

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

(A Self Help Group Run By Members For Members)
A registered Charity Number 1168006

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER No.19 January 2017

Web Site -

www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk

CONSORTIUM AT RISK OF CLOSURE

The Consortium is in jeopardy. It is in danger of not being able to continue from the AGM in November 2017. Both the longstanding Chair and Secretary have said that they will not be able to continue after the AGM this year. So the Consortium needs a new Chair, Secretary and four new Committee members. If these officers and Committee members cannot be found it is possible that the Consortium may fold up.

This Newsletter is being issued after a meeting of the Management Committee last week. The Committee thought it should be making the 64 members aware of this situation in the hope that members will help by finding volunteers to take on these roles. The time for action is now so that a designate Chair and Secretary can be identified and begin to work with the current holders.

This Newsletter is devoted to this issue. It sets out what the Consortium does and the role of Chair and Secretary. A subsequent Newsletter will feature other news.

Will Chairs of member halls/community buildings please take this issue to your Committee for consideration. Can you find someone who is willing to become Chair or Secretary or a Committee member. If you wish to have more information or have any suggestions, please contact either the existing Chair or Secretary below:

Chair – Mike Wood Email michaelwood111@btinternet.com Tel. 01697 747025

Secretary – Adrian Hinchcliffe adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com Tel 01665 572888

The Objects of the Consortium

To sustain and improve community buildings in West Northumberland (the area of benefit') and the services they provide for the benefit of the local community and visitors.

To promote and improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of charitable community buildings within the area of benefit, in direct pursuit of their objects by the provision of advice, information, training and support, with a view to improving the efficiency and management of their resources

Specific Aims

- Derive financial benefits by using the bulk purchasing power of the Consortium.
- Derive financial benefits by joint purchasing.
- Offer an information service and resolving issues on matters relating to community buildings.
- Provide or initiate joint training for members.
- Lobby on behalf of members.

- Provide a forum for members to exchange views, ideas and best practice.
- Enable Community buildings to have a higher profile in the community.

Specific Services Offered

- Operate a web site www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk
- Operate a panel of four reputable insurance companies for members to obtain quotes.
- Offer EnergyCAN through CAN.
- List members Halls and advertise their use.
- Offer a Portable Appliance Testing Service through volunteers (taken by over 50 members).
- Identify training needs and organise delivery by third parties.
- Lobby third parties on behalf of members
- Offer an information and advice service through the Secretary and CAN.
 Sending out emails to all members on a range of topics,
 Reminders about service issues,
 Answering email enquiries,
 Periodic Newsletters to all members,
 Talks and demonstrations on relevant issues at the Annual Meeting.
- Through the Web site offer advice on a range of topics. Eg. Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Insurance terminology, Equipment hire, Electrical Safety Tests, Renewable technologies, CIO and other constitutional models, Hallmark, Management checklists plus many others.

Communications with Members

- Predominantly email.
- Through the Web Site.

What the Chair Does

- Chair the meetings of the Committee and the AGM.
- Approval of draft minutes.
- Act as spokesperson for the Consortium.
- Understand the needs of members.
- Understand the Consortium direction and strategy.
- Support Officers and the Committee where necessary.

What the Secretary Does

- Prepares and distributes Agenda and papers.
- Produces and distributes minutes.

- Operates the information and advice service to members.
- Maintains contact with Insurance panel, EnergyCAN and other key suppliers.
- Operates a forum for members.
- Lobby third parties.
- Occasional Newsletters and press releases.
- Identify Members requiring the PAT Testing service.
- Ensure information on web site is up to date.
- Identify training needs and initiate training courses.
- Search for opportunities to benefit members.

THE EXISTING CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE

At the AGM in November 2016 the following were elected:-

Officers

Chairman	Mike Wood
Secretary	Adrian Hinchcliffe
Treasurer	Andy Pryor
Membership Secretary.	David Easby
Web Site Manager.	Michael Elphick
PAT Testing Co-ordinator	Roly Taylor

Committee Members

Keith Robson
Neville Gray

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Consortium Management Committee appreciates that finding volunteers for the Consortium or indeed to become trustees of member organisations has always been difficult. Finding volunteers for the Consortium seems to be even more difficult. But we have to try.

Over the last two years the Committee has made changes to devolve responsibilities from the Secretary. With the creation of the Membership Secretary and the PAT Testing Co-ordinator, this has been achieved and the Consortium is now in a better position to move ahead provided a new Chair and Secretary can be found.

Ideally the person for both these positions will come from a member organisation and have a reasonable understanding of the issues faced by members and how the Consortium can help and benefit members.

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