

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER Number 6 – JANUARY 2010

New Web-Site Proposed To Improve Communications With Members

The Management Committee are proposing to develop a new web-site for the Consortium which will significantly improve communications and enable members to easily access information. It will also enable the Consortium to better fulfil its purpose which is to provide advice, information and support to members and to negotiate financial benefits using the purchasing power of the Consortium. Now that the membership is almost fifty, good two way communications is essential. The web-site will enable members to access documentation such as minutes, advice papers, information, members circulars, newsletters, details of members and there will be a section accessible only by password that will contain the details of benefits and discounts negotiated for members only.

The go-ahead has been given to developing the web-site on a prototype basis and it is expected that it will be ready for use by the summer or autumn.

Annual General Meeting

Fifteen Community Buildings were represented at the first Annual General Meeting in November 2009 held at Newbrough Town Hall. The Management Committee gave a report on the year's activities, followed by the election of officials. The main part of the evening was a talk given by Kashaf Bashir, the Consortium's Energy Broker on the low electricity, gas and telecommunications prices that he is able to negotiate for members. Louise Currie of Community Action-Northumberland also gave a very informative talk on the licensing of village/community Halls for music, public entertainment, dancing and the sale of alcohol.

Election of Officials

The following officials were elected at the AGM:

Chairman - Mike Wood

Secretary - Adrian Hinchcliffe

Treasurer - Liz Stewart

Management Committee -
Malcolm Caisley
Michael Elphick
Keith Robson
Norman Hooks
*Pat Johnston
*Pam Pryor

* Subsequently Co-opted to the Committee.

We are grateful to the officials for standing and acting as volunteers

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Membership

Membership of the Consortium now stands at 49 with the recent addition of Whitfield Parish Hall and Bellingham Town Hall. Welcome to these two. So, who is going to become the fiftieth member????????? There are still a number of well established and recognised Halls in West Northumberland who have not yet joined the Consortium. They are listed below. If you have any contacts at these Halls please put in a good word for the Consortium and encourage them to join. They will be able to access the discounts that have been negotiated for members and lots of other benefits. The strength of our Consortium is the membership and we would like to have all the eligible Halls as members. The annual fee is only £10 and that will be far exceeded by the discounts that are obtainable.

Cambo Village Hall, Capheaton Village Institute, Catton Village Hall, Great Whittington Village Hall, Heddon on the Wall WI Hall, Lowgate Scout Hut, Ninebanks Village Hall, Rochester Village Hall, St Oswald's Parish Hall Bellingham, Stamfordham Village Hall, Snods Edge Village Hall, Target Village Hall.

Northumberland County Council Budget Cuts

Our understanding is that the County Council are not changing the discretionary rates relief scheme that was introduced for 2009/10. That is good news.

However, we understand that they are proposing to introduce charges for waste collection from village Halls, but this is being challenged by Community Action-Northumberland for our benefit.