

NEWS BULLETIN – MARCH 2015

News from ORCC

Let's Plan!

Nearly 100 rural communities in Oxfordshire have already completed Community Led Plans and 30 more are currently working on one. Community Led Plans follow well tried and tested steps to bring together the views of the whole community and agree an action plan for the future. They take about 18 months to complete and can be used to make changes in the area, as evidence for funding applications, to influence the local authority services, and to demonstrate the assets of the community for those who might wish to live there. ORCC supports these plans, at no cost to the community. Grants are available from the District Councils to support the costs of engaging with the whole community. For more information please contact fiona.mullins@oxonrcc.org.uk tel 01865 883488 and see our website www.oxonrcc.org.uk.



What can ORCC do for you? - leading on community projects in deprived areas

ORCC has been engaged as project lead on a multi-stakeholder team on a regeneration initiative at Reynolds Way, South Abingdon. A community mural- which came about from evidence gathered during a CLP consultation in 2011 and 2012- has been vandalised, triggering other anti-social behaviour and complaints from residents. ORCC is working alongside Vale DC, Sport for Streets and Sovereign Housing community involvement team to undertake a new consultation project, finding out what local residents would like to see replace the artwork, and get opinions on wider regeneration possibilities.



FREE Seminar – Food Regulations

Sandford on Thames Village Hall 19 March 2015, 10.30 – 12.00

New regulations came into place on 13 December 2014 with regard to ways allergen information appears on labels and on food that is pre-packed, sold loose or served.

This seminar is tailored especially for village hall management committees, and users hiring the hall to serve food (e.g. lunch clubs).

The seminar will include a Q & A session with a local Environmental Health Officer in order to assist people in understanding the changes in legislation. This is an opportunity to ask individual questions and whether any activities taking place in your hall should be registered as a food business.

Please contact [Lynne](#) Newin to register your interest in attending.

What do people say about working with ORCC?

'I can't say enough for what ORCC did in terms of guiding us through our Community Led Plan.' *South Stoke CLP group*

Red Arrow Driving Team would like you to join them!

ORCC is looking for volunteer drivers to support a special project called Circles of Support. The project involves helping people resettle back in their communities after a period in hospital by allowing them to re-connect with family, friends and social activities. The project is based on evidence that people who are helped to live well in their community through having a sense of purpose, socialising and keeping active are less likely to be readmitted into hospital. In order to support people to get out and about they may need transport. This is where you can help by offering to take them as a passenger in your car. You will be reimbursed for mileage and this work does not affect your car insurance policy. The Circles of Support project is one of only 7 nationally funded by central Government and runs until August 2015.

For more information visit our [web site](#) or phone Emily or Sue on 01865 883488

What do people say about working with ORCC?

'It has been a pleasure to work with ORCC, the advice and support we have received has been invaluable.' *Elsfield Village Hall*



TOE2 – Funding Oxfordshire's Environment

www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk / admin@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk / 01865 883488

TOE2 is an environmental funder for Oxfordshire. The TOE2 grants panel meets four times a year to consider funding applications for grants of up to £5,000. This year's future application deadlines are the 4th March, the 22nd July and the 14th October.

TOE2 invites applications for projects that;

- Promote and improve biodiversity

- Encourage and develop resource efficiency and the sustainable use of renewable resources in community facilities (includes energy audits for community buildings)
- Improve access to green spaces

Thanks to Grundon Waste Management and Oxfordshire County Council for supporting the TOE2 grant scheme.

Energy Audits in Community Buildings

Additionally through our ENRICH programme, TOE2 funds energy audits in community buildings with support from the Patsy Wood Trust. So far 101 energy audits have been funded since the programme began and 31 TOE2 grants have been awarded towards implementing audit recommendations. This leads to considerable reductions in energy bills and carbon use. There is sufficient funding remaining for a further 13 buildings to be audited. Contact us if you would like your community building to receive an energy audit.

Low Carbon Workspaces Grant

TOE2 would also like to promote the Low Carbon Workspaces (LCW) grant. The grant is available to any organisation meeting the EU's Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) definition (fewer than 250 employees and a turnover of less than €49 million). Eligible entities include charities and community interest companies. The minimum grant is £1,000 and energy assessments undertaken as part of the TOE2 ENRICH project would support an application to the LCW. Contact James@lowcarbonworkspaces.co.uk / 01494 569060 for further information.

The new Do-it website has been launched with lots of new opportunities being advertised.



From February to April 2015, Healthwatch Oxfordshire is gathering people's experiences of being discharged from hospital to find out:

- what's working well
- what's not working so well and could be improved.

Tell us about your experience of discharge.

What we are doing

We will be using our Enter and View powers to visit local hospitals, care homes, extra care homes and even people's own homes to interview patients about their experiences.

- We are asking people who are currently in hospital to tell us about their experience so far.
- And we are asking people who have been discharged in the last few months to tell us about their experience of being discharged from hospital.

We will be visiting the following hospitals:

- John Radcliffe Hospital
- Churchill Hospital
- Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital

- Horton Hospital
- Abingdon Community Hospital
- Wallingford Community Hospital

We will also be interviewing patients who have been discharged from hospital at their:

- care / nursing / extra care home
- own home.

We will also be asking GPs, local pharmacies and some of Oxfordshire's care providers about their experience of hospital discharges.

We think that all this should give us a really good picture of what's happening with hospital discharges in Oxfordshire.

How you can get involved

There are lots of ways to get involved. You can:

- Fill in our online survey
- Talk to one of our Enter & View volunteers, if they visit your location
- Agree to be interviewed in person or over the phone, after your discharge.

What we will do with this information

During the summer we will be publishing a report which will be sent to the hospital trusts, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxfordshire County Council - so your views will influence and inform future service development in Oxfordshire.

The report will be also be available from our website, or can be sent to you if you phone us on 01865 520520.

What can ORCC do for you?

ORCC advice and support drives new village hall income opportunities

ORCC helped Forest Hill achieve an ambition to update tired kitchen facilities, assisting the management committee with the development of a funding package together and also giving advice with regard to Health and Safety. Following the successful refurbishment project, the village hall now hosts a monthly Community Lunch on the 1st Friday of the month. This provides a two course dinner and refreshments at £5 a head and is regularly attended by over 40 people, bringing in important additional income for the hall.

ORCC & Village Hall Membership

Look out for your membership renewal reminders which are due out in the next week or so. Fees have not increased and your membership gives you access to advice and services plus the opportunity to influence policy

Parish Profile Reports

Are you interested in the underlying trends and statistics in your community, and how it compares to others?

The [Evidencing Rural Need Project](#) created detailed reports on a range of themes, including demographics, access to services, transport, economy, services and environment. ORCC is making these valuable reports freely available. Developed by **Action with Communities in Rural England- ACRE**, its members in the ACRE Network (including **ORCC**), and **Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion- OCSI**, these reports show the true socio-economic picture of rural Oxfordshire.

Over the next weeks, we will be uploading these reports to our website , by district, for all of Oxfordshire's rural parishes.

To view these reports visit: www.oxonrcc.org.uk/library/parish-profile-reports



A new website called The Playing Field has been launched. The new website is designed to act as a free online resource for news, views, advice and guidance for the playing field community. If you are responsible for managing a play area or playing field, part of a sports club that use your local playing field, or just passionate about the opportunities that playing fields offer for sport and informal recreation, then The Playing Field should have something for you.

The idea for The Playing Field was conceived by the County Playing Fields Association movement, and funding from the Playing Field Legacy Fund enabled the idea to become a reality.

Visit the site to get inspiration from what others have achieved around the country, get ideas for funding and to sign up for to receive our regular e-news update.

<http://theplayingfield.org.uk/>

Editor – Nicole O'Donnell, editor@theplayingfield.org.uk, 01865 883488

Find out more about your Local Children's Centre

Are you aware of your local Children's Centre?



Children's Centres offer:

- free stay and play sessions for parents and carers with 0-5s
- ante-natal/post-natal groups/breast feeding support
- one-to-one family support
- adult education and return to work support
- parenting programmes
- volunteering opportunities
- advice and guidance – parenting, child care and budgeting
- fathers groups
- additional sessions such as healthy eating, first aid, budgeting, infant feeding

Action for Children centres can be found in:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Faringdon | • Witney central | • Kidlington |
| • Southmoor | • North & West Witney | • Thame |
| • South Abingdon | • Wantage | • Sonning Common |
| • Berinsfield | • Grove | • Henley |
| • South Didcot | • Wallingford | |

Our centres also serve villages in the surrounding areas

Go to our website for details of our full activity programmes and contact details

Find us on Facebook www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk



Children's Centres
for families in Oxfordshire

Sure Start

Action for Children - Company no. 4764232
Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038

National News

Affordable Housing: A Fair Deal for Rural Communities

The Rural Housing Policy Review's **report** – Affordable Housing: A Fair Deal for Rural Communities was launched at the end of February. Click on link for details of the report.

Events

March

DECC is holding a **Community Heat Conference** at Birmingham Town Hall on 10 March. It's a free event for the public sector and community groups on developing small-scale, local, community heat projects using heat pumps, biomass and community heat networks.

Keep Britain Tidy is holding a **Community Clear Up Day** on March 21.

April

The **National Rural Crime Seminar** takes place in Birmingham on 15 April.

The **Future of Transport in an Ageing Society**, an ILC-UK Futures Workshop, takes place on 17 April in London.

June

The **Rural Health Network 2015 Conference**, "Challenging Times - A New Dimension?" takes place at the Health and Wellbeing Innovation Centre in Truro, Cornwall on 11 June.



Funding Updates

Prince's Countryside Fund

The Fund's latest round of grants opens for applications on March 2. Organisations and charities that are helping to protect and sustain Britain's farming and rural communities can apply for up to £50,000.

<http://princescountrysidefund.org.uk/apply-for-fund/welcome-screen>

Central Southern England to Benefit from £1m Resilient Communities Fund

A new £1 million Resilient Communities Fund has been launched by Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD) for not-for-profit organisations, voluntary and community groups and charities in the SEPD areas of Central Southern England.

In recognition of the inconvenience caused by the disruption to its customers' electricity supplies when severe storms swept across the UK in December 2013, SEPD has established the new two-year Resilient Communities Fund to help communities prepare for future emergency-weather events.

Grants of between £500 and £20,000 are available to charities, voluntary and community groups and not-for-profit organisations across the SEPD network area in Central Southern England. Funding is available to support local communities to plan and prepare for emergencies ahead of time in order to better handle the consequences and be able to recover faster. <http://www.ssepd.co.uk/resiliencefund/>

Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme

The Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. The aims of this scheme are to:

- Support the growth of football clubs and activity.
- Prevent a decline in football participation.
- Make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues.

<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund-small-grants-scheme/>

MoD Offers Funding for Armed Forces Day 2015

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is providing funding to help organisations in the UK host an Armed Forces Day event this summer to show support for our servicemen and women, past and present.

Local councils, organisations, schools, ex-service organisations and individuals in the UK can apply for a maximum grant of £10,000 (providing the MoD accounts for no more than 50% of the project costs). Events must occur a week either side of the National Armed Forces Day. This year the celebrations will fall on 27 June 2015, when a major national event will be held in Guildford, Surrey.

The deadline for applications is 27 March 2015.

For more information, visit the Armed Forces Day website

http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/events/hold_an_event.aspx

Red Nose Day Community Cash Grants

Grants are available to support community groups undertaking work that helps people of all ages build their skills, increase their senses of achievement and ultimately feel more included in their community.

The funding pot for 2015 is £100,000.

Grants of between £500 and £1000 are available.

See your local community foundation for applications.

The Tree Council the orchard windfalls fund 2015 is now open.

This grant fund is open to all schools and community groups within the United Kingdom, with the condition that children under the age of 16 are involved in the planting or, where the trees are too large to be directly handled by them, related educational activities. This educational aspect might be during the design, planning and planting of the orchard or, in schools, it might be part of curriculum related projects that will be enhanced by the preliminary activities or the subsequent availability of fruit trees on or near to the school site.

Eligibility Criteria: - Applications must be on behalf of a school or community group which is a charity / not for profit organisation; - Children under the age of 16 must be ACTIVELY involved in the planting process; - Planting must take place on publicly accessible land, usually in public or charity ownership; - The school or community group must be able to raise 25% of planting costs; - Fruit-bearing shrubs or hedge plants are not eligible for funding; - Apple and pear trees on selected root stocks are the only trees eligible for funding; - Planting must take place during National Tree Week (or as soon as possible afterwards); - Applications in respect of work already carried out are not eligible. If your project meets **all** the criteria listed, you are eligible to apply for a grant. The deadline for applications is the **31st of March 2015**. <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants/orchard-windfalls>

Planning Enforcement Fund – Department for Communities and Local Government

This new time-limited Fund is available to local planning authorities in England, including National Parks. The scheme provides a grant of up to £10,000 or 50% of its legal costs (whichever is the lesser) to local planning authorities to secure a Court injunction to prevent actual or apprehended breaches of planning control. The scheme will run for the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 commencing in January 2015 and ending in March 2016.

<http://www.planningenforcementfund.co.uk/>

Community Sport Activation Fund – Sport England

The fourth round of this Fund opened on 20 January 2015. The kind of projects Sport England expect to fund include:

- Activities reflecting a broad range of sports
- Informal opportunities which could lead to regular participation
- Multi-sport activities which provide people with a range of choices and opportunities to suit them
- Family orientated activities with a focus on the 14 plus age group
- Local activator roles that focus on directly organising and delivering new opportunities for participation.

Projects can be up to three years and grant awards will range from £50,000 - £250,000. The closing date for applications is 20 April 2015.

<http://rsnonline.us2.list->

[manage.com/track/click?u=cd5b83a46a39234dad311accb&id=bc39fc337a&e=ca428ef0bb](http://rsnonline.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cd5b83a46a39234dad311accb&id=bc39fc337a&e=ca428ef0bb)



Items for Sale

Let us know if you would like to use this space to advertise any unwanted items for sale that you think other Parish Councils, Village Halls or Community Shops might find useful.

Village Shop Equipment for Sale.

- Glass fronted upright Tornado Mistral fridge 40 RV TN and separate Glass Fronted Tornado Mistral Upright Freezer 40 RS TB
- Shop counter measurements Width 60 cm x length 218 cm x Height 76 cm. Has shelves on one side and space for baskets on other side.

For further information please contact Islip Village Shop – islipshop@googlemail.com