Billy's Lake - Regeneration Project for the Community

An exciting project for Wecock Community Association (WCA), which took them into new and unexplored areas of community work. It is the start of WCA going out into the community, rather than the community coming to them.

The project started in November 2010 when a group of young volunteers spoke to WCA about regenerating a 10 acre plot of land with a large lake (formed when the sand pits closed down). This land was not managed, and only used by dog walkers and local young people. The young volunteers wanted the area to be cleaned up so the community could use it for fishing, to sit and have picnics, nature trails, enjoy planted flowers, learn about animals, climb trees, have bonfires and BBQ’s. WCA, although daunted by the task ahead, were very keen to support the community and develop this project with the young people.

WCA spoke to the landowner who agreed to lease the land to WCA free of charge. WCA, with the young people, held a public meeting inviting people who work and live on the Wecock estate or in the surrounding areas to come and have their say. WCA were overwhelmed by the response. The years of building relationships with other agencies, residents and friends in the area came into its own. From this meeting a steering group was created to get the project started with a variety of dedicated members including local residents from all the adjacent housing estates, Denmead Parish council members, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) members, WCA trustees, Winchester City Council Community Development Officer, Havant Borough Council (HBC) officer, Portsmouth City Council resident participation officer, H.C.C. Children’s Centre manager, HBC councillor and members of the young volunteers group.

With a clear idea of what the project would entail the steering group, with the support of Havant Council of Community Service, sourced 3 appropriate funding streams. Although the first application was unsuccessful, Hampshire Playing Fields fund granted £1000 to cover some smaller aspects of the project. The local County Councillor agreed to fund a number of Summer nature workshops. The final application, currently in process with the Heritage Lottery Fund, is for employing a member of staff to run the project and deliver the outdoor education. This application has been quite a task and the trustees, steering group and young volunteers will just have to wait and see if the work has paid off!!!

Having insurance in place, WCA were able to go to the lake and do some fantastic litter picks and general tidy ups. WCA have also created habitats for different wild life, made bat and bird boxes and started to develop a ‘friends of Billy’s lake’ group who want to do the hands on stuff.

(Continued on page 2)

Also in this issue:
- Legal Updates
- Funding
- Training courses
- Live Consultations
- And lots more!
Billy's Lake - Regeneration Project for the Community continued...

Want to support your community with a project like this? Here are some helpful tips from WCA;

- Get alongside those who have passion for the area in question. Listen to their advice.
- Keep going back for help.
- Find a good spokesperson to communicate the project. If that is you then do it!
- Funding is not easy. Meet with those who have experience, sit with them when filling in the paper work.
- Don’t be afraid to go out and find the experts. We have been to the local country park and met with the manager, contacted various local council departments about relevant rules and regulations, and asked several local businesses for advice.
- At times this thing will feel much bigger than your ability. Hang on in there!
- Insurance - speak with your broker and find a way through. We invited ours for a visit and presented the whole project to him and then kept him updated. Ansvar Insurance has been a great help.

For more information about Billy's Lake Project contact Ann Waters at the_acorn_centre@yahoo.co.uk

Changes to Hampshire County Council Grants Process

Hampshire County Council is a large provider of grants for a wide range of activities and projects and despite government funding cuts, continues to fund grants to a total of over £9 million (2011/12 figure). In the current financial climate it is crucial that exceptional value for money when awarding grants is sought and that a robust process for managing grants from the application process forward is in place. To this end Hampshire County Council has modernised it’s grant application process.

There will now be one application process for all grants across the organisation and an electronic application form for this. The new process will come into effect on 1 April 2012 and the e-form will be accessible via the grants web pages at www.hants.gov.uk/grants

Also over the last few 6 months the Culture, Communities and Business Services (CCBS) Department (in which the Community Support Team sit) have been carrying out an extensive review of all our cultural and community grants. The principles of the new approach have been agreed the detail of the culture and community grant streams are being worked on. These will be published later on in 2012/13. Meanwhile, here is a link to the grants report that was approved by the Executive Member on 20 January which details the work that has already been done on the new schemes - see sections 7 and 8 in particular http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=3096&tab=2
CrimeReports - a new mapping facility for your community

From 27 September 2011 Residents across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were the first in the UK to have access to the brand new online crime mapping facility, CrimeReports.

This new technology allows people to see up-to-date crime and incident data at a location; where they live, where they work, etc. The new system also allows residents to engage and work alongside their local police officers, Police Community Support Officers, Accredited Community Safety Officers and fire officers to help make their community safer. The website is populated with information on what police and partners are doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as community meeting dates and locations. We are currently also running a pilot project with selected Neighbourhood Watch groups to create online communities which will be able to engage with neighbours, police and partners.

CrimeReports is a partnership project between Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service and all District and Unitary Councils across the two counties. Using information collated from these partner organisations, the website features up-to-date, more regular and detailed data to the public about crime, incidents and anti-social behaviour, as well as important information about how incidents are being tackled by partners at a local level.

Go to www.crimereports.co.uk and enter your postcode and you can:
- See crime/incidents in your area on a map
- If you live in a 'neighbourhood watch area', request to join online
- Sign up to email updates and crime alerts
- Submit an anonymous tip to Crimestoppers
- See when your next 'neighbourhood meeting is taking place
- Contact your local police officers or partner agencies

Making information about incidents available in this format and in near real-time, will give people in the community an opportunity to respond immediately if a crime or incident has occurred near them. It may also help to detect a crime if residents can communicate it as soon after the incident has occurred, as it can prompt people to make connections to some recent activity they may have witnessed and report this to the relevant authorities.

‘By showing exactly when and where incidents have happened, protecting privacy through a zoom restriction rather than moving the location of incidents, people will be able to interpret the data and judge for themselves the true picture in their communities. CrimeReports will also help to reduce people’s fear of crime by breaking down each crime into sub-categories so that they can understand the crime types, including the time of day, and the day of the week. Details of what is being done by the police and partners to tackle these issues will also be published to contribute to reducing people’s fear of crime.

For more information visit the CrimeReports website www.crimereports.co.uk
Funding

Places People Play - Inspired Facilities

The Inspired Facilities scheme forms part of the People Places Play programme, which will deliver a London 2012 legacy of increased mass participation in sport. Investing £50 million of National Lottery funding up to 1000 community sports projects by Community Organisations, Parish and Town Councils will be awarded grants of between £20,000 and £50,000 (70% of overall funding will be allocated to this category) between 2011 and 2014.

The scheme has been created to support voluntary and public sector groups to refurbish and improve existing facilities, or develop an existing building for sports use in the community.

Eligible improvements must fall under the following headings:
- Building modernisation.
- Outdoor sports lighting.
- Outdoor sports surfaces and AdiZones.
- Modular buildings.
- Sports equipment.

The next round (4 out of 5) is open on 1 February 2012. For more information visit: http://217.198.108.204/about/what-is-inspired-facilities

Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund

Do you have a project that is in line with the aims of the Armed Forces Community Covenant;

- Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their areas;
- Nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community;
- Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community;
- Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life;
- Encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation

This grant scheme has been set up to fund local projects which strengthen the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live. An application for funding can be submitted by any part of the community. There is up to £30 million over 4 financial years to be distributed. Bid rounds will take place quarterly (three have passed already) with the next deadline is 8 June 2012. You can apply for £100 - £250,000 for projects, partnership funding is required although this can come in different forms. For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/covenant-grant-scheme
**Legal Updates**

**Pensions**
In a phased roll-out starting on 1 October 2012, the Pensions Act 2008 and subsequent changes brought in by the Pensions Act 2011 will require every "jobholder" aged between 22 and state pension age who earns more than a minimum threshold, currently £7,475, and is not in an employer's qualifying pension scheme to be automatically enrolled (auto-enrolled) in the national employment savings trust (NEST) unless they opt out. A jobholder is anyone working in Great Britain under a contract, including a temporary contract.
For employers with fewer than 50 workers, the staging dates were originally going to be between 1 March 2014 and February 2016, but the government announced that the period will now be 1 April 2015 to 1 September 2016. These staging dates are also expected to be announced in January 2012. There will be a statutory minimum contribution to NEST or a qualifying scheme which will be phased in. A basic information leaflet for employers is available from the Pensions Regulator.  
www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk

**Consolidation of Charity Law into Charities Act 2011**
The Recreational Charities Act 1958, remaining parts of the Charities Act 1993 and most of the Charities Act 2006 have been consolidated into the Charities Act 2011, which received royal assent on 14 December 2011 and will come into effect in March 2012. The Act restructures and modernises existing legislation, brings most of it together in one place and removes obsolete provisions and most inconsistencies, but does not change charity law. When implemented the 2011 act will repeal the Recreational Charities Act, which gave charitable status to community centres, village halls and similar community groups, the Charities Act 1993, and all except part 3 of the Charities Act 2006.

**Charity Technology Exchange (CTX)**
CTX change exists to help you access donated products from some of the world's leading technology companies - and unlock the potential of your charity. Loads of software available including Microsoft products for an administration fee. www.ctxchange.org

**Phonographic Performance Ltd - (PPL)**
A new fee structure came into force on 1 January. Existing members of Community Matters who obtained a PPL Licence through them can renew under the old scheme through Community Matters this year to extend the licence until 31 December 2012.

**NEWSFLASH!!!**
Portchester Community Association have been selected to be one of the 30 host organisations in the national Community Organiser programme and have already advertised for 2 trainee Community Organisers.
Upcoming courses and training

**Youth Leader Training** - 25 February, 10.00 - 17.00, The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke. £5 for Basingstoke & Deane Voluntary Organisations/ £25 others. Contact Sarah Fordham - community.training@basingstoke.gov.uk or 01256 845622

**Emergency First Aid at Work (one day course)** - 28 February, 9.30 - 15.30, The Emsworth Centre or 24 March, Fareham Community Church. Discounted to £50 for voluntary/community organisations/ £90 others. Contact Karen - training@actionfareham.org.uk or 01329 223145

**Dual Approach to Volunteering - the Legalities and all that** - FREE 6 March, 10.00 - 13.00, The Kingsley Centre, Kingsley, Nr Bordon. Contact Rachel Dowbakin - Rachel.Dowbakin@cfeh.org.uk or 01730 710017

**Easy Website Design for Community Groups** - 6 March, 10.00 - 16.00, Waterlooville Library Discounted to £40 for voluntary/community organisations/ £90 others. Contact Karen - training@actionfareham.org.uk or 01329 223145

**Organising an Event** - 13 March, 12.30 - 15.30, Jane Austin’s House Museum, Chawton, Nr Alton. £35 voluntary organisations/ £70 others. Contact Rachel Dowbakin - Rachel.Dowbakin@cfeh.org.uk or 01730 710017

**Chairing Meetings Workshop** - 29 March, 10.00 - 13.00, The Beacon, Portsdown Community Church, Havant. Discounted £20 for voluntary or community organisations/ £50 others. Contact Karen - training@actionfareham.org.uk or 01329 223145

**Accredited Food Hygiene** - 9 May, 8.45 - 16.30, Rushmoor Borough Council Offices, Farnborough. £20.00 cost. Food safety in Catering is a level 2 equivalent certificated course. Contact Suzanne - Suzanne@rvs.org.uk or 01252 540162

Some training provider links - take a look at some other courses that are on offer across the county for your staff and volunteers ...

- Hampshire County Council Community Support Team [www.hants.gov.uk/community-support-service/how-to-do.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/community-support-service/how-to-do.htm)
- Community First East Hampshire training pages [www.cfeh.org.uk/training](http://www.cfeh.org.uk/training)
Live Consultations - Have you and your community had a say?

Consultation on a new Children and Young People’s Plan for 2012-15
The Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) is the overarching strategy for Hampshire’s Children’s Trust, which represents all those working for, and with, children, young people and their families. It reflects a shared commitment to unlocking the potential of every child and young person and making Hampshire a better place in which to enjoy childhood. A new CYPP will be launched in 2012, covering the period 2012-15. We would welcome your views and comments on the priorities and supporting activities.
Completed questionnaires should be returned by 30 March 2012.

New Community North of Fareham Area Action Plan (AAP) - Online and paper surveys
Around 7,000 new homes with businesses, schools, open spaces, and local services are being planned for the North of Fareham. The Area Action Plan (AAP) explains in detail what will be in the new sustainable community. Fareham Borough Council would like as many people as possible to get involved, share their views and help develop it with the first process being the this survey. Survey starts on Monday 23 January and ends on Friday 2 March (12.00pm)
www.fareham.gov.uk/general/haveyoursay.aspx
For more information visit the New Community North of Fareham Webpage
www.fareham.gov.uk/council/departments/planning/idf/newcomprop.aspx
Phone 01329 236100 and ask for Strategic Planning and Design

New Forest: Consultation on new community infrastructure levy
Comments are invited on New Forest District Council’s proposals to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on new developments. Please ensure your comments reach the council by 27 February 2012. Details can be found at: www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=12182

Tell us more
E-mail or call us with your stories, questions, items for sale or hire and any other useful information which can be shared on the next Community Team newsletter.
E-mail: rebecca.baumber@hants.gov.uk or tel: 01962 847813

Don’t forget to take a look at our website which has lots of information on it including sample documents, on line toolkits and training, contact lists and meeting opportunities.