



Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service

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Sandwell MBC still have a small amount of Community Chest money available for the **Oldbury area only.**

Grants of up to £500.00 pounds can be applied for to support one off community based projects,

Applications are invited from both individuals and community groups.

We have funded lots of initiatives from sports projects, trips, equipment and much more.

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The closing date is 5pm on Friday 25th October 2013 and this will be strictly adhered to.

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Tenants In Control

Free, inspiring event for tenants of Councils and Housing Associations.

BIRMINGHAM on the 23rd October 2013.

These special One-Day events will give you the chance to find out more about the many ways in which tenants can have more control over aspects of their local housing service.

From small groups of homes to large estates, urban or rural.

It might be control over one service, like cleaning or grass

For an application pack please call the **Business Development Administration Team** on 0121 569 5191 or download from the website.

If you would like information about the scheme, please contact Gail Ashfield, CIO on 0121 569 5324, via mobile on 07973704751 or via email at gail_ashfield@sandwellhomes.org.uk



maintenance, or a wide range of services, There are solutions to suit local circumstances.

Come and hear about groups that are already doing it.

The Event is free, runs from 10am to about 3.00pm and include lunch but places are limited so book soon.

Email or post the booking form (you can download one at www.nftmo.com or for further information ring 01704 227053 or email contact@nftmo.com

More Funding related training sessions

Over the past 6 months we have delivered in partnership with the Council two Funding Training events - around Comic Relief and Co-Op Membership Fund grant pots. As a result **MANY** local groups benefitted from getting some of this funding.

On the back of those sessions we are again jointly putting on 2 brand new training sessions – around small pot Lottery funding available, plus a second session on developing project ideas and bid writing.

The new sessions will highlight what money is available – and how to put together a winning idea and bid - to secure some of the available money!

BOOK ON EARLY AND GET THE TRAINING DATES IN YOUR DIARY!!!

Session 1: Awards for All & other Lottery small funding pots – Saturday 9th November 2013

Session 2: Developing project ideas and bid writing – Saturday 30th November 2013

Registration from 9.30 am – sessions start at 10.00 am & finish by 12.45 pm

Both sessions will be at the old Sandwell Homes offices, Roway Lane, Oldbury, B69 3ES.

The Council will be sending out more information for us by post but if you want to ensure you secure your places for the sessions call Rob on 0121 544 1230 or email him at rob@scips.org.uk.

Representatives from Speakability in West Bromwich came along to both our previous events. Here's how they got on:

"We are a local self funding charity group – (affiliated to SPEAKABILITY - a London based national charity.) Our aim is to support people with aphasia and their carers/family. From the leaflets we received about the training, we understood that we would be made aware of the best way to access funding. As a self funding group we need all the help we can get.

We had been successful once or twice some time ago applying for funding but had been disappointed for quite a while recently. We had only ever applied for small amounts and never had the confidence to apply for the amounts we have received since we attended the training sessions given by Rob

and Derek. The sessions were very easy to follow, everyone seemed to want to listen and find out as much as possible and there was a very good friendly atmosphere which was almost a social occasion but with benefits. We are positive that we would not have been successful in our bids if we had not had the guidance we received at the sessions along with the subsequent back up. We have had two very successful bids as a result of the training. The first was for £800 from the Red Nose Day Community Cash and the second most recent one was for £900 from the Co-operative Community Funds.

Having funds available makes an amazing difference as we are able to organise events which are very beneficial to our members. People with aphasia often become very withdrawn and the social events we are able to organise gives them the opportunity to mix with others who empathise with them and results in them not feeling so secluded. I would recommend anyone who is involved in charity group funding to make sure they take up the offer of the training sessions available".

GET YOUR FAMILY 'FLU SAFE' FOR THE WINTER

Parents of two and three-year-olds in Sandwell are being encouraged to book their children in for a new, free flu vaccine to protect them from the virus.

It is the first time a flu vaccine has been offered to healthy toddlers – and the fact it's in a nasal vaccine means it's simple, painless and effective.

There are more than 9,359 two and three-year-olds in Sandwell who are eligible for the vaccine.

And adults most at risk are also urged to book an appointment at their GPs for a free traditional flu injection. For more information, people should speak to their GP or local pharmacist – or visit www.nhs.uk/flu.

Flu is highly contagious, anyone can catch it and it can be a really serious illness for some.

Those most at risk include:

people aged 65 or over; pregnant women; and those with health conditions such as severe asthma, chest or heart complaints and diabetes.

They are already being contacted by their GP with offers of an appointment for a free vaccine.

Registered carers are also encouraged to get a free vaccination to protect themselves and those around them.

The flu vaccine changes every year to fight the latest strains of the infection. That means people need another vaccine this year even if they had one last winter.

The new vaccine for children should also reduce the number of cases where they pass on the virus to other family members, including

those at risk.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for public health, today urged people to take up the offer to help protect themselves, their families and the wider community.

He said: "Autumn's the time for those at greatest risk from flu to protect themselves and their families by getting their free flu vaccine.

"I also urge everyone who knows someone who may be at risk from flu to tell them how important it is they get protected."

The Department of Health is extending the free nasal vaccine to two to 17-year-olds from 2014 which, if there's a 30 per cent uptake, is estimated to cut hospital admissions nationally by 11,000 and deaths by 2,000 per year.

Getting online - help from SCIPS

We have been regularly reporting back on the progress we are making with our new mentoring project around IT.

We are now at a point where we can offer support to our members. So if you would like help:

- ◆ Getting an email account set up (and be shown how to use it).

- ◆ Or you are a bit worried about the amount of forms that now have to be completed online and you want someone to show you the basics on how they work?
- ◆ Or it might be that you have never used a computer but want to have a little go without committing yourself to

doing a full on training course?

To come along to a session with our mentors give Rob a call on 0121 544 1230 and he can tell you more!

We are also still looking to recruit new mentors to help out with this exciting new project - call Rob to find out more!

SCRAP METAL WARNING!!!!

People in Sandwell are advised that it is now illegal to be paid in cash when disposing of scrap metal, including collections by vehicles from door to door - as new licensing laws are introduced for scrap metal dealers.

From this month all scrap metal dealers, whether operating from a fixed site or as a mobile collector, will need to be licensed by the council under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

Cabinet member for highways and environment Councillor Maria Crompton said: "The new legislation is designed to help reduce very high levels of metal theft which are estimated to cost the country up to £770

million a year.

"This often leads to disruption to energy supplies, transport and telecommunications as well as stolen manhole covers and even war memorials.

Scrap metal dealers will be required to display their licence on their site or on their vehicle, so residents can be confident they are trading with a legitimate dealer.

They can also check an online public register that will be maintained across England and Wales by the Environment Agency, who make sure traders hold the appropriate waste carriers' licences.

Dealers are also required to

verify customers' names and addresses by using appropriate identity documents (such as a passport, driving licence or utility bill) and will be breaking the law if they pay for the metal in cash.

Council and police officers will be jointly enforcing the new laws, and will now have powers to inspect dealers' records, close unlicensed sites and revoke the licences of dealers who breach the new requirements.

Applications for licences can now be made and it is intended that licences will become effective from December 1, when the enforcement provisions also come into force.

Dates For Forthcoming General Meetings:

19th November 2013 starting at 7.00pm @ SCIPS Offices Oldbury

21st January 2014 starting at 7.00pm @ SCIPS Offices Oldbury

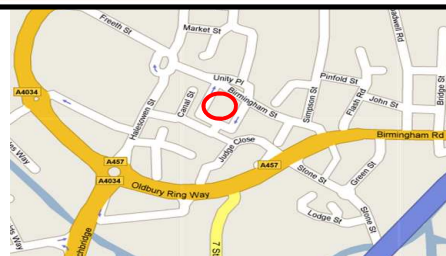
Our next SCIPS AGM March 2014 Date and Venue TBC



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