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News

Regional Market Towns Conference, February – 'From MCTA to MCTN – A New Beginning'

See our website for more details of this exciting opportunity – [read more here...](#)

Levels & Moors Local Action (LARC)

The three Local Action initiatives in Somerset represent a good opportunity for Town Partnerships to seek funding to deliver projects that are specified in their Community Plans (or address the key issues identified in their Plans); obviously any projects need to fit the LARC objectives. They are also a good opportunity to collaborate with other towns to give a wider, more strategic approach. SMTF is developing a database of projects from our towns, and we are happy to share this with Members so they can create more strategic projects.

SMTF has signed up to be part of the Levels & Moors Local Action Group and is happy to support the Executive with information. There may be sub-groups in future, for instance on sustainable tourism, which we may engage with.

New Improvement Plan for Streets and Parking in Axbridge

The Axbridge Action Group has been working with Landscape Architects to produce a report that addresses traffic-related issues in the historic heart of Axbridge. The completed Improvement Plan gives an overview of the problems, suggests practical, realistic solutions and outlines the next steps needed. The Action Group will be consulting on the solutions proposed, and County Highways are keen to trial some of the measures. Read this excellent Plan on our website.

10 Parishes Community Strategy review

[Click here to view details of this](#) – 10 Parishes was one of the early Market & Coastal Towns initiatives so useful for other towns to see their review progress.

AGM & Network Event, Monks Yard, Ilminster
[Click here for report](#)

New Community-Led Planning Website from ACRE

[Click here to view](#) – Case Studies may be of interest. This site will grow in time so worth checking.

ACRE Headlines, w/c 21 Nov

Includes an item on the changes announced to the Big Lottery Fund re Awards for All

[Click here to view](#)

The Big Challenge – competition for 16-25 year-olds

“Got an idea that could help other young people lead more positive and healthy lives?

The Big Challenge competition is a project led by a group of 16-25 year olds from across the UK, with the support of UnLtd and Changemakers. Big Challenge asks you to think about and act on the biggest challenges that we face in society today.

The 2008 competition is now open to all 16-25 year olds who think of a project or campaign that tackles this year's theme - Your Life, Your Decision: How will you empower other young people to take control of their lives and make positive choices about their future? Applications must focus around one of these areas: drugs, sex and alcohol, sustainable living, gang culture or healthy living.

This challenge was chosen because the youth leaders of the programme thought it represented the choices that young people struggle with day to day and they think that you are going to have some great ideas in how to tackle these.

You can apply on your own or in a group if you come up with an original idea to tackle the challenge. Projects will be shortlisted by the youth leaders of Big Challenge before a final online public vote to decide the winners. Winners of the prize fund will have their project costs paid for along with support and mentoring to make your ideas a reality!

The competition closes on 12th January 2009 so THINK BIG and get involved! For further info and to apply, visit the website - www.bigchallenge.org.uk

E-mail bigchallenge@unltd.org.uk or phone – 0207 5661129”

Funding

All Change for Awards for All

From 1 April 2009, the Big Lottery Fund will launch a new small grants programme of £300 to £10,000 for local communities; Sport England will provide small grants for sports ranging from £300 - £10,000; Arts Council England will provide small grants through their existing 'Grants for the arts' programme, supporting awards between £1,000 and £100,000; and Heritage Lottery Fund small grants will be provided through the existing 'Your Heritage' (£3,000 to £50,000) and 'Young Roots' (£3,000 to £25,000) schemes. Applications can still be made under the current arrangements until 31 March 2009. More info: <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/index.html>

Community Grants

A community grants program has been launched funded by the European Social Fund and the Learning and Skills Council. It is aimed at supporting Voluntary and Community Organisations to deliver projects that will help and support people furthest removed from the labour market to pick up the skills and confidence that will enable them to move toward employment.

[Read more here...](#)

Capacitybuilders launch £5 million Capital Grants Programme to develop Third Sector Resource Centres

Improving access to high quality facilities and services - details have been announced of three phases of capital investment, aiming to improve access by frontline third sector organisations to high quality and affordable facilities and services offered by local resource centres across England.

The capital grants programme, which will run until March 2011, is the last main funding stream to be announced by Capacitybuilders under the Office of the Third Sector's 2008-11 £88.5m investment in ChangeUp.

The programme will invest in the refurbishment and enhanced use of buildings being used as third sector local resource centres.

The first phase of the programme provides an excellent opportunity for established centres to secure an injection of funds, enabling them to make better use of existing resources. This phase is open for application until the 31 January 2009, with up to £1m on offer for investment up to March 2009.

Grants of up to £30,000 will be awarded to functioning resource centres across England to support smaller-scale improvements, such as improvements to the availability, accessibility or quality of accommodation - or shared facilities such as additional meeting rooms, office or storage space, better ICT, or access to resources such as a common library.

Applications will be assessed and forwarded for decision by Capacitybuilders' Funding, Policy and Programmes Committee on a monthly basis; so early applications are encouraged.

An application form and further information is available to download from www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/capital

In the second phase, around £2.5m of funds are available - to support significant refurbishment and development of premises. Expressions of interests are welcome from existing or developing resource centres up to the 31 January 2009.

After this initial deadline, up to 50 applicants will then be invited to submit more detailed business plans for further assessment by Capacitybuilders' Funding, Policy and Programmes Committee in July 2009.

Grants are expected to be between £50,000-£200,000 and final awards are likely to be made in August 2009.

The final phase of the programme will invest in around five 'flagship' projects that will develop or significantly expand local third sector resource centres.

Further information about the capital investment programme can be found at www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/capital
(Item from Mid-Devon GRIN)

Heritage Lottery Fund announces Re-Launch of the Parks for People Programme

Following a period of consultation, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced the re-launch of the Parks for People Programme.

Between 2009 and 2013, £20 million a year will be available for projects involving urban or rural green spaces designed for informal recreation and enjoyment.

This can include parks, public gardens as well as squares, walks and promenades, etc.

Priority will be given to projects that the community value as part of their heritage; meets local social, economic and environmental needs; and actively involves local people.

Local Authorities as well as other not for profit organisations that own public parks and gardens can apply for grants of between £250,000 and £5 million.

An example of a previously funded project is Taunton Deane Borough Council, which received a grant of £296,500 for the restoration of Wellington Park, in Wellington, and to promote the park for music and arts events.

There is a two stage (round) application process. There will be two closing dates for both first-round and second-round applications in 2009. These are the 28th February; and the 31st August.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/OurGrantGivingProgrammes/Parks+for+People/>
(Item from Mid-Devon GRIN)

Funding for Community Shops

The Village Retail Services Association (ViRSA) in partnership with Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Co-operative and Community Finance have announced the launch of the Village Core programme to provide £2m start up funding to new Community-owned shops in rural areas. More info:

<http://www.virsa.org/index.cfm/villageshop/Programme.Home>

Defra Launches Greener Living Fund

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has launched a new fund to promote greener living. The aim of the Fund is to help individuals and communities in England live more sustainably, reducing their carbon footprint and reducing pressure on natural resources. Over £6m will be awarded to up to 10 national third sector organisations ("delivery partners"), to support both projects and programmes that help people to change their behaviour in the home and when shopping and travelling. Two stage application process. More info from:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/how-do-we-work/third-sector/strategy/greener-living-fund.htm>

Community Radio Fund Opens for Applications

The Office of Communications (Ofcom) has launched the latest bidding round under its Community Radio Fund. Under the fund, Community Radio Stations are being invited to apply for funding to support their core running costs. Imminent deadline for latest round. For more info:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radio/ifi/rbl/commun_radio/Communityfund/

Waitrose Community Matters

Waitrose will award funding of £2.2m over the next year to nearly 7,000 charities and local good causes. The funding is being made through a new initiative called Community Matters. To be considered for a donation, good causes and charities are asked to get in touch with their local Waitrose branch. Contact your nearest Waitrose store for details – which will probably be the new store in Crewkerne.

Funding Through Local YouthBanks

YouthBank is an innovative UK-wide grant making initiative run by young people for young people. Local Youth Banks provide small grants to young people for activities of benefit to the community and that also benefit the young people taking part. Local areas can also receive funding, advice and support from YouthBank UK, the national umbrella body, to set up local Youth Banks. For example a grant of £75,000 was recently awarded to set up a Youth Bank in Cambridge. For more info: <http://www.youthbank.org.uk/>

The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund

Bridges Ventures, the privately owned fund management company with a social mission, has announced the launch of a £4.25m investment fund for social enterprises that can upscale their operations to have a higher social impact and have a sustainable business model. The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund will invest up to £1m in each social enterprise. The investment will be through equity-like capital providing social enterprises with the risk capital funding they need to grow. The funding will be repayable with an appropriate return, and the fund will re-invest all repayments and returns into further social enterprises. For more info: http://www.bridgesventures.com/investment_soc_entre.php

Church and Community Fund

Under the Church and Community Fund, grants of up to £15,000 are available to community projects run by parish churches, deaneries, dioceses and other bodies connected to or working in partnership with the Church of England. More info: <http://www.centralchurchfund.org.uk/applying.html>
(the above 7 items courtesy of Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum)

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

Mid Devon GRIN

Another excellent source of funding info are the GRIN's. Though out of the County, they often flag up national and regional funding suitable for our towns' projects. [Read about them here.](#)

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To unsubscribe, please reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

We welcome feedback so that we can develop our services.

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

