

# RCC Weekly Bulletin

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

16th February 2009



## Ullesthorpe Parish Plan Launched



Residents of Ullesthorpe braved the snow on Sunday 8th Feb to launch their Parish Plan. The 'We Love Ullesthorpe' event, which took place in Ullesthorpe Village Hall, included a stage show featuring performances by local children, poems and readings from older village residents, a presentation by leicestershirevillages.com and a summary of the Parish Plan project.

The Parish Council who will now take the lead in overseeing the implementation of the 33 action points highlighted in the plan.

The event was attended by Jeremy Prescott and Sam Howlett from the RCC, who have provided help and advice to the Parish Plan steering group throughout the completion of the Parish Plan. Representatives from Leicestershire County and Harborough District Councils were also there to show their support for the project.

Sam Howlett, Community Development Officer for the RCC, said "It was really great to see so many residents of all ages coming along and getting involved with the event. The community has shown great support for the Parish Plan project and I am looking forward to seeing many positive outcomes for the Parish".

## Group Facilitation Methods Training

**Date: February 25th**

**Venue: Rural Community Council,  
133 Loughborough Road,  
Leicester. LE4 5LQ**

**Time 10.00am – 4.00pm**

### Aim:

The course is aimed at people who are facilitating workshops, conferences and consultation events and meetings. It will be packed with hints and tips on maximising facilitation performance, including how to deal with challenging participants, and will give you the opportunity to develop your own style. The event will benefit anyone working with groups of people in formal or informal settings.

### The training will:

- Explore the theory and practice of good facilitation
- Develop listening skills and techniques to deal with challenging participants
- Prepare questions for facilitation
- Explore methods of recording discussions
- Consider tools and techniques to support the facilitation process

Cost: £35 per person. Free to those working in Third Sector Organisations in the Welland Sub Regional Strategic Partnership Area.

Contact Diana Cook 0116 2689706 or email: [dcook@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:dcook@ruralcc.org.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)

# The rain tax will drain every community



**The Rain Tax will drain churches and charities of £100 million a year.**

**Only water companies and big business will benefit.**

**Ofwat has allowed this to happen-saying it is fair to see charitable resources go down the drain.**

**Stop the Rain Tax at  
DontDrainUs.org**

## RAIN TAX CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Churches, charities, village halls and clubs have united in a campaign which aims to permanently end the rain tax.

The Bishop of Middleton took part in the launch of DontDrainUs.org and revealed a poster accusing water companies of reducing the bills of big businesses such as Rolls Royce and then passing on the resulting £100 million a year shortfall to churches and other community premises.

The rain tax, which was introduced last year by four water companies, classes all non-domestic buildings as commercial, making no distinction between factories and buildings owned by churches, charities and clubs.

The 'rain tax' is expected to cost the Church of England over £15 million a year

Ofwat, the water regulator, has defended the rain tax as fair. However, because it is calculated on the surface area and boundary area of a property, churches, clubs and charities will receive industrial sized bills, matching them with similar sized businesses.

Visit: [DontDrainUs.org](http://DontDrainUs.org) to find out more.

### Beetle Drive and Fish 'n Chip Supper

Friday, 20th February 2009

At Heather Football Club. Tickets £6. Tel:01530 261398, 261558, 263034 or 261577

Tickets also available from Books & Bibles, Leicester Rd, Measham

## New way to view planning applications

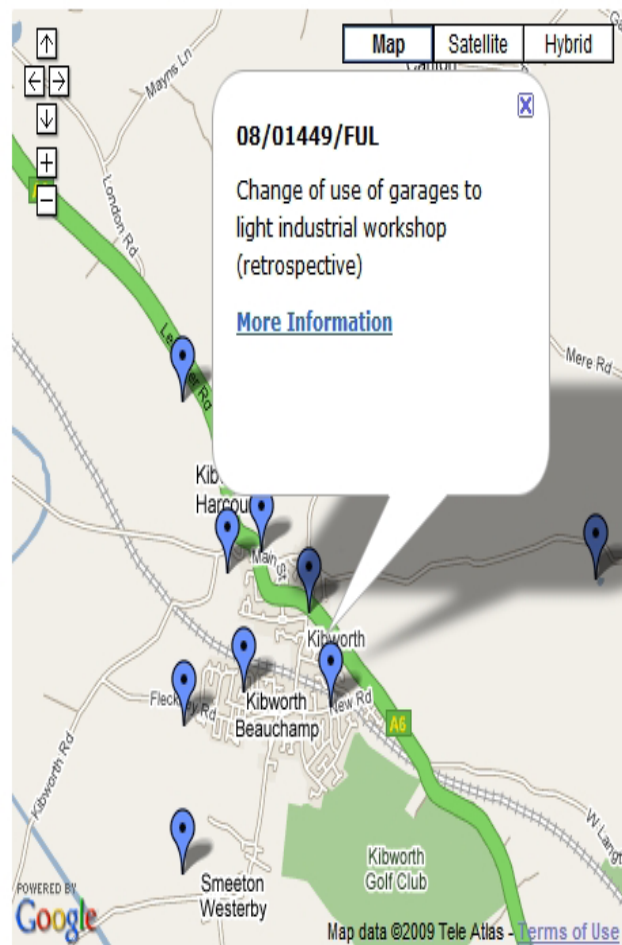
New planning applications submitted to Harborough District Council can now be viewed via village or parish council websites. At the click of a mouse, residents can now access planning data quicker and more easily than ever before.

Details of all undecided planning applications are automatically taken from the district council's planning department and fed into the Leicestershire Villages and parish council websites.

By going to the Planning Applications page, residents are able to get the information in two ways – firstly as markers on a map and, below that, in a list format.

Users can zoom in on the map and switch between map and aerial views. When they click on the reference code for the planning application users will then be transferred to a web page within the district council planning department which will show all the information specific to that planning application.

It is a feature which has been eagerly awaited by many parishes across the district.



*The above image shows a selected planning application. Clicking on 'more information' takes users straight to the specific data held by the district council's planning department.*

### It's your community

Awards of up to £1,000 are available to local groups and individuals for anything that can be shown to benefit your community.

The awards are independently judged and administered by The Conservation Foundation on behalf of O2.

For more information please take a look at their website [www.conservationfoundation.co.uk](http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk).

### Free to good homes!

St John's Ambulance have some old(ish) furniture which they don't need any more

Approx. 15 upholstered chairs in various colours (black, blues, grey) available now.  
10 vinyl-topped tables about 3' square available in early March.

Contact the Abbey Street Headquarters in Market Harborough for further information, or contact David Putt on 01858 467092 or 0782 6543 500.

## Cricket Competition 2009



*Tony Rogers, Chairman of the Cricket Competition*

Looking outside you might not be thinking of cricket however lets look to the warmer evenings and consider how best to spend your time getting fit and competing for a very worthwhile trophy.

The Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) is holding its Col Sir Andrew Martin Cricket Competition 2009 and we are seeking applications from village cricket clubs in Leicestershire and Rutland areas. The cricket teams are one of the rural community events that can involve the village community and it's good for your health.

This year's event is being sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd of Hinckley, Leicestershire. Lorraine Lee, the franchisee, has kindly donated her sponsorship towards the costs and we are pleased to accept her generous offer.

If you would like to find out more about the competition and to receive an entry form please contact Tony Rogers through the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland), 133 Loughborough Road, Leicester LE4 5LQ. **The closing date for applications is 24 April 2009.**

WE DON'T  
NEED SUPER  
NANNIES  
We need REAL  
parents like  
YOU!



Home-Start North West Leicestershire will be running their next course of preparation for new volunteers in February 2009.

Families are referred to Home-Start for many reasons, including post-natal illness, disability, bereavement, isolation and depression. At the heart of Home-Start is the belief that parents have the key role in creating a secure and happy environment for their children. It's just that sometimes, they need a little bit of help. That's where Home-Start's volunteers come in.

You don't need any qualifications to be a Home-Start volunteer, though parenting experience is essential. You can be a mum, dad, grand-parent or step-parent - experience in the full-time care of children is what's important.

Being a volunteer means visiting a family for a couple of hours, to suit, each week. Friendliness, a caring attitude and good listening skills are essential. Volunteers will receive all the training necessary and have a criminal records check and references as required by law, before being matched with a family.

**The next course will start on Wednesday 25th February 2009** and run for 9 weeks, each Wednesday, term time only between 9.30 and 2.30pm. Out of pocket expenses will be paid.

For more information Tel: 01530 812327  
(24 hour answer-phone available)  
Email: [homestartnwl@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:homestartnwl@tiscali.co.uk)

Website: [realparents.org.uk](http://realparents.org.uk)