

Dear All,

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Regional Market Town Network up and running

Town Forums like SMTF across the South-West have formed a Network to share good practice in Market Town regeneration and seek to influence policy and service development at a regional and County level. Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall may be joined soon by a new Dorset Towns forum.

Find out more by visiting the [South-West Market and Coastal Towns Network’s website](#).

New Community Council website has excellent features

Congratulations to the team responsible for the website at the Community Council who, working with Somerset Web Services, have delivered a new site that is attractive and has clear navigation and a number of new features. Integrated Google Maps to identify community buildings, an Events Diary that anyone can contribute to, and ‘Forums’ that allow users to post messages/questions and reply to others will all be useful to those of us involved in regenerating our towns. You have to register for the Forums which is quick and simple. Explore their site at www.somersetccc.org.uk

New Multi-Use Trail developed in Blackdown Hills

The Neroche Project has rolled out [a new circular trail called the Staple Fitzpaine Herepath](#). Not sure about the name but it’s a very scenic walk or ride (aimed at walkers, horse riders and very fit mountain bikers) – it links up a number of bridlepaths, footpaths, forest tracks and minor roads to create a 13-mile circuit. A couple of short sections are impassable to cyclists at the moment though work is talking place over the winter to improve these. It’s well-signed and has good maps on their

website including places to eat and drink or park your horsebox.

As an example of developing a trail it's well worth a look (also see the Leader+ Guide to developing a Trail on our website's Resources page).

The Neroche Project also have plans for GPS-based Interpretation – see <http://www.nerochescheme.org/nerocheProjects.php>

ACRE Headlines

You can view [ACRE's Headline news here](#), which includes funding opportunities.

New guide to low carbon development published & the South-West Sustainability resource

The Govt Office for the East of England has published a guide to Low Carbon Development that is aimed at Councillors and Planners (but may also prove useful to regeneration activists) in achieving the CO2 emission reductions that we need to make. It's been written in partnership with the Academy of Sustainable Communities and the Building Research Establishment. [Read more and download the Guide here.](#)

Also in this field, SWERDA created the [South West C+ Carbon Positive Awards](#) to recognise positive steps towards a low carbon economy taken by businesses, organisations and communities, and have also developed the [South-West Sustainability Checker](#), an online tool.

Funding

Grassroots Grants – a reminder

The Grassroots programme offers grants to community groups of between £250 and £5000 (either as one off payments or grants spread over the lifetime of the 3-year programme). The fund will finance equipment, local events/workshops, general running costs (including staff costs and a contribution to rent if appropriate), training for volunteers, the cost of attending a conference/event and funding to support an organization achieve a quality or other standard relevant to their activities. More information is available on www.somersetcf.org.uk.

The fund is £200k per year for 3 years. In terms of support to potential applicants to the fund, the Community Foundation is using the CVS network to provide on the ground support. With no CVS in Sedgemoor, the [Community Council for Somerset](#) will fill this role.

Green Energy for Schools

The Co-operative has relaunched the Green Energy for Schools scheme, and is committing another £1m to support the installation of solar panels and renewable technologies across the UK. Many of our members have links with local schools so please pass this news on. More info at www.co-operative.coop/greenenergyforschools

SW Funding Bulletin

As this is a large document, if you are interested in receiving this please email SVSN's Jodi Boxell at jod1s@btinternet.com

If you have been forwarded this email, and would like to join our mailing list, email

matt@somsetrcc.org.uk

To unsubscribe, please reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

We welcome feedback so that we can develop our services.

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Somerset Market Towns Forum – promoting and supporting community-based action to revitalise Somerset’s market towns