ESF Community Grants Steering Group has been established to strategically develop the programmes' policies and procedures and oversee the implementation of the programme. Applications will be selected by sub-regional selection panels.

The closing date for this round of funding is 12.00 mid-day Friday 5th February 2010.

Contact Mick O'Hara, VOCOLLS Manager, for more information.  
Tel: 0116 229 3019  
email: [mick@ccp.org.uk](mailto:mick@ccp.org.uk)  
[www.ccp.org.uk](http://www.ccp.org.uk)

In order to be an eligible applicant for an ESF Community Grant your organisation must satisfy the following criteria:

- ★ Be a charity (not necessarily registered), a community group or a not-for-profit organisation.
- ★ Be locally established, be based and provide your services in the City or County.
- ★ As the aim of the scheme is to fund local Voluntary & Community Sector Organisations, your organisation should have been in receipt of less than an average of £200,000 income over the last two financial years (exceptions may be made for one off capital grants).
- ★ Have a written constitution, or set of rules, which has been formally adopted (e.g. agreed at a meeting of the membership and signed and dated by officers of the organisation).
- ★ Have a bank account in the organisation's name with a minimum of two signatories



### Sportsmatch to Re-Open for Applications



The Sport England Sportsmatch programme has announced that it is to resume its grant making activities in December 2009 for activities that will take place during the 2010/11 financial year.

Through the scheme, Sportsmatch offers pound for pound matched funding to investments made by businesses, trusts and individuals into projects that encourage sports participation at grass roots level.

From October 2009, Since it started in 1992, Sportsmatch has awarded over £48 million to almost 6,000 projects across the country, and has brought in over £58 million for these projects from the commercial sector. Applications can be submitted at any time.  
<http://www.sportengland.org/funding/sportsmatch.aspx>

## Highcross's Community Bursary

Highcross Leicester is set to hand out £50,000 to local charities and community groups from the money it has made from visitor donations to the shopping centre car park. (It refers to the 2.5% VAT reduction which wasn't taking off car park charges at source).

Grants of up to £5,000 are available. The project must fit within one of the following themes:

- ✦ Arts and culture
- ✦ Education and skills
- ✦ Health and wellbeing
- ✦ Sustainability and the environment



Deadline for applications is Thursday 24 December 2009.  
[www.highcrossleicester.com/communitybursary](http://www.highcrossleicester.com/communitybursary)

### Winter Celebration Grant

Grants of up to £500 are available from The Winter Celebration Grant, which is provided and administered by Age UK, a partnership between Help the Aged and Age Concern.

The programme is intended to support clubs for older people wishing to organise winter celebrations such as dinners, outings and theatre trips.

Eligible organisations include any voluntary club for older people whose charitable objectives are similar to those of Age UK.

Potential applicants must have an annual turnover of less than £50,000, be independent, with their own committee and have a constitution and a bank or building society account.

Application deadline is 11th December. Contact the Grants Team for an application form. Tel: 020 8765 7738

### New PC to encourage older users

A new computer aimed at people aged over 60 who are unfamiliar with PCs and the Internet has been unveiled.

The simplified desktop - called Simplicity - has just six buttons directing users to basic tasks such as e-mail and chat.

The computer comes pre-loaded with 17 video tutorials from television presenter Valerie Singleton. Each made-to-order computer takes two weeks from request to delivery and can be ordered by post.

The computer has been developed in partnership with Wessex Computers and a website aimed at older people called discount-age, set up by Ms Singleton.

Visit: [www.discount-age.co.uk](http://www.discount-age.co.uk)

## Carers' Rights Day

3rd December 2009  
10am - 1pm  
at Voluntary Action Rutland, off Barleythorpe Road, Oakham

If you are a formal or informal carer, if you offer physical or emotional support to a relative or friend or a neighbour then this is a great opportunity to find out what support and help there is out there for you.

### Groups offering advice on the day include:

Adult Learning  
Age Concern  
Alzheimer's Society  
CLASP the Carers Centre  
4 Young Carers  
ICAS  
LAMP  
MS Society  
Parkinson's Disease Society  
Stroke Association  
RETHINK (Mental Health Services)  
Rutland Community Spirit  
Voluntary Action Rutland



No need to book - just call in on the day. For more information please contact the Adult Duty Team at Social Services on 01572 758341

### Warm up at Blaby carol concert

Enderby Youth Band will be entertaining the crowd at Blaby District Council's Christmas Carol Concert this year.

The carol service is being held in the Council Chamber on Desford Road, Narborough, and will also include singing by children from Glen Hills Primary School, a raffle and mince pies and mulled wine for afters.

The concert starts at 7.30pm on 10th December and admission is free but by ticket only. To reserve tickets call 0116 272 75

### Green travel advice to boost businesses

Businesses looking to cut their carbon footprint can seek advice from a new online resource which has been created on the County Council's website.

Free advice is available for developers on the latest travel plan requirements for planning applications. People travelling to work or making business journeys can also use it to find local and national journey planning information in one place.

Any Leicestershire business can work with the County Council's Travel Planning team to produce their own tailored workplace travel plan.

The new section is available at:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/employer\\_travel](http://www.leics.gov.uk/employer_travel)