

ORCC Newsletter

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ORCC NEWS

The Changing face of ORCC

We are all too aware of the challenges facing us as public sector budgets are slashed and more pressure is passed onto the voluntary sector. ORCC is in the process of becoming a more focussed, nimble, proactive organisation, ready to work with and fight for communities throughout Oxfordshire. To reflect this, we are planning a number of changes to fully reflect the organisation we will become. We will be writing to our members more fully about these in the very near future.

We have many exciting ideas for moving our organisation forward and expanding our range of services. However, we will always remain true to our core mission and continue to help communities to:

- influence housing developments and plan community improvements
- support an ageing population and recruit volunteers to support community activities
- manage village halls and community shops effectively

Merger talks with our sister organisation OCVA have fallen through but we will continue to collaborate with them for the benefit of all.

Save the Date



Our **2015 AGM** will be held on **1st October at 12:00** at **Kirtlington Village Hall** - invites will be sent shortly. At this meeting we will formally be seeking support for our future direction. A re-launch event will then follow with guest speakers later in the month.

How to influence development in your community.

If you would like to influence the future development of your community then a Neighbourhood plan is one way to go. Check out ORCCs Neighbourhood Plan recommendations and overview. <http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home>



For further information and the availability of grants please contact Tom at ORCC.

Dementia Friendly Communities Report

The impact of the Dementia Friendly Communities support groups set up last year has been analysed and some clear recommendations put forward in a report produced by ORCC for Healthwatch Oxfordshire:



- Oxfordshire health and social care commissioners should commission community development workers to create Dementia Friendly Support groups in each community;
- There is a need to increase 'social prescribing' in GP surgeries (ie encouraging patients to engage in social activities as a means of improving their well-being);
- Each GP surgery should nominate a named professional to take the lead for supporting those with dementia and maintaining a good relationship with local support groups; and
- There needs to be a simple system for GPs to refer patients to the Dementia Friendly Support group.

If you would like to find out more about the report or about Dementia Friendly Communities then please contact Emily Lewis at ORCC.

Are you in danger of losing your local bus service?

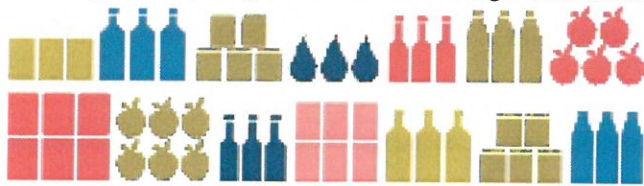
ORCC are acting as independent facilitators for the Subsidised Bus and Dial a Ride Consultation being conducted by Oxfordshire County Council.



The County Council are looking to save £2.6 million that it currently spends on subsidising non-commercial bus routes. Check here to discover if your community bus is under threat: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stconsultation

local volunteers and housed in the Church Rooms every Friday. The shop offers a wide range of local products and essential goods including fresh bread, together with a café for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Elsewhere Brighwell Stores have just celebrated 5 years of successful trading by holding a tea party to which the village was invited – congratulations from ORCC!



Parish Profile Reports

Are you interested in the underlying trends and statistics in your community, and how it compares to others?

The Evidencing Rural Need Project created detailed reports on a range of themes, including demographics, access to services, transport, economy, services and environment. ORCC is making these valuable reports freely available. Developed by **Action with Communities in Rural England- ACRE**, its members in the ACRE Network (including **ORCC**), and **Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion- OCSI**, these reports show the true socio-economic picture of rural Oxfordshire.

All Parish Profile Reports are now on our website: www.oxonrcc.org.uk/library/parish-profile-reports

Funding News

South Oxfordshire District Council's Communities Capital Grants

South Oxfordshire District Council offers grants to capital community projects in South Oxfordshire through its two Communities Capital Grant Schemes. There is a large grant scheme offering between £15,000 and £100,000 and a small scheme offering up to £15,000.

SODC strongly recommend all potential applicants talk to them before completing an application. In most cases they can give advice over the phone but if required can arrange face to face meetings. Further information can be found on www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants or call 01491 823614.

Energy audits for community buildings

Funding is still available through TOE2 to provide grants of £500 for any community

Annex X and Y show the specific routes with Annex Y showing the level of risk. To have your say, please complete the questionnaire.

ORCC is recording all formal responses which will feed into the independent report that we are compiling. This will be presented to Oxfordshire County Council and to the Cabinet at their meeting in November. The consultation is open until September 14th.

Community- Led Planning: local volunteers making a local difference

In the last few months Tetworth, Waterstock, Garsington and Alvescot have completed Community Led Plans (CLPs). Across Oxfordshire there are a further 27 plans in progress.

The CLP process has proven its worth time and again in bringing people together and developing local skills and confidence. CLPs also identify and achieve community-led projects: recent examples include new dementia support groups, a community litter pick, a house-bound resident support group, an affordable housing project, and a project to develop the use of a church as a community space.

Thinking about doing a CLP? ORCC offers free advice and support. More information is available on ORCC's [website](#). You can also contact fiona.mullins@oxonrcc.org.uk tel 01865 883488.

Struggling with Charity Commissions website?

If you are struggling with navigating your way around the Charity Commissions website now that it has moved to Gov.doc, there is an e-petition which you can sign which asks for the old Charity Commission Website to be reinstated.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/reinstate-the-old-charity-commission-website>

Community Shops - a success story.

By the end of 2014 there were a total of 325 community-owned village shops spread across the UK, with 20 in Oxfordshire. This sector has been steadily growing for the past 20 years. Whilst other types of village shop have been closing at a rate of between 300 and 500 per year, 95% of the UK's community-owned shops have survived. This is due to the hard work of local volunteers and support from Rural Community Councils like ORCC and the Plunkett Foundation.

Bladon has recently joined this growing trend and their community pop-up shop and café is now open for business. The villagers had been without a local shop for many years, until a community group took on the challenge of creating one. They held several meetings and carried out a village survey in 2014 with the help of ORCC. Over 97% of residents said they would use the facility. The shop is now open for business, staffed by

Funding is still available through TOE2 to provide grants of £2000 for any community building that wishes to carry out an energy audit. Forms are available to download from their website.

Following an energy audit, community buildings may apply to TOE2's general grant fund for grants towards carrying out the energy efficiency improvements recommended in the audit.

TOE2 is also interested to receive applications for biodiversity, access and energy efficiency projects from across Oxfordshire. Please have a look at their website for funding criteria www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk or call 01865 407003 or email admin@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk to talk through your proposed project.

The last TOE2 grant application deadline for 2015 is:
14th October

WREN – Good News

Applicants living within a 10 mile radius of Dix Pit in West Oxfordshire will now have an extended period to apply to WREN for funding for community facilities, further to the announcement that Dix Pit will be closing. The information we were given was originally that July 2015 would be the last funding round, this has now been revised. Funding will now be available in this area of the county for at least another 12 months. This does not affect communities living in the funding area around Sutton Courtenay or Calvert in Buckinghamshire as these sites are not earmarked for closure.

WREN is responsible for distributing the credits generated by the landfill operator Waste Recycling Group. As from 1 January 2015 a new single grant programme called the Community Fund came into existence. This replaces the previous Main and Small grant scheme. Applicants can now apply for funding between £2000 and £50,000 for capital projects located within 10 miles of the landfill sites at Sutton Courtenay, Dix Pit or Calvert in Buckinghamshire. Please note you must be in a position to start within 6 months of WREN's funding decision.

Further guidance and information can be found on www.wren.org.uk or contact WREN's Grant Manager for Oxfordshire, Joe Newby, telephone 01865 522720 or email : joe.newby@wren.org.uk

Biffa

Biffa Award has changed the eligibility criteria for both its Small and Main Grant schemes. The mileage of the project to Biffa operation sites has been reduced for community buildings, cultural and recreational projects from 10 to 7 miles.

All projects under the Small Grant Scheme must not exceed a total project cost of £15,000 (currently it is £30,000). Applications can be made at any time as there are no deadlines. Full details are available on the Biffa Award website <http://www.biffa-award.org/>

Have your say on the future of the Landfill Communities Fund

Many of you will have received Landfill Communities Fund grants (or LCF) to make improvements to open spaces, play areas, youth facilities, community buildings or carry out biodiversity projects using grants from bodies such as, WREN, Viridor, SITA, Entrust, Biffa, etc. which may not have been possible without this valuable source of funding.

Currently the HMRC are reviewing the Landfill Communities Fund with a view to either ending the scheme and use the tax receipts as income for Central Government and their priorities, or to reform the LCF to ensure a swifter flow of funds to the communities carrying out the projects.

If you would like to retain a reformed scheme as a potential future source of funding for your communities or others it would be useful for you to submit your experiences of the scheme and the positive effects it has had for your communities to [Landfill-](#)

tax.consultation@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk by 11.45pm on
10 June 2015

Persimmon Community Champions

Persimmon Community Champions has been set up to fund local community initiatives across the UK. They will give up to £1000 to local charities or groups who have already raised funds themselves. All of their 24 businesses will have £2000 each month to give away. Potential applicants need to complete an online application form explaining why their project should be funded, how much money they have already raised and how much they are requesting from Persimmon www.persimmonhomes.com/charity/

Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund

The £700,000 Defra fund, managed by ACRE, encourages communities to raise funds, knowing a loan could be available to help them meet their target and win funding from other sources.

The Loan Fund plays a crucial role in helping community groups renovate, refurbish and construct buildings such as village halls, church halls and community centres.

The average loan taken out by hall committees is around £15,000 – but larger loans are considered. Around 40 loans are live at any one time and ACRE makes around 10 to 14 new loans every year. The interest charged on the loan is returned to the Government, but capital is put back into the fund to support other community buildings. Please contact [Lynne](#) for further details on how to apply.

Defra have produced a short [annual report](#) on the activity of the Loan Fund, which includes case studies from around the County, which may be of interest.

Free Labour -SSE – Southern Electric

All SSE employees can take a day away from their normal duties each year to help a project in their local community. That means that your organisation, charity or group can 'borrow' a team of hands, minds, ideas or skills completely free of charge.

How it works?

You can ask a team of SSE employees to work with you for a whole day i.e. decorate your community hall by completing an online form to see if they can help

<http://www.southern-electric.co.uk/AboutUs/CommunityAtHeart/#null>

Oxfordshire Community Foundation

Award grants to local organisations with a charitable purpose that they believe will benefit Oxfordshire. The majority of grants they make are between £500 and £5,000. <http://oxfordshire.org/grants/apply-grant/>

London Marathon Charitable Trust: Sports and physical activities.

The Small Capital Project Grants Programme provides awards of between £5,000 and £19,999 to help improve existing amenities or to build new facilities that will enable organisations to encourage and support more people to become involved in sport and physical activity, particularly those who are currently physically inactive.

Deadline: Rolling process, apply any time | [Guidelines](#) | [Application](#)

Cash-4-Clubs opens for Applications (UK)

If you are a sports club and are looking for funding then this might be the place for you.

Cash 4 Clubs is a sports fund aiming to support grassroots sports clubs.

We will be awarding a total of £30,000 to deserving sports clubs up and down the country and we aim to spread the funds widely to reach as many worthy sports clubs as possible.

Please note that applications received after 18:00 on 17th August 2015 will not be accepted.

<http://www.cash-4-clubs.com/>



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