

# WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

(A Self Help Group Run by Members for Members)

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER Number 12. OCTOBER 2011

Web Site - [www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk](http://www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk)

## CONSORTIUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2011.

The Autumn Meeting of the Consortium, which incorporates the Annual General Meeting, will take place next week on Wednesday 19 October 2011 at Haydon Bridge Community Association commencing at 7.00pm. An agenda for the meeting and the Annual Report are being sent out separately. In addition to the Annual Meeting there will be four other presentations as follows:

- Ⓟ **Practical Tips on the Installation of Photovoltaic Panels**      **John Carse**
- Ⓟ **Organising and Running a BAR in a Village Hall**      **Pat Johnston**
- Ⓟ **Music Licensing Update**      **Louise Currie, CAN**
- Ⓟ **PAT Testing / Northumberland Energy Club Update**      **Adrian Hinchcliffe**

This should prove to be a very interesting and informative meeting and the Management Committee would like to encourage all Members of the Consortium to attend. We do appreciate that some Members have to travel a good distance to attend the twice annual meetings, so we will ensure that we start on time and finish no later than 9.00pm.

### Portable Appliance Testing Scheme Now Underway

Greenhead Village hall is the first to receive the Consortium's PAT Testing Service. 54 items have been tested at the Hall and certified safe for use. Mike Wood, the Volunteer Tester for Greenhead Village Hall said that testing took about three hours due to the number of appliances at the Hall, which are more than most Halls.

All Members of the Consortium have been asked whether they wish to have the Consortium's service and so far 34 members have signed up with another twelve still to decide. Testing will take place between now and the end of May 2012 with the two sets of testing equipment moving between the Volunteer Testers.

Those Members who are taking the service have been sent a copy of the PAT Testing data base to ensure that the details of their Halls and contacts that are held are correct. Following this and about one month prior to the period in which testing is due to take

place, each Hall will be sent specific instructions on the procedure. There will also be information held on the web site but this will only be accessible to those who are taking the service.

Again we are in a debt of gratitude to the volunteers who have put themselves forward for PAT Testing. They are :

**Alan Brewin,      Pat Johnston,      Denis Peel,**

**Matthew Singleton   Liz Stewart   Michael Stott**

**Melvyn Whatmough,      Mike Wood**

### 2011/12 Subscriptions Are Due

Yet another twelve months has gone by and the subscription for each Member of £10.00 is now due. The Secretary will be sending out a form for this which for the first time will ask for contact details for the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for each Member.

**New Members Welcome**

With 55 paid up members in the Consortium we have an excellent coverage of Community Buildings in West Northumberland and the Management Committee is confident that it gives an exceptional service for the £10 annual fee. But, membership is about more than the benefits that each member receives. Our ability to bring all members together by networking and using group emails has proved to be very successful in finding the solutions to issues affecting one or more members and being able to share information and best practice.

Nevertheless, there are a handful of Halls in the West who have not joined the Consortium and are not benefiting from what we do. We would be delighted if these Halls/Community Buildings chose to become members so that we can learn from their experiences and them us.

### **Will You Please Stand for the Management Committee**

The Constitution of the Consortium provides for up to 12 Management Committee members in addition to the three officials. Currently we have six but we would like to increase this number.

Will you please consider nominating someone from your organisation to become a member of the Management Committee. Elections will take place at the AGM on 19 October 2011. Being a member of the Management Committee involves attending around 6 meetings each year and in between the receipt of information by email.

The Management Committee is the group that steers the direction of the Consortium and approves the business. Without a good active Committee the Consortium will achieve less for the Membership.

### **Financial Survey**

Members will recall that we launched a Financial Survey through the web site earlier in the year. The purpose was to find out more about members financial circumstances and particularly dependence upon grants for running costs.

Regrettably only 10 members responded to the survey, nevertheless it is worth looking at the results which are set out below.

#### **Income From Hire**

**Average £6,048. Lowest £272 - Highest £16,053.**

#### **Income From Other Sources.**

**Average £2,798. Lowest £527 - Highest £10,413.**

#### **Grants For Running Costs**

**5 Received – Average £1,610. Range £500 - £3,800.**

#### **Grants for Running Costs**

**All received from Parish Councils**

#### **Grants For Capital Work**

**5 Received – Total £31,763.**

#### **Grants for Capital Works**

**All received from 'Other' sources.**

#### **Running Costs (9 Halls)**

**Average - £7,278. Range - £1,206 to £20,417**

#### **Achieving a Surplus (6 Halls)**

**Average £2,536. Range £956 to £5,033.**

#### **Achieving a loss**

**(3 Halls) Range £4 to £2,469.**

#### **Reserves for Specific Purposes**

**(2 Halls) Average £2,336**

#### **Reserves for Capital Projects**

**(2 Halls) – Average £30,986.**

#### **Reserves without a Specific Purpose**

**(10 Halls ) Average £9,232.**

### **The Management Committee 2010/11**

**Mike Wood, Chairman. Tel 016977 47025**

**Email [michaelwood111@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelwood111@btinternet.com)**

**Adrian Hinchcliffe, Secretary.**

**Tel 01661 843896.**

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**Liz Stewart, Treasurer Tel. 01434 320481**

**Email [walltown@lineone.net](mailto:walltown@lineone.net)**

**Michael Elphick**

**Norman Hooks**

**Pat Johnson**

**Pam Prior**

**Keith Robson**

**Margaret Weatherley**

### **Guidance for Members – Help Needed**

From time to time the Secretary is asked for information on a wide range of topics. Recent requests include guidance on energy audits, the effectiveness of storage heaters, the valuation of community buildings and carrying out a structural survey. Many of these topics require professional input and so the Management Committee has decided to compile a list of suitable professionals that will be held on the web site. So, we need your help to compile this list. Can you please recommend organisations that your Hall has used in the following categories:

- ⌚ Architectural Practices
- ⌚ Building Surveyors
- ⌚ Electrical Contractors
- ⌚ Builders
- ⌚ Fire Appliance Maintenance

Please email this information to Adrian Hinchcliffe on [adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com](mailto:adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com) .