

Awards, Workshops & Funding **Various opportunities from March 2012**



Community First will be running two FREE workshop sessions about Engaging Communities on 15 March 2012 and 26 April 2012. We're all being asked to get more involved in local planning and decision making. How can you ensure that everyone has a real chance to take part and to get their voice heard?

Engaging Communities covers some of the principles of community engagement and consultation, some practicalities about running consultation events, plus lots of ideas for some fun methods that could be used to widen participation from people in the community.

So if you are a parish or town council, community led planning or other local group seeking to consult and involve your community, this workshop will give you the practical tools to design high quality consultation activities that engage and involve all sections of your community.

As places are limited, please book in advance. The main post has a link containing more details of these two FREE workshop sessions.



Have you devised new ways of buying collectively to help save money?

Or do you have an amazing idea about communities

working together that will deliver social benefits, that's just waiting to come out?

Well, applications are now open and we want to hear from you!

A £60,000 pot will go towards training, mentoring and seed funding for stand out projects, including £15,000 for the overall winner. The deadline is May 15th 2012. More information is at this link:

<http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/buying/the-buy-better-together-challenge-feb-2012/>



The Learning Curve and LSIS are holding a Free event on Wednesday, 21 March, 2012 between 9.45am to 2.45pm at Exeter City Football Club St James Park, Stadium Way, Exeter, Devon EX4 6PX (The Swindon event is fully booked). The event aims to provide organisations with a better understanding of funding and the partnership opportunities for them. More information is at this link:

<http://www.learningcurve.org.uk/about/events/delivering-learning-skills-third-sector-2012-exeter>



A Funding Advisor is coming to a town near you!
Our funding advisors are here to help.

Qualified to provide you with FREE advice and guidance on all aspects of funding such as fundraising strategies, how to write successful applications, advice on trust funding, corporate funding, statutory funding, and charity registration, constitutions and regulation.

So far this year we have helped groups raise £698,330 for their projects.

Please visit this link for the list of dates and venues:

http://www.cibsouthandwest.org.uk/latest_news_story.php?id=37&show=0

Wiltshire and Swindon Funding Network

WSFN is a network of funding advisors and funders working in Wiltshire & Swindon. It meets to improve opportunities for the voluntary & community and statutory sectors in Wiltshire and Swindon to secure funds for their work, and to improve the co-ordination and provision of funding advice in Wiltshire and Swindon. In 2012 we are running four FREE events for community groups across the county. Our first two events in 2011, Five Steps to Funding Success & Fit for Funding were rip-roaring, fully booked successes, with the clear message being that groups need to be clear, flexible and creative in how they approach fundraising. So, why not come along to our next event to find out more ...

Funding for Changing Times - 26th April, 9:30 - 2pm (Including Buffet Lunch), Civic Hall, Trowbridge

Better Applications - 3rd July, 9:30 - 1pm, Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Devizes.

Creative Ways to Raise Money - 26th September, 9:30-1pm, Neeld Hall, Chippenham .

Creative Ways to Raise Money - 10th October, 9:30-pm, Salisbury Methodist Church.

All events are completely FREE OF CHARGE but you must book a ticket. They are open to all and are generously funded by Wiltshire Council through WSFN.

For more information & to book a ticket, please visit: <http://www.stepupwiltshire.org.uk/wsfm>



The 2012 Action for Market Towns National Awards are a chance for you to shout from the rooftops about the work you are doing in your town and to inspire other towns. The awards – organized by Action for Market Towns – are for projects in each of four categories:

1. Environment and Culture
2. Social and Community
3. Business and Economy
4. Partnership and Strategic Working

The 2012 Action for Market Town Awards will remain open for entries from Monday 23 January until Friday 23rd March 2012.

More information is at this link: <http://towns.org.uk/market-town-awards/market-town-awards-2012/>



Wiltshire Council Arts Project Grant Scheme is now open to all voluntary and community organisations (not individuals) wishing to provide arts projects in Wiltshire. Arts projects can cover a wide range of creative opportunities, including visual arts, crafts, media and digital forms, literature and performing arts.

The total 2012/13 budget available is £20,000 and will be allocated in 2 rounds. The maximum amount that can be applied for per application is £4,000.

The deadlines for first round is Monday 30 April 2012. Approved projects should take place between July 2012 and June 2013. Click this link for more information:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/artsheritageandlibraries/artsandgalleries/artsprojectgrants.htm>