

Village Halls News and Information



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Little Eaton's New Village Hall

On 27th June, the residents of Little Eaton in Erewash celebrated the official opening of their new Village Hall. The new hall forms part of the existing Sports Pavilion which was built in 1966. This also undertook a complete refurbishment, bringing it up to the same standards of the new Village Hall.



The Village Hall Project Committee set out five years ago to raise sufficient funds to build a very basic community facility. Little Eaton Parish Council supported efforts to raise funds for the project and were overjoyed when they learnt that they had been awarded £250,000 from WREN; winning the national WREN Communities Challenge Award in 2007. Being encouraged by their success the Parish Council went on to develop a more ambitious project and were further rewarded by securing over £400,000 from the Big Lottery Fund Community Buildings Programme. Little Eaton Community Association, the Parish Council and other local funders made up the remainder of the final project costs.

Amongst the activities on offer in the new hall are Opera, Martial Arts, Dancing Classes, Keep Fit, Amateur Dramatics and Playschool. The Village Hall website soon plans to list the full calendar of events that are taking place in the Village Hall Complex and in the wider community.

Any enquiries can be emailed to: bookings@littleeatonparishcouncil.co.uk
Further details and photographs of the project can be viewed at www.littleeatonvillagehall.com

The Economic Impact of Community Buildings in Rural Communities - a short report.

I reported in the last newsletter details of the key findings of ACRE's third national survey of almost 10,000 rural community buildings updating data from the 1988 and 1998 surveys. ACRE has now released the first in a series of short reports analysing data from the main survey of rural community buildings; it examines the economic impact of halls in rural communities. The Report demonstrates the significance of investment in rural community buildings in terms of employment and finance and considers less tangible impacts on rural communities. The Key Findings Report was launched in Westminster in November 2009.

Findings from this report can be used to support future funding bids from rural community buildings. It provides a reliable evidence base that funders can confidently take into account when assessing applications.

To view both ACRE's 'Key Findings' and the 'Economic Impact' Reports, please look under Publications on RAD's website.

RAD's website is continually being updated—check regularly for news and information
www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Peak District Planning Help

A new free service to help people with questions about planning in and around the Peak District has recently been launched. Friends of the Peak District's Planning Help aims to give clear, impartial information and advice to local people and communities about planning applications that could affect their local countryside.

The charity primarily exists to look after the local landscape by helping local people to get involved in the planning system. If there is local concern about a planning application, such as a new building development in an area of valued countryside, then the service can tell you about the steps that can be taken to either oppose or support the application as appropriate.

The service covers all the Peak District National Park, plus High Peak and the six North East Derbyshire parishes of Barlow, Dronfield, Eckington, Holmesfield, Killamarsh and Unstone.

Friends of the Peak District's Planning Help is available on its website at www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk, or by ringing 0114 266 5822 on Thursday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm.

Licensing Act 2003 - Issues

Any application for a Premises Licence or a Temporary Events Notice (TENS) has to be approved by both your local Licensing Authority and Police Division. The Police Divisional Licensing Officer's responsibility is to consider all potential public safety issues with the objective of 1) *The prevention of crime and disorder*. In addition, local authority Licensing Officers are responsible for ensuring that all licence applications consider three further key objectives of 2) *Public Safety*; 3) *The prevention of public nuisance*; and 4) *The protection of children from harm*

Local authority licensing departments are the first port of call for any questions about the administration of licences and licensing requirements as practice may vary from district to district. However, police Divisional Licensing Officers are also available to answer queries on crime and disorder issues at the pre-application stage and welcome the opportunity to discuss any potential issues that may affect approval. They are keen to help applicants address potential barriers, before an application is submitted to try and avoid refusal and last minute disappointment. They can also give advice on wider licensing issues, such as changes in the requirements for a Designated Premises Supervisor and consider what may be the most appropriate solution for individual hall committees.

Divisional Licensing Officers can be contacted directly for advice on:

B Division (High Peak & Derbyshire Dales)	- PC Sandra Barlow : 01298 762052
C Division (Chesterfield, North East, Bolsover & Amber Valley)	- PC James Pendrill : 01246 522053
D Division (Derby City, Erewash, South Derbyshire)	- PC Mark Dunn : 01332 613254

If your hall is applying for a TEN, please remember that it must allow a minimum of **10 clear working days prior to the day of the event**.

Consultations on Review of Local Authority Licensing Policies

Some Licensing Authorities are currently undertaking reviews of their '*Statement of Licensing Policy*' as each authority has a statutory duty to review its policy at least every three years. Recently there have been several legal amendments to the original Licensing Act 2003, and these changes are reflected in these draft revised and updated policies. To find out if your local authority is carrying out a consultation in your area and the hall committees wishes to participate, please refer to your local authority website for details. Your comments can help shape the revised policy in your local authority area. (See page 4 for further consultations).

ACRE Village Hall Information Sheets provide up to date details of the licensing regulations:

VHIS 9 - The Village Hall and its Premises Licence
 VHIS 10 - Alcohol in Village Halls

Reducing the Burden of Red Tape

The minister responsible for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office is Nick Hurd as the newly formed Minister for Civil Society. The coalition government is committed to try and reduce the burden of red tape on these organisations as demonstrated in the consultation listed on page 4 - **How Red Tape affects organisations running community centres?**

Government policy will focus on three fundamental issues:

- Making it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation
- Getting more resources into the sector: strengthening its independence and resilience
- Making it easier for sector organisations to work with the State

Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society explains that "This Government values the economic and social contribution of Britain's charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations, and the extraordinary work individual people do to improve the lives of others and of the most disadvantaged.

"It is the sector's commitment and ability to support and mobilise people across the country that puts it at the very centre of our mission to deliver better public services and build the Big Society."

Cutting Red Tape for Summer Fetes

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles wants to stem the flow of relentless form filling, high costs and red tape for organising summer street parties and fetes. The government take the view that extortionate, inconsistent costs and paperwork for road closures, risk assessments, and temporary event notices are barriers to community events. It can often take weeks and cost thousands of pounds for councils trying to process these applications, which can deter both councils and organisers from putting on events. There are examples of local communities having to apply for up to five separate licenses, pay up to £5,000 for a temporary road closure and obtain insurance cover for £2million for a typical outdoor event.

For further details view the full announcement on www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1660363

Hallmark* Scheme Update

The Hallmark quality standards scheme has been available to village and other charitable halls since its launch in Derbyshire last November. Following two successful training workshops focussing on Hallmark 1, we now have 15 halls currently working towards this nationally recognised quality mark. To date, we are very encouraged by the interest shown in the scheme which demonstrates a clear commitment by halls to be officially recognised for good governance.



Hallmark Scheme Surgeries

For those halls wanting to find out more about the Hallmark process and the standards necessary to achieve Hallmark 1 status, RAD is holding advice Surgeries to answer any queries they may have. If demand is high, additional surgeries can be organised in other parts of the county. To be held on:

Wednesday 15th September at RAD office, Wirksworth **2.00 - 4.00pm**

Tuesday 5th October at High Peak CVS, Whaley Bridge **2.00 - 4.00pm**

The surgeries will also give those halls already working towards Hallmark 1 an opportunity to seek further advice or clarification on any of the standards they are uncertain about.

For further details and to book your 15 minute slot, please contact Helen Faraday on tel: 01629 821928 or email: h.faraday@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk Directions will also be given to those attending.

Consultations on issues relevant to community buildings:

1. Guidance to protect community groups from surface water drainage charges

Defra recently launched a consultation on new guidance to water companies on concessionary surface water drainage charges. As a result of the switch by some water companies from the rateable value to a site area method of calculating surface water drainage charges some community groups experienced unaffordable water charges. As part of the Flood and Water Management Act this new guidance will protect such community groups. The draft guidance will be seeking views on:

- Identifying the need for companies to implement concessionary schemes
- Which community groups should benefit from any such schemes
- Setting an affordable charge; and
- The impact on other customers

The consultation closes on 22nd October, and guidance and documents can be found on the Defra website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/surface-charges/index.htm>.

2. How Red Tape affects organisations running community centres?

Over the past few months, Community Matters and ACRE have been working with two teams in central government - the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) and the Office for Civil Society at the Cabinet Office, to find out how regulation and other bureaucracy affects organisations running community centres. The survey is to help them understand how red tape affects organisations like yours and what the Government can do to make it easier to run them.

Link to survey www.surveymonkey.com/s/townandcountry

Your response will be treated in the strictest of confidence. They will only share your responses with the Better Regulation Executive and the Office for Civil Society if you agree to this in the questionnaire. They will also publish the final results anonymously when the survey has been analysed on both Community Matters and ACRE websites. If you have any queries or if you are having difficulty using this survey, please contact Rosie Anderson at Community Matters: rosie.anderson@communitymatters.org.uk

3. Alcohol Licensing consultation

The Home Office now has responsibility for the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to alcohol. The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) retains responsibility for the regulated entertainment element.

The Home Office want to hear from everyone who will be affected by the changes, including members of the public who drink alcohol; those who have been affected by alcohol-related crime; those who work in pubs, village halls, clubs, supermarkets and shops; criminal justice agencies; licensing authorities; and trade associations representing those who produce and sell alcohol.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/alcohol-licensing/>

B&Q Waste Donation Scheme

B&Q operates a waste donation scheme through its stores which allows donation of waste materials, for example slightly damaged tins of paint, off-cuts of timber, odd rolls of wallpaper and end of range materials, to community groups, charities and schools.

The waste donation scheme is co-ordinated in store either by the environmental champion, duty or warehouse manager who keeps a Waste Donation Form on file for interested groups. To find out if your voluntary or community group could benefit from this scheme visit your local B&Q store.

Charity Commission - Commission warns of bogus telephone calls

The Charity Commission has been made aware of a scam over recent months, involving people being telephoned by individuals claiming to represent the Charity Commission. In the phone calls these individuals claim to be from the "debt collection department" of the Commission and they demand payments for various services and advertisements. Some of the bogus calls have demanded payments of thousands of pounds for various services and advertisements. The Commission has been contacted by a number of people who have received calls of this nature and has already reported this matter to the police. It is important to be clear that:

- Any call from someone claiming to work with or on behalf of the Charity Commission, and claiming any payment in a threatening way, is clearly bogus
- The Charity Commission does not charge for any of its services to charities; it does not get involved in debt collection either directly or through contracting third parties to do so, and nor does it collect debt on behalf of charities

If you speak to any member of staff from the Charity Commission they will always be prepared to give their name, telephone number and email address. The best way to contact the Charity Commission is by [email](mailto:charity@charitycommission.gov.uk), through their website www.charitycommission.gov.uk, or if you need to speak to someone urgently you can call their contact centre on 0845 300 0218. Lines are open from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday, except national holidays.

Status of Miners' Welfare Trusts

From 1 April 2010, miners' welfare trusts retain their charitable status only if they meet the new statutory definition of charity; if they do not, they will not be able to retain charitable status. This provision is in s.5(3) of the Charities Act 2006, which amends 2.1 of the Recreational Charities Act 1958. For links to the Charities Act and guidance, see [The Charities Act 2006](http://www.charities.gov.uk). The Recreational Charities Act can be found in the statute law database at www.statutelaw.gov.uk

Proposed Abolition of Cheques

The proposed abolition of cheques is a concern for all small charities, especially those that are trading on a regular basis, like village halls. It appears that no change will be made before 2018. The statement from the Payments Council below suggests that before an abolition takes place, an alternative method for electronic payments will have to be found.

"The Payments Council has reassured charities that cheques or a paper equivalent might be retained beyond 2018 if no suitable alternative is in place. Central clearing for cheques is due to be abolished in October 2018, but Peter Finlayson, policy director at the Payments Council, told delegates at the Charity Finance Directors Group annual conference in London that if no workable electronic alternative could be found cheques would continue to be used".

http://www.paymentscouncil.org.uk/media_centre/press_releases_new/-/page/855/

Gambling Commission advice on Lotteries, Draws and Competitions

The Gambling Commission regularly issues updated advice on running competitions, prize draws and lotteries. Recent changes that may be of interest to managers of community buildings include:

- Running a Lottery - November 2009
- Code of practice for equal chance gaming in clubs and premises with an alcohol licence - Dec 2009
- Can I hold a Race Night or Poker Night quick guide - February 2010

These publications can be found on the Gambling Commission's website:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/publications_guidance__advic.aspx

Legal File - Car Parking (article from Philip Peacock - Cambridgeshire ACRE)

English law recognises different classes of legal rights over property, writes Philip Peacock. It is clear that the owner of a piece of land can do what they want with it (subject to planning). A tenant has sole possession of a piece of land, but can only do there what their lease allows them to do. A licensee has even fewer rights, and the holder of the benefit of an 'easement' has very specific and limited rights to do whatever has been granted. The most common form of easement is a right of way. A right to park a car on someone else's land has always been a difficult legal idea; the difficulty has been that, unlike other easements, a right to park a car suggests that the parking space could be used to the extent that it amounts to 'exclusive possession.' Exclusive possession would mean the right stops being a mere right and becomes effectively a type of ownership of the land.

The House of Lords has clarified a number of legal grey areas. First, a right to park can be an easement; it does not matter that the landowner's enjoyment of the land is severely restricted by a person exercising a right to park, provided that the landowner retains overall control of the parking land. Perhaps of more importance is the fact that a right of way can imply a right to park if the circumstances require it.

The lesson is that anyone with a car park, or even with space on which a car could be (and is) parked, should clarify the basis on which people are parking. In particular long standing and, perhaps, undocumented arrangements with neighbouring owners should be reviewed regularly to ensure that significant rights are not given away unintentionally.

New Build Costs

Alan Wilkinson, editor of the ACRE Information Document entitled Plan Design & Build, has provided an update of new build costs. The previous figures were from 2004.

The rule of thumb for a new hall is between £1200 and £1350 per sq metre plus 15% for professional fees. VAT will apply to the fees and loose furniture costs element of any new build project. Alan advises that £25,000 be allowed for loose furniture for a reasonable size hall.

However, external works will have to be factored in to any total project cost. This will depend upon individual sites and the extent of the car parking provision; estimate £2000 per sq metre.

ACRE Village Hall Information Sheets

The following information sheets have recently been updated:

- VH1 - Planning Fees for Village Halls (April 2010)
- VH11 - The Charities Act 1992, 1993 and 2006 (Feb 2010)
- VH12 - Phonographic Performance Ltd - Licensing Sound Recordings used in Public (March 2010)
- VH 13 - Performing Right Society Tariff for Community Buildings (March 2010)

The 2010 version of 'Maintaining your Hall' is now available to order.

For the full list of ACRE Village Hall information sheets and publications look on RAD website - Our Work—Village Halls. Alternatively, for further details contact Helen Faraday on tel: 01629 821928

ACRE Policy Position Papers

ACRE has recently published a series of policy position papers detailing the work of the Rural Community Action Network (RCAN) of which RAD is the Derbyshire representative. These papers are a positive response to those looking for more detailed information about the issues facing rural communities. There is a dedicated paper for 'Rural Community Buildings' providing an overview of the type of support available through RCAN. These are available to view or download from RAD's website.



Pub is the Hub Awarded Big Lottery Funding

A grant of over £470,000 has been awarded to Pub is the Hub, a not-for-profit organisation that helps support the needs of small communities. The two main aims of the scheme are to improve access to services in rural communities; and to support licensees with the sustainability of village pubs. Pub is the Hub will specifically target small, remote rural villages in 30 locations in specific counties, including Derbyshire. Each village will be selected because it has a pub but no village hall or alternative facilities, with the nearest community services over two miles away.

For further details: <http://www.pubisthehub.org.uk/>

FREE Finance Courses

Derby Community Accountancy Service are running FREE finance training courses for voluntary and community organisations in Derby and Derbyshire.

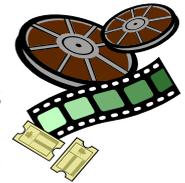
Courses and dates as follows:

Financial management for voluntary groups	22 September
Trustee roles and responsibilities	5 September
Budgeting and cash flow forecasting	29 September
Management reporting	13 October

All courses run from 9.45 am to 12.30 pm and are held in Derby at the Derby Bosnian Centre. To book a place on any of the courses email [Mark Newey](mailto:Mark.Newey@derbycc.gov.uk) or call 01332 364784.

Film Equipment for Hire

RAD has recently acquired a complete set of second-hand film equipment. This was formerly part of the Derbyshire Film project that operated by Derbyshire County Council in village halls across the county between 2005 and 2008. As a result of the project, a number of village halls have established popular film clubs for their local communities, using the mobile film equipment that was provided. Several of these halls have subsequently developed their facilities further by installing integrated film equipment and no longer have need of the old equipment.



Hence, the village halls service now have a set of the original equipment. This will be made available to hire later in the year through a booking system through RAD. The hire charge will help to cover administrative costs, insurance and maintenance considerations. The main condition of hire is that halls must first attend a technical training session that will be held this autumn - date to be arranged.

Halls interested in this initiative can register with Helen Faraday on 01629 821928. These will be added to those that have already expressed an interest and a date can be organised for a future training session.

Successful.



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For more information call the Aon Village Hall Team on **0845 600 1682**



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