

NALC REVIEW gets underway

Communications, representation and collaboration are all on the agenda of a new NALC Review. NALC – the Northumberland Association of Local Councils – is an association of the parish and town councils in the historical county of Northumberland, which also includes also Newcastle and North Tyneside. NALC provides advice, information and training to local councils; it promotes networking and co-operation between local councils: and it seeks to influence policies, programmes and other decisions on behalf of local councils.

As a result of LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) in Northumberland, district and borough councils have disappeared, and so local councils have a greater significance as the voice of their communities, and potentially as providers

of local services. At the same time, eight new, large local councils have been created in south-east Northumberland, almost doubling the population which are now served by local councils

NALC has therefore launched a review of its own structures and activities, to ensure that these are fit for the future. To help the review process, all local councils are being asked to complete a questionnaire, which is being organised and analysed by volunteer Mike Slaughter - a former parish clerk and experienced senior borough council officer.

Subject to respondents' comments, some of the likely changes include:

- Restructuring the County Committee to ensure wider geographical representation

- Widening the address list for email communication with councillors as well as clerks
- Convening regular meetings for local councils at area level (three areas in Northumberland, plus one for Newcastle)
- Convening a network of councils which are taking-on the delivery of principal authority services

These changes, including any which require amendments to the NALC constitution will be discussed at NALC's AGM in the autumn.

For more information, contact David Francis at Tower Buildings, 9 Oldgate, Morpeth tel: 01670 517178.

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New Faces at CAN



We are pleased to welcome a new member to CAN's Executive Committee (ie Board of Trustees): Cllr Roger Styring. Roger represents the Lesbury area on the County Council, and he is the Deputy Leader, with a special responsibility for the Council's 'localism' agenda. This means he has a particular interest in community forums, parish councils and the voluntary/community sector, as well as partnerships. He is active on a variety of local groups (the parish council, village hall and church, among others) and in TINN (Transport in North Northumberland).



We are also pleased to welcome a new member of staff: Melanie Hall is a Community Development Officer for the West Northumberland area, based in Hexham. She has worked in a variety of local voluntary organisations: Links youth project, Volunteering Tynedale and Haltwhistle Partnerships, as well as the National Park Authority. Her post is funded by the Big Lottery fund through their BASIS programme. She will be advising and supporting voluntary and community groups throughout the west.

Partnership progress

The reconstruction of the NSP (Northumberland Strategic Partnership) is progressing well, and steps are being taken to ensure the involvement of both the VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) and also the local council's sector in these arrangements.

The Northumberland VCS Consortium recently undertook a selection process, and has made appointments as follows:

To the NSP Board:

Ven Bob Langley, Mike Dungworth and John McGough

To the NSP Executive:

Georgie Cruddis, Julie Davenport and Sheila McGuckin.

Similarly NALC (Northumberland Association of Local Councils) organised

an election, and appointed to the NSP Board Cllr Tony Hood (Felton PC, on behalf of the Northern area) and Cllr Rob MacFarlane (Sandhoe PC, on behalf of the Western area). A similar election will be arranged among the ten local councils in the South-East area. NALC has appointed its honorary secretary David Francis to the NSP Executive.

Progress is also being made to form the three Area Partnerships within the NSP. Since last autumn, the former district-led LSPs (Local Strategic Partnerships) have been working together to make recommendations on the structure, composition and operation of the three area partnerships. These will bring together service-providers (such as the NHS, County Council, Police) with community and business interests, to

address the specific circumstances and priorities of the particular area. The NSP Board will be meeting shortly, to finalise these 'constitutions' and to arrange for representation/participation by the various organisations and interests.

The area arrangements, and the local community forums, will be supported by staff within NCC's Locality Teams, which now consists of:

Head of Team	Kirsten Francis
South-East area	Lynda Fakir and Kevin Bartlett
North area	Gillian Simmons and John Cooper
West area	Richard Powell and Susi Goncu.

We Met The Funders – 2009

Community groups from across the county came to the first of this year's popular 'Meet The Funders' events, on an exceptionally warm and humid June evening at Stannington Village Hall.

Following feedback from last year, it was decided to hold the event, for the first time, from 5pm to 7.30pm rather than during the daytime and to 'test out' this timing by only holding one county-wide event rather than the usual 2/3 across different locations.

A total of 104 organisations/groups booked for the event with 81 – represented by 133 people - actually attending.

CAN is always seeking ways in which these events can be further developed and improved, so evaluation questionnaires were issued with a very respectable return rate of almost 62%. The results showed that the event was indeed an overall success with more than 75% of responders finding the event useful or very useful; the organisation good/very good; and publicity and promotion of the event as good/very good. Nearly 65% found the change in timing of the

event to be more convenient and while 24% commented that this made no difference to their ability to attend, only 11% of groups felt that the timing was inconvenient.

For the first time, being unable to change the venue to accommodate these large numbers at short notice, and in order to manage the higher-than expected numbers of people involved, a slip was devised which groups could hand to each funder, which gave a summary of the group, details of their project and evidence of need and anticipated cost. Our hope of using this to fully utilise the use of available time with the funders to in turn give more time for funders to give advice and information directly relevant to the project concerned, had the effect of helping to keep queue lengths to a minimum. Overall this worked very well and proved popular with both groups and funders, many of whom saw it as a positive development.

The opportunity to meet funders face-to-face and the range and quality of funding information that CAN provided at a dedicated 'site' within the Hall was appreciated by the vast majority of groups, and with this in mind, and



'TINN-CAN' – Vee Robinson of T.I.N.N. (Transport in North Northumberland) discusses funding with Marc Johnson of C.A.N.

using the results of the evaluation, CAN intends to arrange other events in the autumn – provisionally, one in the north of the county and one in the west/south.

Thank you to the Unity Trust Bank for generously sponsoring this event

Attendance allowance going unclaimed

By Lorraine Hindhaugh of Northumberland County Council



Northumberland Care Trust and Northumberland County Council are raising awareness of a disability benefit for older people which can help to improve their quality of life. Attendance Allowance is a benefit for people aged 65 and over to help them cope with the increased costs they incur because of their disability. However, many ill or disabled older people in Northumberland are failing to claim this benefit to which they are entitled and which can make a real difference. Any older person who needs care and support has a right to claim this benefit.

Many older people tell us they've never claimed benefits and won't start now, however State Retirement Pension is a welfare benefit and we need people to have the same attitude to claiming Attendance Allowance which ranges from £47 to £70 per week.

Entitlement is based solely on the 'disability criteria' which is assessed by looking at the help an older person needs in connection with activities related to their personal care. It does not matter how much other income or savings you have.

To find out more about Attendance Allowance and whether you, or someone you know, qualifies, please visit www.direct.gov.uk or call the Department for Work and Pensions telephone helpline for disabled people and their carers on 0800 88 22 00.

The Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern and other advice agencies can also give independent advice about claiming Attendance Allowance and may be able to help you with the claim forms.

New parish councils – progress

On 1 April 2009, eight new parish-level councils were created in South-East Northumberland. Following their elections in June, each council has now started to develop.

Following a number of training sessions provided by NALC, they are now sorting out their budgets, organising themselves to respond to consultations, deciding on their staffing arrangements and planning how best to engage with their communities. They are looking to establish a 'shop-front' presence in their communities.

Some have resolved to style themselves as town councils, which means that their chairmen are now mayors. These are Ashington, Blyth, Cramlington and West Bedlington.

It is likely that they will be taking responsibility for certain local services next April, and they have initiated discussions with the County Council.

Interim clerking and support is being provided by David Francis and Sue Finch at CAN, Tower Buildings, 9 Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1PY tel: 01670 517178

National compact refresh - consultation begins

The Compact is a partnership agreement between public sector organisations and the third sector. The Compact sets out commitments on both sides which, if met, improve the quality of partnership between sectors and the outcomes from these relationships.

The National Compact is currently under review and out for consultation: Refreshing the Compact: A framework for partnership working, can be accessed by visiting www.compactvoice.org.uk Consultations runs from 20 July to 12 October 2009.

Changes to the National Compact will undoubtedly have an impact on the Northumberland Compact. A workshop is currently being arranged for VCS organisations signed up to the Compact.

If you are not signed up, but would like to find out more you would be very welcome. For further details contact: lyndawatson@ca-north.org.uk

Seeing stars?



The search is on for this year's nominations, to celebrate the work being done by volunteers and charities across the region, which get on with improving the quality of life for individuals and communities in the North East region.

Categories are:

- Most exciting project
- Most inspiring campaign
- Volunteer of the year
- Outstanding organisation
- Outstanding leadership
- Young leader.

Download a nomination form from www.vonne.org.uk/awards and email it to awards@vonne.org.uk before the September 18th deadline.

The Awards ceremony will be held in October.



Uplands LEADER Traditional Boundaries, traditional skills project – dry-stone walling
Roisin Black (foreground) and Simon Telfer

Follow the leader

In the summer 2008 edition of CAN news we announced the launch of three new LEADER initiatives which together cover most of Northumberland, One year on, we thought it was time for an update

The new LEADER is a bottom-up, community-led approach to the delivery of Rural Development Programme for England funds which runs from 2009–2011. Each LEADER area has developed an action plan, established their own Local Action Group, to oversee the spending of their budget of circa £350,000 p.a. and has now started to approve grants to projects to further the LEADER aims. Some of the projects approved to date are as follows:

The Northumberland Uplands LEADER

(covers the West of the county, running from the South Tyne River northwards to the border with Scotland and the River Till.)

So far five projects have been approved:

Haydon Tourism Gateway Initiative to renovate the existing library and take it into local ownership in order to provide a wide variety of services, and promote the parish as a tourism gateway.

Cheviot Futures

www.cheviotfutures.co.uk will help farmers and land managers take steps to adapt to a changing climate, through a series of demonstration projects.

Traditional Boundaries,

Traditional Skills A National Park run course which provides training and skills in boundary management, designed so that trainees have the best possible chance of entering full time employment in the rural economy.

Slate and Nature

www.slateandnature.com

A small scale enterprise which will help meet a demand from tourists for locally produced craft products – a broad range of specialised items made out of reclaimed slate. This will involve building a workshop and creating 2 local jobs in a deep rural area.

Reach Out

Tynedale Women's Training Group will bring a range of training opportunities to isolated women in deep rural areas. A free crèche service allows women to attend courses in exercise, crafts and practical skills.

Contact
Tom Burston,
Local Action Group Co-ordinator,
Tel: 01669 622063,
Email: enquiries@nuleader.eu
website: <http://www.nuleader.eu/index>

Northumberland Coast and Lowlands

LEADER covers Pegswood north to the Scottish Borders and west to the A697 road. Projects supported so far include:

Shilbottle Community Hall to support towards new capital build community hall in Shilbottle

Alnwick Community Centre Cafe

providing support to set up a new community cafe facility in Alnwick Community Centre

Strawberry Hill Day Centre funding towards a new day centre facility in Lynemouth

Bamburgh Castle Village Recreation

Field providing new equipment to improve and manage a site for local sports teams, residents and visitors.

North Northumberland Tourism

Association - funding for brochure listing visitor attractions, and accommodation available through NNTA members in North Northumberland.

Berwick Food Festival - support for holding a festival in Berwick in September 2009.

Border Green Festival - support for holding a festival in Berwick in June 2009.

Contact: Ivan Hewitt,
Coast and Lowlands Leader Coordinator,
Tel: 01670 794913
Email: ivanhewitt@enrgi.co.uk,
www.leadercoastandlowlands.org.uk

North Pennine Dales LEADER

covers Teesdale, Weardale, South Tynedale and part of Derwentside.

So far 10 projects with a total value £157k have been approved:

- support for a new sport event in Weardale,
- partnering two neighbouring villages to facilitate an event,
- a zero carbon project,
- a community shop in Allendale,
- a touring theatre company with an environmental message,
- support for an artist co-operative project,
- community radio,
- training and development in traditional skills,
- an additional service at a village hall which will help their sustainability
- community enterprise coaches.

Contact the project co-ordinator Sue Ellwood on 07789 266 491 or visit the web site for more details www.northpenninedalesleader.co.uk

For more details of LEADER in the North East visit: www.rdpnortheast.co.uk

Renewable Energy

are you making the most of the opportunity?

Northumberland Renewable Energy Group is a partnership seeking to promote and facilitate the uptake of renewable energy technology across the county. Made up of members from across the public, private and third sectors, it meets quarterly to share information, plan activity and address barriers to participation or development of the growing renewable energy sector.

A programme of events across Northumberland has been organised from June to September 2009 and covers many of the questions asked on the subject.

Further information on the group can be found at www2.northumberland.gov.uk/reports/nreg or by contacting Ruth Machen on Ruth.Machen@Northumberland.gov.uk

Licensing changes now in force

On page 8 of the June -July 2009 edition of CAN News we mentioned that the **Legislative Reform (Supervision of Alcohol Sales in Church and Village Halls) Order 2009** – was approved by Parliament in March but was, at that time, still subject to agreement of the regulations and fees.

Those regulations and fees have now been agreed, coming into force on Wednesday July 29th.

Full information on how this affects your church/village hall can be found on the following ACRE website link www.acre.org.uk/communityassets_regulations.html and on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6262.aspx

grassroots grants

Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

is a government funded scheme that is in its second year, and is running until March 2011.

In the first year, 55 Northumberland groups received grants totalling £134,000, and since April 2009 a further 34 groups have been funded. There is £83,000 available to be allocated between now and March 2010, and grants are available for not for profit, voluntary or community

groups, which have been in existence for a year or more, have a constitution, accounts and policies relating to working with Children or Vulnerable People (if relevant). The group must also have an average income of less than £30,000 per year over the last three years.

The grants are intended to reflect the diverse needs of the community, so can cover a wide range of equipment, events, fees, overheads and training. Full details and application forms for the Grassroots Grants scheme can be found on the Community Foundation website www.communityfoundation.org.uk or you can contact CAN on 01670 517178, or the Community Foundation on 0191 222 0945 to discuss the project you are planning.

The Northumberland County Council's new **Community Chest Scheme** aims to support activities that will benefit and are needed by local communities. Community groups across the county are being offered funding to help deliver projects. It is open to any voluntary or community, not-for-profit group or organisations based in, or predominantly serving Northumberland.

The council is making £150,000 available this financial year which is being divided between the three key committee areas in Northumberland - North, South East and West. Grants of up to £5,000 are available and there is no minimum amount for applications so it can be used for a wide range of purposes.

The fund is administered through a simple application process - there are no deadlines, although the projects must take place within the current financial year. Applications will be considered by a funding panel made up of councillors from across the county.

The fund is being administered by the Council's Locality Development Team. For more information about the fund, or for an application form, call the council on 0845 600 6400 and ask to speak to a Locality Development Officer or link into www.northumberland.gov.uk



Taxi!

By Barry Egen – Northumberland County Council

The taxicard scheme was launched in October 2007 with a successful voucher scheme in Whalton then expanded to the rural west of the former Castle Morpeth Borough; the pilot area covers the 14 parishes of:

Belsay, Capheaton, Hartburn, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Longhorsley, Matfen, Meldon, Netherwitton, Stamfordham, Stanington, Thirston, Tritlington and West Chevington, Wallington Demesne and Whalton.

It is for people in rural areas with mobility difficulties and those without access to a car or public transport to travel independently. These journeys can be for social outings, such as visiting friends, going to the hairdressers, shopping, entertainment or for appointments at the doctors and so on, and the Taxicard can be used to supplement your Taxi fares.

This scheme is based on a smartcard system and participating taxi firms have a smartcard terminal installed in the

cab. The clients are given a smartcard with £100 credit on it, and the fare can be subsidised by up to £8. The first £3 of each trip the client pays, after that the Taxicard can be used to pay for a further £8, above £11 the additional cost is paid by the client. The system automatically reduces the credit on the card and registers the fare with the operator.

The target is to have 100 clients using the scheme. There are currently 60 members of the scheme and a further 40 are required.

To find out more information or membership enquiries call the Taxicard Customer Services Centre on 01254 688454

Works on Commons and Village Greens

By Stephen Rickett - Northumberland County Council

Parish Councils have often been wary of improving commons or village greens in their areas because of the uncertainties over their legal powers. The County Council has now introduced a process for considering applications to make "Schemes" for commons and village

greens in Northumberland. A "Scheme" provides a relatively inexpensive way of providing authority for minor works. There is no application fee but the parish council would be expected to meet the advertising costs.



For more details please contact Stephen Rickett in Legal Services, Northumberland County Council, email stephen.rickett@northumberland.gov.uk or telephone 01670 533219.

Glendale comes alive!

By Rob Kelsey of GAP

The Inaugural General Meeting of the Glendale Alive Partnership (GAP) took place in April this year. This article is intended to give a thumbnail sketch of what the partnership is and how it operates.

Who we are

The Glendale Group of Churches consists of eight Church of England parishes with a total of ten churches. The Glendale Alive Partnership has its origins in the growing realisation that it is increasingly difficult to sustain an effective Christian presence in each of these parishes. It was recognised that the churches would be better able to do together what they were struggling to do alone, and that they would be more effective if they worked in partnership with other denominations and the wider community in order to engage effectively with the processes of change in the countryside for the well-being of the whole locality. This is reflected in our **Statement of Purpose**.

How we're organised

The Glendale Alive Partnership involves a Forum that meets once or twice a year, and includes representatives of the churches in the Glendale area, together with people of goodwill from secular agencies and organisations. The Forum decides policy, and appoints a Management Committee

to oversee the implementation of that policy and to think things through on its behalf.

What we might do

Early on in the life of the partnership, a Steering Group obtained funding for a feasibility study by the William Temple Foundation, who produced a report that can be downloaded from www.wtf.org.uk. The report included a number of recommended projects that may be summarised as follows:

1. To construct a Glendale Heritage Trail, connecting the unique stories of each church and community in a continuous journey
2. To develop church buildings, churchyards and church land for the benefit of the whole community
3. To develop caring networks in some or all parishes and communities, by building on the good work that already takes place
4. To promote leadership and training within and between the churches
5. To work in partnership with the Glendale Gateway Trust

A sub-group has already put a great deal of time and effort into the first of these projects, and you're likely to be hearing more about the Heritage Trail in the near future.



Caring Together Countywide

If you spend all or part of your time looking after someone who depends on you because of their illness, disability or frailty, then Carers Northumberland is here to support you.

Carers Northumberland is a charity dedicated to:

- Putting carers first
- Supporting carers
- Informing carers
- Providing a voice for carers

Staff based across Northumberland in Belford, Pegswood and Hexham can provide up to date information about specific support in your local area as well as more general support and information to help you in your caring role.

If you are, or know of, a carer living in Northumberland who would like to access our support and services then telephone lo-call 0844 800 7354 or email info@carersnorthumberland.org.uk today.

We have information materials available for local display. If this would be useful, please contact us to make arrangements. Staff can also speak at Parish Council and other meetings, or to local groups, to explain more about what we do and raise awareness of carers' issues.



Pop a note in your diary – the Annual General Meeting for Community Action Northumberland will be held on Wednesday 4 November. We hope you'll be able to join us.

Venue and further details to follow in the next issue...

Do you employ staff?

Please take note that the Government has announced increases in the rates of the National Minimum Wage to take effect from 1 October 2009.

The new rates are as follows (old rates in brackets):-

Workers aged 22 and older - £5.80 per hour (£5.73)

Workers aged 18 to 21 - £4.83 per hour (£4.77)

Workers aged 16 to 17 - £3.57 per hour (£3.53)

A Sense of Place – my place or yours?

For those of us who take a weird pleasure in statistics, June 2009 was a delight. It saw a massive amount of information emerging about people's perceptions of where they live. It was the long awaited analysis of a new national survey conducted last autumn – the Place Survey.

In Northumberland over 8500 people responded to the postal survey which aimed to provide information about their attitudes to their local area and services. This was far higher than in many other areas because Northumberland was keen to be able to analyse the data at a much smaller area than the county. Over the next few weeks it is hoped that we will get information at North, South-East and West Area levels as well as at the levels of the 27 Community Forums. This would only be achieved if sufficient numbers of people responded to provide a high enough level of statistical confidence.

Northumberland's differences are as interesting as its similarities. The Place Survey asked 32 different questions so the ones selected for the table below are only a small proportion of the results. They have been deliberately selected because they demonstrate where the county differs substantially from regional or national responses.

Volunteering Northumberland

By Charles Tremeer

is now moving ahead at full speed, following the recent decision by the BIG Lottery to provide core funding for the next three years. This, combined with similar support from Capacitybuilders until March 2011, secures the medium term future for the project and means that a full volunteering brokerage service can now be offered across the county.

The Volunteering Northumberland project was established by Wansbeck Centre for Voluntary Service in 2008 to provide a consistent, county wide volunteering infrastructure service. It is built on the success of the existing Castle Morpeth and Wansbeck Volunteer Centre which has been based in the WCVS office in Ashington for over ten years.

Volunteering Northumberland's work in the rural areas is covered by home based volunteering development workers, who are working in the communities in their areas. They are Terri Bearhope in

the north of the county and Liz Stokoe in the west. They are already meeting potential volunteers, and organisations which are seeking volunteer assistance, at places convenient to them. They recently organised a series of drop-in events in various locations which will be built upon to help raise the profile of their work.

Terri and Liz will be working closely with Community Action Northumberland staff, in particular the community development officers working in Alnwick, Berwick and Hexham. This will ensure that as many organisations as possible can be told about the work of Volunteering Northumberland and are able to access its services. If you would like to register your organisation or are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact either Terri (07900 998933 or terri.bearhope@wansbeckcvcs.org.uk), Liz (07884 414396 or liz.stokoe@wansbeckcvcs.org.uk) or the Volunteering Northumberland office on 01670 858688 or v.centre@wansbeckcvcs.org.uk.

Selected Place Survey Findings

Percentage of people who:	Northumberland	North East	England
agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	80.5	73.8	76.4
feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood	68.5	62.2	58.7
have been involved in decisions that affect the local area in the past 12 months	17.1	11.6	14.0
have given unpaid help at least once per month over the last 12 months	24.9	18.6	23.2
are very or fairly satisfied with museums/galleries	28.3	41.6	41.5
are very or fairly satisfied theatres/concert/halls	27.9	40.8	43.2

The answers indicate that, compared with the region or England, we get on better, we feel a greater sense of belonging, we are more likely to have been involved in decision making and we are more likely to volunteer. Where we appear to fall miles behind the average is in our satisfaction with cultural facilities. In this respect Northumberland ranks lower than Slough.

The purpose of all these statistics is to test that policy is moving in the right direction. Sometimes the performance might be relatively good (being involved in local decisions) but the starting

point is dismally low. Sometimes the variation between parts of the country is huge (Devon & the South Lakes have volunteering rates which are 40% higher than Northumberland's) and we need to discover why.

During the next few weeks the figures breaking down Northumberland into its three Areas and Community Forums will become available. The differences within our county are expected to be wide and will provide valuable evidence over where services should be prioritised.

County review of VCS links

The future of financial support for the VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) and new opportunities for service-delivery by VCS bodies are among the issues being looked at in the County Council's review of its relationship with the VCS. A joint NCC-VCS review group, under the chairmanship of Cllr Neil Bradbury, will be looking to improve and develop this relationship, recognising the key contribution which the VCS can make

to community life, service-provision and regeneration.

Last winter, a major exercise was undertaken to integrate the VCS funding mechanisms of the seven predecessor principal authorities in Northumberland, to enable the new unitary authority to continue the grant-aid support for VCS bodies. Now this support will be assessed against county-wide priorities, to ensure a fair and consistent approach. The

review will also consider non-financial support (such as the provision of advice and training by council officers and the free use of council premises), and it will explore opportunities for the delivery of further council services to be commissioned from the VCS.

It is hoped that VCS bodies will know by November 2009 the level of their likely financial support for 2010-11.



These days, it seems there is almost constant media coverage of controversial planning applications to build wind farms

in Northumberland. However, one aspect that is usually overlooked is the potential for Community Benefits Schemes arising out of such developments.

There is currently no legal obligation on wind farm developers to offer local communities any share in their profits. However it is widely recognised that affected communities are entitled to share in some of the financial benefit that the developers will gain

from utilising this free wind resource and setting up a Community Benefit Scheme is considered standard good practice. The process of negotiating such a scheme is kept completely separate to the planning process, and should not influence the outcome of an application. However experience has shown that the most beneficial results for communities are achieved if their representatives start discussions prior to planning permission being given. When a community is fundamentally opposed to a development, this can feel very inappropriate.

Issues to consider early on include what level of grant is acceptable; would the community prefer a one off payment, a regular income, or maybe even ownership of one of the

turbines; how wide an area should benefit; what are the priorities for spending, how the scheme will be managed.

It seems inevitable that more wind farms are part of our future. The Regional Renewable Energy Strategy has set a target for Northumberland to produce 314MW of renewable energy by 2010 with a further 89 MW by 2020 and currently some 25 planning applications at varying stages are being processed for developments across the County.

CAN is able to provide support to communities embarking on a community benefits scheme. If you would like further information contact: juliaplinton@ca-north.org.uk or by phone on 01665 605540

What We Do

Community Action Northumberland provides a range of advice and support services for community and voluntary groups to enable people throughout Northumberland to overcome disadvantages and improve their quality of life. These services include:

- Funding advice
- Management committee development
- Advice on constitutions, charity law and legal structures
- Support for village halls/community buildings
- Project management support
- Local regeneration
- Support for parish councils
- Employment services
- Production of community newspaper

Additionally CAN seeks to

- work in partnership to facilitate the development of new, and to support existing networks of local voluntary and community groups, in order to enable them to be a mechanism for developing collaborative work across the sector
- influence and work with decision-makers to provide, with partners, conduits for the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be voiced and heard within the decision-making structures, regionally and nationally.

CAN is anxious to ensure that it effectively performs these roles and therefore operates a process of continuous evaluation. This requires feedback from our users and partners. Any comments on our performance are not only welcomed but essential to help us to make sure that we are meeting the overall needs of users and maintaining our quality standards.

CAN News is currently published bi-monthly.

It contains useful information on sources of advice and funding, helps to alert people to changes in legislation or service provision which may affect them, and passes on ideas and news from one community to another. Contributions and items of informative and newsworthy value are welcomed. Please get in touch with the Editor, Louise Currie, at Tower Buildings, 9 Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1PY or email items direct to info@ca-north.org.uk.

**Copy deadline for the next issue is
Friday 24 September**

For more information on
Community Action check out the website at:
www.ca-north.org.uk

How to contact us

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