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1 – Anti-social holidays? Beat the boredom...

With school summer holidays on the horizon, concerns about anti-social behaviour have been targeted by a £100,000 grant fund which can be used by communities for a range of projects. From sports initiatives to creative arts, film-making to mentoring schemes, grants of up to £5,000 are available to support proposals that take positive action against anti-social behaviour. More information about the funding, which closes to applications on June 30th, [can be found here](#). Decisions on funding will be made within a week of the closing date.

2 – Speed Signs (SID) – DALC online forum launched

Following our very well-attended Speed Signs meeting with Simon Tranter from DCC, we've set up a new forum to bring together Town and Parish Councils who are, or may be interested in, taking part in the speed sign trial.

Aimed at sharing learnings between councils, we hope the forum will provide a space to discuss the whole process from inception to installation. To take part, please email Nicki at training@derbyshirealc.gov.uk (the forum will be hosted on Teams, but it's not necessary to have an account to take part).

Meanwhile, Simon Tranter has come back to us this week correcting some information given in the forum; councils will need to have separate structural testing of street lighting columns - contractors offering this service are on the DCC website.

Further details about the scheme can be found here: [DCC Speed Indicator Devices information](#)

3 – National survey backs move to hybrid meetings

Over two-thirds of councillors believe a permanent move to hybrid online/in-person meetings would improve the diversity of local councils, according to a new survey.

The research by the County Councils Network (CCN) found that 87% of councillors surveyed want their local council to be able to adopt a hybrid set-up for future meetings.

More than 70% of respondents said this move could attract more younger people, ethnic minorities, and women to stand in local elections.

Over 60% of councillors said a hybrid model would make local councils more accessible and accountable to their residents, with 75% saying it would cut down on their carbon footprint. More details can be found [here](#).

4 – DALC's 5th Excellence Awards – deadline approaching!

All we need is (up to) 500 words describing how a clerk, councillor, or council has gone the extra mile to deliver for their community. The deadline for our 5th annual Excellence Awards is June 30th – please send in your nominations asap! An entry form [can be found here](#).

5 – Decarbonising your village hall

Want to decarbonise the heating system in your community hall? If so, a new £14million fund has been launched by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to provide grants for expert advice and skills. The grants can be used to create or improve an existing heat decarbonization plan, and applications open on June 15th.

The Application Portal opens at 2pm on Wednesday 15th June 2022, and Salix Finance will be discussing the Fund in a series of webinars which can be [booked here](#).

For further information, support or guidance relating to this Fund please [contact the Salix team](#). If you are in Derbyshire Dales, please contact [Joanna Hill at DDDC](#) who will be happy to help.

6 – Worried about a community asset?

Does your community have an ‘at risk’ asset – such as a farm, pub, hall or sporting venue? If so, the DLUHC Community Ownership Fund could be worth investigating. Latest beneficiaries of the fund, which helps transfer ownership of assets to the local community, include a remote Scottish pub and the home of Bury Football Club. The next round of funding launches this month, with a webinar explaining the scheme scheduled for Thursday 16th June. For an invite, or to request a recording of the webinar, [click here](#). For more information on the scheme, [click here](#).

7 – Jubilee cash for village halls

As part of the Platinum Jubilee, grant funding of £3million is being made available over three years to support capital improvement projects for village halls – such as installing wifi, building extensions and modernising facilities. Although full details are yet to be published, communities can sign an [Expression of Interest form here](#).

8 – Charles Arnold Baker pre-order with discount

Orders for the local council ‘bible’ – the Charles Arnold Baker book – are now being taken by publisher Lexis Nexis, who are offering a 19.9% discount on pre-orders to help them with stock levels and availability. The cost - £132.16 – can be invoiced on order, or on delivery. To place an order, please contact Oliver Garrow at oliver.garrow@lexisnexis.co.uk.

9 – How to... run a successful Annual Parish Meeting

Many thanks to Natalie Banks-Siddons, chair of Hognaston PC, for the following report about their very successful recent APM:

‘On the doorstep of Carsington Water, Hognaston is a small village of around 110 homes, stretched along a main through-road and scattered as farms around the hillside. In spite of our size, we have many of the same issues felt in larger urban areas and we are keen to engage with our residents, to understand their aspirations and what matters to them the most.

Being a relatively new team of councillors in 2019, we all held the view that the Annual Parish Meeting was our best opportunity to engage with the village. Having undertaken a Parish Survey (the results of which were fed back in a written format in October 2019), we had been able to establish a range of topics for conversation but our chance for a fully engaged, face-to-face meeting (and to keep the momentum going) was unfortunately delayed until this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Our bi-monthly meetings, AGM and Annual Parish meetings have historically always been very poorly attended. Other than five councillors, our Clerk and local district and county councillors, we're generally talking in an empty room. We were not wholly confident we could succeed in drawing people from their comfy couches onto a hard, plastic chair to spend their Monday evening in our Village Hall.

Nevertheless, with nervous optimism, we followed DALC's advice for making the Annual Parish Meeting distinct from all of our other meetings, and arranged for it to be held on a separate evening one week after our Parish AGM. The event was advertised in a number of different ways: a poster, as part of an emailed village news letter, via Facebook and also a printed leaflet for residents who we know are not hooked up by computer; and also by word-of-mouth from councillors encouraging friends and neighbours to come along.

We tried to make the poster eye-catching, gave an explanation of the meeting and how it differed to other parish meetings. We included suggestions for conversation, highlighted by our survey, such as the highway (traffic speeds, parking and pavements), planning, young people and recreation, the environment and green issues, and general communication. We emphasised that it would be relaxed and informal, everyone was welcome, and refreshments would be provided.

As an additional enticement we included some training on how to use the two defibrillators we have within our parish. This was really well received on the night and sparked a good conversation. Following the formalities of our Chair's report, and those given by the Church and Village Hall, we were then able to open up the floor for questions and comments.

As a team we all felt that the evening was a success. We achieved the warm and friendly atmosphere we had hoped for, residents were very positive and keen to talk to us all, either individually with a cup of tea, or as a group in the Q & A at the end; and the range of residents who attended was varied, not just 'the same faces' as can often be the case. We were able to receive direct feedback; and equally, we were able to report on a number of issues which are not always easy to convey through our minutes and newsletter updates.

Now on a bit of a high, we want to build on our success from this year. We've been able to dispel some of the misconceptions as to what the meeting is for and about. Hopefully this will make it easier for us to get our message out there next year and to increase the number of residents who came out to meet us, and each other!

10 – Invites – Clerk & Chair Forums

Clerks' forum Wednesday 15th June 1.00pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89013618834?pwd=cFlaSHp1SmRqU2pmdFBycXBlcDc4QT09>

Meeting ID: 890 1361 8834

Passcode: 564874

Chairs' forum Wednesday 15th June 2.30pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87949982593?pwd=SlhXelpqcW5mWFdRWjNqcUJ1SFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 4998 2593

Passcode: 790098

Clerks' evening forum Thursday 16th June 6.00pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736958004?pwd=cUwvNGE2QlQxeTJrWmsveURjUVVFdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 3695 8004

Passcode: 989566

No particular theme – although will go through documents and records retention if desired and will do an update on SIDs. Agenda items welcomed in advance or at the meetings.

11 – Upcoming training courses

We have a varied calendar of training to take us into the summer. Of special interest may be our “Dealing with difficult people” session on the 7th of July to help you navigate those difficult situations that sometimes arise. For councils looking to up their game on community engagement our courses on making your content accessible and developing sustainable community engagement are a must!

Book onto our courses here: [DALC Online booking](#)

June

7th 10am-1pm Law and Good Practice of Local Council Meetings

9th 10am Contracts and procurement*

14th 10am-12pm HR Essentials

14th 6.30pm Finance for Councillors*

16th 10am The role of internal audit*

20th 9am-4pm Internal Auditor Training

July

7th 9.30am – 11.30am Dealing with Difficult People

7th 10am VAT for unregistered councils*

12th 10am- 12pm Creating accessible council documents and content across different media

13th 6pm-8pm How local councils can develop sustainable community engagement

20th VAT for VAT registered Councils*

September

8th 9.30am – 2.30pm Playground Inspection Training

21st 6pm – 8.30pm Councillor Essentials

*Email training@derbyshirealc.gov.uk to book our finance courses

In addition, Cloudy IT are offering some free training as below:

- 24 June – The Importance of Training
- 30 June – Hybrid Working

To sign up to any of these events, and to find out more – please visit [Cloudy IT Events - Cloudy IT](#)

12 – And finally... our DALC survey needs YOU!

Please spend a few minutes completing our 2022 DALC survey of members... it will help us refine the service we offer, and plan for the future. The [survey can be found here](#) – it won't take long to complete, we promise!

Best regards,

Wendy & the DALC team