

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

A registered Charity Number 1168006

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER No.21. August 2017

Web Site - www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND (CAN)

An agreement has been signed for CAN to supply Secretarial and other services to the Consortium with effect from 1st October 2017. The Committee approved this change at its meeting on 6th July 2017 when it was reported that 42 members had confirmed their approval of the proposal and the consequent increase in the Consortium's Annual Subscription to £35.

Both the Consortium and CAN are now planning the detailed implementation of the agreement so that there will be an improvement in the service to members. Andy Dean the CEO of CAN was delighted that this agreement is to go ahead and he said that it will bring the two organisation closer together especially CAN's Village Hall Service that is run by Louise Currie.

A number of articles in this Newsletter relate to the implementation of this agreement and some outcomes that we would like to achieve.

HOW WILL THIS AGREEMENT WITH CAN AFFECT THE CONSORTIUM

The Consortium Committee believes that this agreement will lead to an improved and more professional service to members that is more secure and consistent. CAN will supply a number of secretarial and other services including the issue of newsletters, members surveys and information and guidance on the management of village halls and community buildings. CAN will also work with the Consortium Committee to maintain and develop the Consortium web site and will support the Committee and AGM by an agenda and minutes service. CAN will also take on the collection of Members subscriptions and the maintenance of the membership data base.

Under the agreement, information requests that currently come to the Consortium Secretary will go direct to Louise Currie. Louise will also keep members up to date with any new regulations and will circulate examples of good practice.

The Consortium will continue as an independent charity with its purpose firmly fixed on supplying the best possible service and benefits to its members. The Committee will have more time to consider generating benefits for members with CAN undertaking the survey work and ensuring members are kept up to date.

NEW COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

Several members of the existing Committee are to retire at the AGM in November including Mike Wood the Chair, Adrian Hinchcliffe the Secretary, Keith Robson a Committee Member and possibly Andy Pryor the Treasurer. With the exception of Andy these officials have been with the Consortium since 2007 when the Consortium was initiated. This will represent a loss of knowledge and experience but everything is being done between now and the AGM to try and ensure that the changeover goes smoothly.

At the AGM a new Committee will be formed. Existing members of the Committee Roly Taylor, David Easby, Neville Gray and Michael Elphick are willing to continue and at the July Committee meeting Sarah Hallberg-Poppleton of Taret Village Hall has joined the Committee and has taken the position of Honorary Secretary (Designate).

It does mean that we will be short of a Chair of the Committee and we would like to recruit up to five new Committee members. **MEMBER ORGANISATIONS – PLEASE YOU HELP – WE NEED AROUND FIVE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS?**

ELECTRONIC SURVEY OF MEMBERS NEEDS – TOPICS

We would like to carry out a survey of members needs to ensure that the Consortium is effective in supporting all members. CAN will administer the survey using 'Survey Monkey' and this will take place early in October with view to having the results available by the AGM in November.

We would like some feedback from members on what they consider to be their issues and needs. For example:

- Are there services that member halls purchase where a Consortium approach would get better purchasing rates?
- Do members have any specific information needs?
- Are there any training needs that could be solved by joint courses.
- Do members require any Financial information. Perhaps a better understanding of the new financial reporting regulations?
- How about marketing your Hall?

The survey could cover whatever members want it to cover so please let Secretary Adrian Hinchclife know your thoughts before the end of August.

Email adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Consortium's AGM will take place on Thursday 9th November 2017 at Riding Mill Parish Hall commencing at 7.00pm. This will be an important meeting and we hope that Members will send a representative. Of particular importance is the need to recruit a new Chair of the Consortium Committee and around five Committee members.

MEMBERS PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING PROGRAMME 2017/18

Roly Taylor the Consortium's PAT Testing Coordinator is already planning the PAT Testing Programme for 2017/18. This year the programme will commence on 1st October 2017 and run through until Spring/Summer 2018. The price of the service will remain the same as this year:

- £32 for up to 50 appliances.
- 50p per appliance over 50 appliances

Can we assume that all those member that took the service in 2016/17 would like the service again next year? If any member wishes to drop out will you please let the Secretary know as quickly as possible – Email adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

There are around ten Members that did not take the service in 2016/17. If any of these Members would like to take the service in 2017/18 will they please instruct Adrian before the end of August. Thank you.

THANKS TO THE PAT TESTING TEAM

After another year of PAT Testing we have yet again to thank all those involved in carrying out this service – all on a voluntary basis.

First thanks must go to Roly Taylor the Coordinator of the Service. Roly took on the Coordinators role in September 2016 and has made an enormous difference. He has made the Service more efficient with much improved organisation and communications. Many thanks Roly.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the following people who have carried out testing either alone or in teams:

Angela & David Watson

Chris Lindsay

David Pentney

Denis Peel

Malcolm Brodie

Melvyn Whatmough

Michael and Pat Stott

Mike Wood

Ray Hamilton

Ray Tilley

Roly Taylor

Sally Danys and Paul Dennis

Trish Hardy and John Seager

David Wright

The Service would not exist without these people so

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PAT TESTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

David Wright of Slaley and Mike Wood have given notice to discontinue PAT testing for health reasons. Mike will cover Greenhead for another year but wishes to retire after that.

So, Roly Taylor would like to recruit one or two new volunteers to do PAT Testing. This is an ideal way to put something back in to the community. No previous experience of this sort of work is necessary. There is an on-line training course and an on-line test to undertake to obtain certification. Following that Roly will arrange for on the job training with an experienced tester. If you would like more information or wish to volunteer please contact either Roly or Adrian as follows

Roly Taylor Tel 01434 681787

Email rolytaylor@btinternet.com

Adrian Hinchclife Tel 01661 572888

Email adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

SARAH HALLBERG-POPPLETON

Sarah of Greenhaugh was Co-opted to the Consort Committee at the July meeting. The Committee is delighted that such an able person has come forward.