



Welcome to our monthly e-newsletter specifically aimed at Community Buildings across Solihull and Warwickshire.

Government support for Warwickshire Rural Community Council is at risk and we need your help to make the case for its continuation.

Warwickshire Rural Community Council was formed nearly 80 years ago and has been supported by government funding for much of that time, most recently from Defra through the ACRE Network (our umbrella organisation). We lost core funding from the county council 4 years ago, making this central government funding all the more important.

We've used this funding to provide support for village halls, to deliver vital community transport services, to help communities identify their priorities through community-led planning, to campaign for affordable rural housing and to try to keep the needs of rural communities on the radar of those that decide how public money is spent. Without this funding, all of this work would diminish.

Our [website](#) contains more information and a link to the e-petition to **quickly and simply add your support.**

Charity Commission news

Community buildings and permanent endowment

The Charity Commission has issued guidance on [permanent endowment](#). A useful article if your community building has money or property; what is permanent endowment and what can Trustees do with it?

How to change a charity governing document

Find out why and how Trustees of a community building can [change the governing document](#).

Charity Commission consultation on CC3

The Charity Commission is consulting until 17 February 2015 on an updated draft of its guide to Trustee duties, *The essential trustee* (CC3). This is one of the most important documents for new or potential trustees as well as existing trustees. [Read the article and comment](#) on the draft guide.

How to ensure fundraising activities are legal and safe

Read the Charity Commission [guidance](#) for Trustees to ensure your community building's fundraising activities comply with the legal and regulatory framework.

Funding news

Funding for energy efficiency

Working with Community Energy Warwickshire, the Heart of England Community Foundation is now accepting applications from voluntary and community groups across Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry for:

- Insulation and other energy efficiency improvements to community buildings
- Training in ways to improve energy efficiency through technical improvements to building fabric or energy use advice to building users
- Running events, workshops or surgeries where people can get advice on ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use
- Provision of one-to-one support to help vulnerable people to live in warm, energy-efficient homes.

For more information on how to apply for grants of up to £1,000, please call the HoE Grants Team on 024 7688 3262.

Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund

Application Deadline: Sunday, 22 February 2015

Food manufacturer Mars is running its Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund for small, local community based projects and community-minded people.

Each week five awards of £300 will be given out to individuals and groups.

Applications for the awards are quick and easy; see more on our [website](#)

South Warwickshire Fundraisers' Forum - Funders Fair

Tuesday, 27th January 2015, 10.00am - 12.00pm, Warwick Gates Community Centre, Cressida Close, Heathcote, Warwick CV34 6DZ.

Presentations from the Arts Council and Heart of England Community Foundation. Other funders will be represented including Stratford Town Trust and WCVYS.

More information and contact details on our [website](#)

Congratulations

Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall has received an Awards for All grant of £9,562 towards the cost of reconstructing its ladies and disabled visitor cloakrooms. Martyn Davey, the Hall Committee Chairman, said ' We are absolutely delighted with this award! When taken together with money we have already received from the Warwickshire Rural Community Council, the Waitrose Communities scheme and private donations, it means that we are now able to commission the work and get the project underway.

[Read more about the project.](#)

Reduced rate VAT on fuel and power for charities

Your charity can pay a reduced rate of VAT of 5 per cent on fuel and power - such as gas and electricity - that you use for non-business activities. [Find out if your community building qualifies.](#)

Free energy audit - save money for your community building

The Small Charities Coalition in partnership with UA (formerly known as Utility Aid) support hundreds of charities with energy advice across the UK by providing them with a range of services. The starting point is a no obligation, free energy audit which will give you peace of mind that your organisation has everything under control. Sign up as a member and [find out how](#) it works.

New year; new fear

3 village halls in Somerset suffered break-ins in January resulting in theft and damage. Police believe the crimes are linked and will be advising management committees to ensure valuable property is marked and kept securely, that large amounts of cash are not kept on the premises and that all reasonable security measures, such as installing alarms or CCTV, are taken. Perhaps a good time for us all to review our security practices.

WRCC website

Have you seen our [website](#)? Keep an eye on it to get information of interest to your rural community, including funding, transport, community led planning, energy and more.

The logo for AON, consisting of the letters 'AON' in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

This e-newsletter is kindly funded by [AON Insurance Services](#).

The logo for aspire, with the word 'aspire' in a dark red, lowercase, serif font. Below it is the website address 'www.churchfurnituredirect.com' in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

www.churchfurnituredirect.com

[Aspire](#) have over 20 years' experience of manufacturing furniture for community buildings.

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enquiries@wrccrural.org.uk

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