

Happy New Year from SMTF.

Let's hope 2009 is a successful year for Somerset Market Towns.

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News

New Case Study on the Wiveliscombe Area Partnership

Learn how WAP have formed into one of Somerset's most successful Town Partnerships – [read more here...](#)

Next SMTF Network Event – Frome, Feb 11th

Details are being finalised at the moment but there will be a focus on Vision for Frome's priority projects and the way forward in their delivery phase.

Homes and Communities Agency's 'Single Conversation'

The HCA are the new national Housing and Regeneration Agency – [view their website here.](#)

Creating Excellence have flagged up the new HCA's approach to joined-up working; 'HCA is committed to moving to a place rather than programme based approach to delivering its business. One of the key ways in which it will achieve that is by developing and introducing a new approach to working with local partners: [the single conversation.](#)

'Local authorities have the democratic mandate to lead place-shaping in their areas and will be expected to put forward the shared ambitions and objectives on behalf of the local strategic partnership. We will ask local authorities to ensure that relevant partners and communities *and* (typo: are) represented. ...The single conversation will differ from place to place. Local areas have widely varying needs and each place will want to engage with us in different ways.'

Which flags up again the importance for Town Partnerships to engage fully with their LSP's – not just on collaborative projects but also ensuring the local evidenced needs at the Town level are being 'fed' into policy and strategy discussions.

Single Regeneration Strategy for the South-West

Meanwhile, the Government Office (GOSW) has announced a raft of measures to 'tackle the credit crunch', including a single regeneration strategy that will supercede the Regional Economic Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy. Interestingly it also includes 'Closer working between local authorities and partners to strengthen economic development at very local level'. [Read more here...](#)

Building a low-carbon economy - the UK's contribution to tackling climate change

This is the Committee on Climate Change (CCC)'s inaugural report. The Report contains the CCCs recommendations on the 2050 emissions reduction target and advises on the levels of the UKs first three legally binding carbon budgets for 2008-2022. [Read more here...](#)

Village Blues

[The Guardian](#) reports on the possible 'successors' to the Village Greens – that will help with climate change!

Training

Possible Training for SMTF Members

If you or members of your Partnership would like training on one of the following subjects, please let me know before the 26th Jan. Training will be delivered by ViSTA and cost around £50 per person per session and is dependent on sufficient numbers.

- Engaging Communities – how to get people off the sofa and into active participation
- Income Generation – Life after Grants
- Renewing Your Vision – Community Plan Review/Refresh, use of consultants, consultation, emerging climate change concerns
- Planning successful Projects/Moving on from launching your Community Plan –an overview including how to motivate people into volunteers, quick-win projects, media relations.
- Good management and maintaining motivation of voluntary group members.

ViSTA Governance support service

ViSTA have a confidential, individual support service offering trustees or committee members mentoring and coaching. ViSTA has a team of volunteer mentors who have been selected for their wide range of experience and expertise in relation to governing and managing in the voluntary sector. This service is available free of charge. If you would like to find out more, please email angela@vistaproject.org.uk or see our [Resources page](#).

FREE SCC Training for Social Enterprises and the Voluntary & Community Sector

'SCC is delighted, as part of its package of support for social enterprise, to announce a 2009 workshop programme especially designed for those working in social enterprises and the voluntary and community sector across the county. As well as 'old favourites' like Business Planning and Social Accounting, new to this year is an Introduction to the Legal Structures of Social Enterprises. The costs of these courses are being met by a partnership of all the Local Authorities in Somerset and so are free to eligible organisations.'

The courses include;

Business Planning, Achieving Sustainable Funding, Writing a Business Plan and Managing your Finances. See attached 'Course template' for full details and booking form.

Cascade Training for the Third Sector

Cascade is the Third Sector Support Service run by Lindy Booth, formerly Development Manager at Mind in Taunton & West Somerset.

Some of the courses they are offering during 2009 include:

- Financial Management Demystified - Tuesday 3rd March (Taunton)
- Understanding Yourself & Other People - Tuesday 10th March (Taunton)
- Full Cost Recovery: from theory to practice - Tuesday 17th March (Taunton) & 23rd July (Exeter)
- Working Towards Financial Sustainability - Tuesday 31st March (Taunton)
- The Psychology of Leadership - Tuesday 7th April (Taunton)
- Strategic Planning for Trustees & Senior Management - Tuesday 21st April (Taunton) & 21st May (Exeter)
- Getting Your Message Across – Media Management for Smaller Organisations – Tuesday 28th April (Taunton)
- Performance Management - Tuesday 5th May (Taunton)
- Networking & Negotiating Skills - Thursday 11th June (Exeter)
- Successfully Applying for Small Grants (What's Happened to Awards For All?) – Tuesday 7th July (Taunton)
- 'High Impact' Communication Skills - Tuesday 21st July (Taunton)

The cost of each course is £99 per person (including lunch). The cost of booking one person on three Cascade courses at the same time, or three people on one course, is discounted to £270. All courses run from 9.30am – 4pm at fully accessible venues.

Certificates confirming course completion will be provided.

All of Cascade's trainers are knowledgeable professionals and highly regarded in their fields of expertise. See attached Programme and Booking Form for more details.

Funding

SCC Market Town Regeneration Fund deadline changed

[Read more here...](#)

Sea Change Wave 3 deadlines changed

CABE have announced some significant changes to the timings for submission of proposals under Wave 3 of Sea Change this year. The deadlines are now as follows;

Large grants: **30 April 2009**

Open application grants: **30 June 2009**

Further details are available through the Cabe web site:

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=2468>

CABE says 'this is a considerable shortening of timescales relative to Wave 2 but it is necessary in order to meet national spend requirements'.

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

Mid Devon GRIN

Another excellent source of funding info are the GRIN's. Though out of the County, they often flag up national and regional funding suitable for our towns' projects. [Read about them here.](#)

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

