

RCC Weekly Bulletin

The weekly newsletter for RCC members

9th November 2009



SHIRE Community Climate Change grant programme now launched

A new grant to help communities tackle climate change has been launched by Leicestershire County Council.

SHIRE Community Climate Change grants can provide up to £5,000 towards a wide range of community schemes in Leicestershire, including:

- new heating systems and insulation in community buildings
- energy efficiency audits
- renewable technology such as solar panels
- small-scale community composting and recycling projects

Eligible applicants include Parish and Town councils, charities, community groups and religious organisations.

Grants are available for up to 50% of the cost of approved schemes, up to a maximum of £5,000 per financial year. There is no minimum value for the works. However, applicants must be able to provide the balance of the money for the works, either from their own funds or other grant schemes or a mixture of both.

For further details contact Kate Nightingale (Grants Administrator) on 0116 305 7971 or e-mail kate.nightingale@leics.gov.uk

Alternatively go to www.leics.gov.uk/climatechange_grants

Energy Efficiency Seminar



Thirty five delegates attended Cosby Village Hall on Wednesday 28 October 2009 for a training event on making their halls more energy efficient as well as being more comfortable for their users.

The proceedings started with the launch of the new Leicestershire County Council 'Shire' Community Climate Change grants scheme by Cllr Ernie White.

Ian Bradley and Adam Jones of National Energy Action then delivered their training on how to reduce unwanted ventilation (draughts) and insulate halls.

After lunch delegates had the chance to conduct an energy audit of Cosby Village Hall and make recommendations to improve the energy efficiency of the hall.

Delegates also had the opportunity to talk with the exhibitors from EcoTherm, Energy Savings Trust, Mark Insulation, SASSIE renewable technology and Bass Solar Energy.

'Water' way to win national award

A landmark water recycling project has picked up a national green award. 'Living Water' near Billesdon won the accolade at the Highways Magazine Excellence Awards in London at the end of October.

Waste water which washes off roads contains dirt and vehicle oil and would normally be sent to landfill. At the innovative County Council facility, this is purified and filtered back into a specially created lake which now forms a popular public amenity area at Billesdon.

Professor Mike Preston, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Action, said, "We have been using the Billesdon facility since 2004 and were one of the first in the country to use this technology to treat contaminated gully water.

"Many other councils have visited us with a view to installing something similar in their own areas. 'Living Water' significantly reduces the quantity of contaminated waste material that has to be sent to landfill and provides us with 'safe' tipping facilities.

"Through the re-use of water in wetland and marsh areas, it also supports the local Billesdon community and encourages the development of wildlife."

For more information on the Living Water facility, visit: www.leics.gov.uk/roadwater.



Prize winners at Ellistown Allotment Society pumpkin day proudly display their prize pumpkins

Bovril's Great Outdoors Revival

Bovril has just launched a new competition to improve the British countryside and it is asking the public to nominate a project that they feel deserves a makeover.

If you know of a place - whether its a deshevelled drystone wall, a rickety old fishing hut or restoring a dilapidated stile, then why not suggest it and win a share of the £100,000 that is available.

Areas that attract the highest numbers of visitors will be looked upon more favourably.

Visit www.bovril.co.uk/revival to find out more.

Pumpkin fun at farmers' market



Councillor Barry Garner, Vice Chairman of Blaby District Council is pictured (2nd rt) awarding prizes

Families and shoppers celebrated this season's harvest with a spooky Halloween themed farmers market in Blaby.

People had the chance to stock up on fresh local produce whilst enjoying activities including a decorated pumpkin competition. Children were invited to bring their pumpkin designs along to the market and prizes were awarded for winning entries.

For more information on Blaby Farmers' market please contact Carole Troake on 0116 272 7735.

Simplified constitution for small charities is launched

A new, simplified constitution for very small charities is being launched by the Charity Commission in partnership with umbrella bodies across the charity sector.

The new constitution is designed to provide a concise, practical framework for charities with an income of under £5,000. It uses clear, direct language that is easy to understand, is only 700 words long and covers all the requirements for a very small charity which does not own land or employ staff.

Charities with an income of less than £5,000 do not need to register with the Commission, but are still subject to charity law. If the income of the charity grows larger than £5,000, the charity will need to register with the Commission and will need a more comprehensive governing document.

For more information visit www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/smallcharity.asp or call The Charity Commission contact centre on 0845 300 0218.

'Love where you live Photo Competition

A photography competition, backed by the not-for-profit recycling organisation Alupro, is offering £10,000 of prizes for the best pictures of people looking after their environment.

Pictures will be displayed at an exhibition in April 2010 and the organisers are looking for photographs which will communicate to exhibition visitors the essential natural characteristics of your area, and the importance of looking after it - particularly as we face up to climate change.

Your pictures can show good things or bad, be beautiful, funny or shocking.

Visit <http://www.lovetheplaceyoulive.org.uk/>

Anstey's Graffiti wall becomes a stunning reality



Bang went the football against the meeting room door; the noise being so loud it startled the group using the room which was at the end of the building. This happened so frequently that it became nuisance.

The nuisance triggered an idea; the football was understandable as the door opened onto the recreation ground so why not build a parallel football wall and create a covered area so that young people could congregate.

Discussions were held with the Police and Youth Service and there were also informal talks with local youngsters. The idea eventually became incorporated into the parish council plan to extend Jubilee Hall and to add more facilities for village residents.

Then the youngsters mentioned a possible graffiti wall, and parish councillors embraced the idea. A lot of work later and the fantastic result can be seen from the picture above.

'Free parking for Christmas Shopping in Blaby

Shoppers in Blaby town centre are being given free Saturday parking in a bid to boost Christmas trade.

Blaby District Council will not be charging people to park in Wigston Road, Enderby Road or Johns Court car park on Saturday 12th, 19th, 26th December 2009 and 2nd January 2010.

The Village core Programme

The Village CORE Programme is a dedicated support programme for communities looking to set up and run a community-owned rural shop. This includes the establishment of a new community-owned shop or saving an existing shop by transfer to community ownership.

The programme cannot currently support the expansion of existing community-owned shops.

It provides advisory support along with a £40,000 funding package comprised of a £20,000 grant matched with a £20,000 loan which is also matched by the equivalent community contributions.

This programme, which will have supported over 50 new community-owned rural shops by the end of 2009, has recently been renewed for a further three years.

Any community interested in applying for the Village CORE programme should telephone Donna Smith or Harriet English on 01993 814377 for an informal discussion of their project and to assess their eligibility as a beneficiary of the Village CORE Programme.

The community is then required to formally submit an application which will be sent out following the initial telephone enquiry

Integrated rural transport showcased

For the 9.5 million people living in rural England, it is rare to hear a positive story about public transport in their area. The decline in rural bus services, combined with the closure of local services has led to increased isolation for rural residents.

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC), in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council, has just launched a short film demonstrating how transport schemes can be integrated and sustainable in rural areas.

The schemes which Lincolnshire County Council has in place, and which are showcased in the film are: InterConnect, an interurban public bus service supported by a demand responsive transport scheme known as CallConnect, a community rail partnership marketed as 'The Poacher Line', and supporting these initiatives is widespread provision of self sustaining voluntary car schemes and dial a ride and community transport.

The CRC is calling for other local authorities to consider how these schemes could be mirrored in their locality, similar to the recent creation of another CallConnect route in rural Northamptonshire.

Further information about the CRC and its work can be found at: www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk

Local Artist to Showcase Works of Italy

Snibston Discovery Museum is hosting a stunning display of Italian-themed photographs from local artist, Mike Burton. Running from 2nd November until the end of December 2010, the exhibition will be displayed in the Community Gallery which is free to all visitors to Snibston.

For those keen to meet the artist, enjoy the exhibition and sample some delicious Italian cuisine, join Mike Burton at Snibston on the evening of 14th November, between 7pm and 9pm. Tickets cost just £10 need to be booked by Wednesday 11th November.

For more details please contact Sarah Oakden-Nancarrow on 01530 278444 or visit www.snibston.com