

CCB Annual Review 2020

Helping Berkshire communities thrive



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CCB is a community development charity that supports communities in Berkshire, with a focus on rural areas



Energy
Advice



Supporting
Berkshire
Village Halls



Adult
Community
Learning



Tackling rural
isolation &
loneliness



We help to build people's skills and confidence, enabling them to play a bigger part in community life.



CCB Family Home Energy Education and Advice Project

By Helen Dean, Project Co-ordinator

Fuel poverty affects more than 2.4 million households in UK. It can be caused by numerous factors: low income, poor heating and insulation and unaffordable energy prices. It can severely impact on health and well-being and rising NHS costs.

CCB delivers this project to bring advice and guidance on reducing home energy costs to families and the front-line workers who support them in Berkshire.

In April 2019 - March 2020:

- **47** drop-in advice sessions or talks delivered
- **407** families advised from across Berkshire
- **787** indirect family beneficiaries
- **168** families advised and supported to claim the Warm Home Discount who were previously unaware of this, levering in **£25,760** of income to those families.
- 5 training sessions for **75 front-line workers** delivered. Information, advice and guidance will be cascaded by those trained frontline workers to **680 vulnerable families** and 95 colleagues in the six months following the training.
- **76%** of families supported found it difficult to pay their energy bills meaning this project effectively targeted those experiencing fuel poverty in the county.

This project has been very effective in reaching low-income families through attendance at groups supporting families with young children across Berkshire. Partnership working has continued with organisations such as Children's Centres, Homestart, Health Visitors and Alana House, with the addition of a new partner Slough Job Centre. The training that has been delivered to frontline workers has enabled advice and information to be cascaded to the vulnerable families that they support, who otherwise would be hard to reach.

Comments from families and frontline workers

'I was really worried about my bills – the advice has been a great help.'

'Helen clearly has a wealth of knowledge and provided our volunteers and staff with information and contacts that will benefit many of our service users.'

'I only just found out about the Warm home discount. It's useful advice as winter is coming.'



Adult Community Learning

By Gemma Matthews, Communications & Office Manager

2019-2020 saw another fantastic delivery of community focused courses from the team at CCB. Huge thanks goes to our funders West Berkshire Council & Wokingham Borough Council whose continuing support allows us to arrange and deliver unique training topics focusing on community needs in Berkshire.

This year we delivered three sessions with Heartstart Thatcham & Swallowfield on Essential Life & Defibrillator Skills to rural areas. We also facilitated a new course focusing specifically on Pediatric First Aid to parents in Wokingham. We were able to organise three courses in partnership with Community Organising focusing on an Introduction to the concept, Listening Skills and a bespoke course for Neighbourhood Planning Groups.

Our CBAS Advisor Kate developed new training courses for Trustees of Community Buildings on being a Chair of Trustees, running Recreation Grounds and a very successful Environmental Conference focusing on how Village Halls can be more environmentally friendly to over 35 learners in Beech Hill.

In 2019-20 we delivered training to over 180 learners.

95% of our learners rate our course content as either 'excellent' or 'good'.

"The trainers were excellent! Knowledgeable, passionate and positive - community organising can clearly make a big difference, and good advocates are great at conveying good practice!"

"Many thanks for organising a really interesting, efficient and welcoming environmental conference. There were lots of excellent ideas to take away and it was relevant to our village hall."

"Confident, professional tutors and the practical demonstration were great. It was good to have the opportunity to 'have a go' and use the defibrillator."



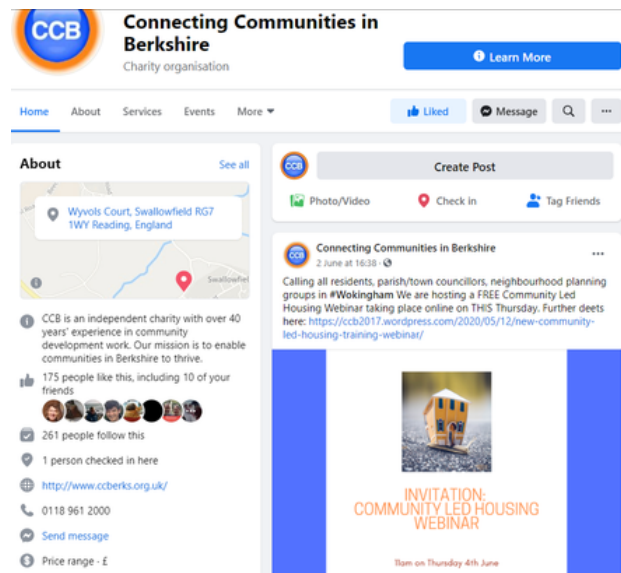
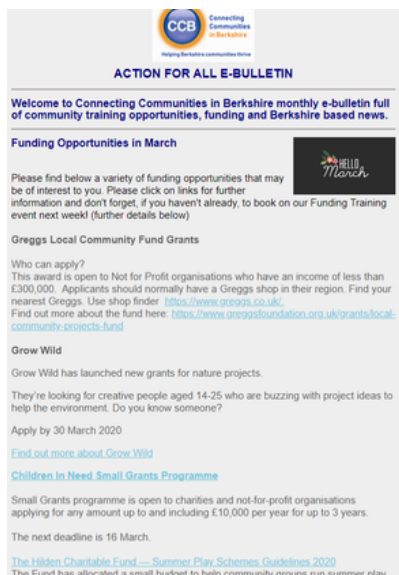
**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**





CCB Oil Club

The CCB Oil Club takes on the organisation of bulk buying heating oil and the negotiation of the best price, reducing the cost for members and the time spent on sourcing oil. In 2019-20 we saved our Oil Club members over £4500 in total on orders placed. This equates to over £40 per member, as well as providing benefits to the local environment by cutting down the number of tanker journeys made. For further information please e-mail marion@ofps.org.uk or visit our webpage: www.ccb-oil-club.org.uk



Stay in touch!

Every month CCB produces an e-bulletin – '**Action for All**'. We try to ensure that it's packed full of community Berkshire news, rural articles, energy advice, best practice guidance for community buildings, funding information as well as opportunities to book on free or low cost local training opportunities.

If you're on Facebook or Twitter please do follow us up for up-to-date, daily information and guidance.

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Community Buildings Advice Service

Community Buildings Advice Service

By Kate Meads, CBAS Advisor

The Community Buildings Advice Service (CBAS) is a 'must have' service for anyone who manages or runs community halls and public buildings. Membership of CBAS gives bespoke advice and expertise to anyone running a community building or village hall. Annual Membership is £168 and may be subject to a reduction in some local authority areas.

In 2019-20 we offered help and support to **68 Village Hall** and Community members who ranged from Village Hall Charities, Parish & Town Halls running a mix of Charitable and Council owned venues, YMCA & the Berkshire Scouts Association.

Highlights of the service in 2019-2020 were:

- Visiting 18 wonderful Village Halls!
- Development of an Environmental Audit Tools for Halls and Community Buildings
- Supporting a Hall faced with closure to remain open and viable

- Supporting Halls with over 100 individual enquiries about a range of management issues e.g.: Employment Law, Insurance, Risk Assessment, Funding, Fire Safety, Safeguarding, Charity law and Trust Deeds.
- Provision of bi-monthly newsletters with training, funding, Charity Commission, governance and maintenance news and updates.
- Supporting a local estate to begin working towards provision of a new Village Hall and Village Hall Charity.
- Promoting National Village Halls Week



Community Organising in Berkshire

by Tim Parry, Chief Officer



"Community organising is the work of bringing people together to take action around their common concerns and overcome social injustice. Community organisers reach out and listen, connect and motivate people to build their collective power."

For the last two years CCB has been working in partnership with Community Organisers Ltd to provide training to people that are involved with community-led projects, giving them the opportunity to develop their skills and increase their effectiveness.

Our plans for the future include the creation of a new **Local Organising Group for Berkshire**: a democratic group of active people interested in networking with their peers from across the county and to have a say in the kinds of training events we provide in the coming months and years.

If you have an idea for a project but don't know where to start, this group could be an ideal source of **inspiration and support**. Equally if you are already involved with a project in your community and would like to connect with similar people who are active elsewhere then this group is for you! For further information please contact Tim.Parry@ccberks.org.uk



Rural Isolation & Loneliness

by Tim Parry, Chief Officer



Over the last 6 months, CCB has been working with two fantastic volunteers to find ways of using data differently in understanding and addressing rural isolation in Berkshire.

Marine Roux is from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Adam Secret is from the Home Office. Both have the ideal mix of skills and experience in research and working with data that helps us make sense of the many indicators that, in combination, will give our project fresh insight into the scale and nature of social isolation amongst older people in Berkshire.

Marine and Adam have developed some new tools allowing us to spot key trends in the changing nature of deprivation in rural Berkshire, and to analyse demographic information in relation to the location of key community infrastructure.

Having these tools in place will greatly support the work of local people involved with broadening the range of social events, groups and activities taking place in our communities. Once the social distancing restrictions put in place to tackle the Coronavirus pandemic ease sufficiently, these tools will be introduced as part of our continuing project to promote existing activities and to encourage the creation of new ones that address unmet needs

CCB is one of the 38 Rural Community Councils in the Actionwith Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Network that receives funding from Defra. This grant provides resources to support our work with rural communities. It also enables us to collect information and evidence on the issues facing rural communities and to feed this information into ACRE, facilitating ACRE's rural representational role at a national level.

Through CCB, local issues form a part of the national picture, used by ACRE to advocate on our behalf and to influence national policy.



Rural Affordable Housing

by Tim Parry, Chief Officer



2019 saw CCB join forces with colleagues in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire to bring new expertise into Berkshire to support community-led housing. The Hub, hosted by Community First Oxfordshire and part-funded by Government, is now supporting groups in Berkshire to bring forward projects.

"The aim of Collaborative housing is to support the development of a pipeline of community-led housing projects across Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The hub is a collaborative effort to ensure a coordinated and efficient approach, striking the right balance between a central point of expertise and practical local delivery."

The training events have been delivered in Berkshire in the last 12 months to increase awareness of the different models of community-led housing. Self-builds projects, Community Land Trusts, co-housing development and cooperatives are increasing in numbers across England. More and more people in the Thames Valley are realising that if they want to see affordable homes built for people connected with their communities that can remain affordable and provide for local need in perpetuity, communities themselves need to get involved and take the lead.

If you'd like an informal conversation about community-led housing and its potential in your community, contact Tim.Parry@ccberks.org.uk. Alternatively, you can contact Fiona Brown, Communities Lead, as the Collaborative Housing Hub via email at fiona@cohohub.org.uk.

Thank you



Thank you to our Trustees for their governance, advice and guidance in 2019-20.

Ralph Godbold, Chair
Raghavendra Vaishampayan, Hon. Treasurer
Bob Lyon
Martina Platts
Peter Sampson
Peter Thorn



Thank you to our friends at **Content Guru** and **Redwood Technologies** for their very generous donation of essential I.T. equipment. We are extremely grateful for your support.

Thank you to our funders

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to all our project funders. We would also like to recognise the contribution of our CCB members, Oil Club members and Community Buildings Advice Members for your continued support.

Action with Communities in Rural England
Allied Westminster
Berkshire Community Foundation
Community Organisers Ltd
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Englefield Charitable Trust
Groundwork UK (Tesco Bag's for Help)
Hallmaster Online
Pargiter Trust
Rivar Ltd
Stanhope Wilkinson Associates
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust
The National Lottery Community Fund
The Sackler Trust
Utility Aid
West Berkshire Council
WHSmith Group Charitable Trust
Wokingham Borough Council
Wokingham United Charities
Yattendon & Frilsham Fete