



Community Buildings e-news

February 2015



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

[Charity Commission news](#)

Charity Commission's regulation of fundraising

Fundraising is one of the most visible activities charities take part in. How trustees approach it can have a significant impact on levels of public trust and confidence in charities. A wide range of standards and rules can apply to your charity's fundraising. Make sure you read the Charity Commission's new [statement](#) to understand:

- how charity fundraising is regulated by various agencies
- how the sector's self-regulatory scheme works to enforce recognised standards for fundraising
- what trustees must know and do to prevent fundraising problems
- which issues can lead to Commission intervention on a fundraising matter.

What can you learn from Charity Commission case work?

[Tackling abuse and mismanagement](#), a report of Commission investigations and compliance work over the past year, highlights problems that prompted the Commission to open either a statutory inquiry or compliance case in 2013-14. Financial abuse, financial mismanagement and serious governance failures dominated the case work. For the first time, the report includes an analysis of the types of charities that became subject to an inquiry or an Operational compliance case in 2013-14.

Charity Commission [inquiry reports](#) and [operational case reports](#) also illustrate examples of where things have gone wrong in a charity - issues include campaigning, financial mismanagement, safeguarding, trustee remuneration and conflicts of interest. Have a read and see what lessons you can learn for running your charity.

Keep up-to-date with Charity Commission guidance here:

[How to set up a charity](#)

[Charity types: How to choose a structure](#)

[How to write charitable purposes](#)

[How to write your charity's governing document](#)

[How to make changes to your charity's governing document](#)

[Change a governing document by scheme](#)

[How to register a charity](#)

Advice on charity land and property

Most charities in England or Wales can buy or sell land they own without needing to get approval from the Charity Commission, providing:

- it's in the charity's best interests
- the trustees try to get the best deal for their charity
- the trustees follow the requirements set out in the commission's charity land and property guidance

But the process is generally more complex when the commission's approval is needed – for example, if you're selling land to someone connected to your charity. The commission recommends you take advice if you think its approval is needed for a property transaction - but it can't provide this advice itself.

The Ethical Property Foundation [website](#) has over 125 pages of free, regularly updated property guidance, checklists and templates. And if you can't find the answer you need, you can contact its property advisers for bespoke, one-to-one advice on complex issues like:

- disposal of charity assets and related reports
- buying premises and taking out mortgages
- title deeds and other governance issues
- use of charity buildings
- leasing premises and managing buildings

The foundation also keeps a list of property professionals that give discounted and free advice to charities.

Charity Commission – submitting annual accounts

We have just come to the end of one of the peak filing periods for financial returns to the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission takes non-compliance seriously and has already placed a number of charities in double default into a class inquiry allowing it to utilise its statutory powers. It is a criminal offence under Section 173 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") not to submit an Annual Return, a Trustees Annual Report and a set of accounts to the Commission for charities with an income of over £25,000. These are also legal duties of charity trustees under sections 169, 163 and 164 of the Act. The Commission also considers that it is mismanagement (and may be misconduct) in the administration of a charity not to file the required returns. Charities with less than £10,000 income must submit an Annual Update.

- Are your accounts up to date and filed with the Charity Commission?
- Why not check with your Treasurer at the next Committee meeting?

[Funding News & Opportunities](#)

[Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund 2014](#)

Max. Value: £ 300. Deadline: 22 Feb 2015

Small grants are available to support a wide variety of "warm hearted" projects run by local community groups across the UK and Ireland.

[Birmingham International Airport Community Trust Fund](#)

Max. Value: £ 3,000. Deadline: 27 Feb 2015

Grants are available to local community groups and charitable organisations within Birmingham International Airport's 'area of benefit' for projects that improve the quality of life for residents.

[Skinners Company - Lady Neville Charity](#)

Max. Value: £ 1,000. Deadline: 06 Mar 2015

The provision of grants to registered charities and not-for-profit organisations in the United Kingdom, offering a diverse range of activities and interests within one of the Charity's areas of priority: Local Heritage, Local Community; and Performing Arts and Visual Arts.

[Waste Recycling Environmental \(WREN\) - Community Fund](#)

Max. Value: £ 50,000. Deadline: 18 Mar 2015

Support for environmental and community-based projects in areas of England and Wales close to Waste Recycling Group landfill sites. Projects must provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity.

[Solihull Training Event](#) March 2015 11 Mar 2015 - 12 Mar 2015: (9:30 AM - 4:30 AM)

The FSI is bringing [two days of free training](#) to Solihull so that all small charities, wherever they are, can access the skills they need to become self-sustaining. Training sessions cover a wide range of fundraising techniques and back office skills delivered by experienced and knowledgeable trainers. Each course has a market value of £310 per delegate place, course places are donated to small charities by the sponsors, donors, funders and Trustees of the FSI.

Fundraising success

We are delighted to hear that **The Grange Hall** in **Southam** secured a grant from SDC's New Homes Bonus Grants. This enabled Trustees to buy some much-needed new chairs for the hall. Southam Town Council was also successful with the New Homes Bonus Grants which enabled the hall to have new stage and hall curtains. These, together with a repaint just before Christmas, means that the hall is now looking very smart indeed.

Have you won funding for your community building?

If so, please pass on the good news as this will encourage others to apply.

Email communitybuildings@wrcrural.org.uk

for more funding news and information visit

www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk/funding

Employment rights

If you would like to talk to an Acas adviser about any support they can offer, you can get in touch through their [online enquiry form](#).

[Acas Shared Parental Leave guidance - free download](#)

The new law on Shared Parental Leave was introduced in December. Parents whose children are due to be born or placed for adoption on or after 5 April 2015, and who satisfy eligibility criteria related to their working status, will have access to a fully flexible system of parental leave. Parents will be able to take up to 50 weeks of Shared Parental Leave in total, and can share it as they want. View or download [guidance](#) from the Acas website

[Age audit tool](#)

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against employees because of their age. Try the free Acas Age Audit Tool to find out if your community building meets the needs of an age-diverse workforce.

Property Marking Roadshows

“Stratford District Council & Warwickshire Police in Stratford District are keen to disrupt criminality in whichever way that they can. By overtly marking some of your property, especially items that can easily be passed on, such as electrical tools & household equipment, chainsaws and other expensive gardening machinery.... it can frustrate the thief to the point that they will offend elsewhere as they don't want to be caught with items that are identifiable” says Inspector Alan Davies - Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Contact Lucy Lambert, Rural Crime Co-ordinator by 25 February with your community event dates for 2015, and the team can come along and set up a stand to mark residents' property. Email lucy.lambert@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Offers

The Grange Hall, Southam wishes to dispose of their old **stage**, 3 pairs of hall **curtains**, and about 100 **chairs**. If anyone is interested in these items, perhaps contact Carole Gwillam, Grange Hall Administrator. Tel: 01926 813933 or email: carole@thegrangehall.co.uk

Curtains for sale ... suitable for village halls or other community buildings as well as commercial. Broom Village Hall has five pairs of curtains for sale. Two pairs tall (93" drop by 105" wide) and three pairs short (63" drop by 105" wide), made from Prestigious fabric 100% cotton, fire retarded to BS specifications plus FR linings. Pencil pleat headings. The pattern comprises a floral design on orange background. There is a picture of the curtains up at the hall. Look before we change the [picture!](#) The curtains were new in 2007, and cost over £2000. They are in very good condition and are only being replaced due to a changed colour scheme for the hall. The committee is willing to sell them for £500, buyer to collect by arrangement. Please contact Cheryl Hendey on 01789 773825 or mobile 07775903042.

The aim of this e-News is to provide a summary of local and national news, useful information and funding opportunities. If you would like an item including in the next e-News please email communitybuildings@wrccrural.org.uk

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