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### **News**

**New on [www.somersetmarkettowns.co.uk](http://www.somersetmarkettowns.co.uk)**

News about [Axbridge's Streets and Parking Options Appraisal](#), the [Ilminster-Chard Cycle Track winning HLF funding](#), a report on our recent Network Event on ['Links with Development' in Radstock](#) and presentations from the [ACRE Rural Life conference on Empowering Communities](#)

**Next Network Event: Watchet, 16<sup>th</sup> September** (theme to be confirmed)

### **SMTF Directory of Services**

We now have a Directory of over 80 Service Providers who can supply services for the regeneration sector in Somerset. These range from Business Planning, Legal Services and Market Research through to Training, Marketing and Fundraising. So if your group needs some assistance, email me with details and I can provide a report on suitable providers.

### **Sustainable Rural Communities – A Toolkit**

A report setting out the findings from Stage One of the Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities project is now available. It contains an analysis of policy and practice relating to the application of sustainable development principles to rural communities. It is based on an extensive literature review and has been used to inform thinking around the form, style and guiding principles of the 'Toolkit'. The report also contains a wider analysis of toolkits and the measurement of social capital. The work has been commissioned by a wide range of organisations (from within and beyond Devon) including SWAN in order to inform Local Development Frameworks, community planning and specifically the Devon Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011). [Read more....](#)

### **Cut Your Carbon – innovative Climate Change initiative**

Cut your Carbon is a recently launched three-year campaign and competition, led by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) that aims to bring together communities in the East of England

to tackle climate change. Though our communities can't take part it is well worth a look for ideas. Groups taking part are able to use a unique community based carbon footprint calculator to measure their carbon footprint, get help to become more energy efficient, use social networking software to bring their group together and win funding of up to £200,000 per project for projects that apply fresh thinking to cutting carbon emissions. Visit [www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk](http://www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk) to find out more. If you know of other similar initiatives, let me know.

### **Action for Market Towns Convention**

The Action for Market Towns Convention is the most important event in the market towns calendar. This year the convention - on 1&2 October - will run back-to-back with the annual conference in Skipton of Ruralnet, the rural development charity. A joint session with Ruralnet on 1 October means this will be the towns and rural event of the year. Earlybird discounts available – see <http://www.towns.org.uk/>

### **Future Cost of Food - the Big Rural Discussion**

Information, including the speaker's presentation, summaries of discussion and an overview of the two events which took place in April and May are now available on the Cost of Food Website. The information is very interesting, especially in light of current debates on cost of food and fuel. **Read more...** (item from SWAN)

### **Somerset Cultural Strategy**

Attached is an invitation to attend a workshop on the new Cultural Strategy for Somerset. The following is from Rob Jones (Policy and Development Manager - Arts and Creative Industries, Somerset County Council);  
'The idea of a Cultural Strategy is to have an agreed action plan on how Somerset and its local communities will benefit from a more culturally inclusive and dynamic society. It is also a way of joining together a range of initiatives that encourage greater economic growth.

This piece of work will act as a guide for the people of Somerset when building on our cultural, artistic and creative society. This Strategy is being developed for the whole County, and as such we want you to have your say.'

A series of workshops has been running across Somerset, the last is at County Hall on July 21<sup>st</sup>. See attached for booking details.

### **Shared Vision key to developing local spatial plans**

In the light of our Network Event where we heard about the excellent relationship between community regeneration partnerships and Planning Policy Officers in BaNES, CLG have announced that the new Planning Policy Statement 12 on local spatial plans requires that local plans must now be more firmly based on a shared vision created with the involvement of public agencies, businesses, voluntary groups and local people. Read more...[PPS12](#)

### **Somerset Tourism businesses Going Green**

Ten Somerset tourism businesses show how 'going green' has saved them money and helped save the planet! [Watch the video here](#)

## **Training**

### **Five free training events**

The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) are working with the other RCC's in the region to deliver a set of training events, funded by SWERDA. South West ACRE Network (SWAN) secured this funding.

The training events will be free of charge, for the benefit of community groups/individuals, and take place in September and October, in venues across Somerset. The events will be on; Skills for engagement and communication, Local Leadership, Governance, Financial Management and Budgeting and Project development and delivery.

There will be a maximum of 20 places per training session. Full details will soon be released on the [ViSTA website](#) (who are promoting the events and registration will be via their website). We will also promote the events on our site.

## **Funding**

### **Applications Invited through the Townscape Heritage Initiative**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has published the application form and guidance notes for the next application round of the Townscape Heritage Initiative. The Townscape Heritage Initiative is HLF's grant giving programme under which it supports schemes led by partnerships of local, regional and national interests that aim to regenerate the historic environment in towns and cities across the United Kingdom. The programme is designed to address problems in areas of particular social and economic need. The scheme is open to single organisations (such as Local Authorities) or partnerships of not for profit organisations and provides grants of between £500,000 and £2 million. There is a two stage application process and the deadline for stage 1 applications is the 30th November 2008. Find out more at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/TownscapeHeritageInitiative/>

### **Rural Renaissance**

Rural Renaissance's excellent website has details of a Workspace workshop on July 29<sup>th</sup> as well as the latest on the Local Action bids.

### **SW Funding Bulletin**

As this is a large document, if you are interested in receiving this please email SVSN's Jodi Boxell at [jod1s@btinternet.com](mailto:jod1s@btinternet.com)

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*We welcome feedback so that we can develop our services.*

### **Matt Day**

Coordinator

Somerset Market Towns Forum

Tel: 01458 252005

[www.somersetmarkettowns.co.uk](http://www.somersetmarkettowns.co.uk)

**Somerset Market Towns Forum – promoting and supporting community-based action to revitalise Somerset's market towns**