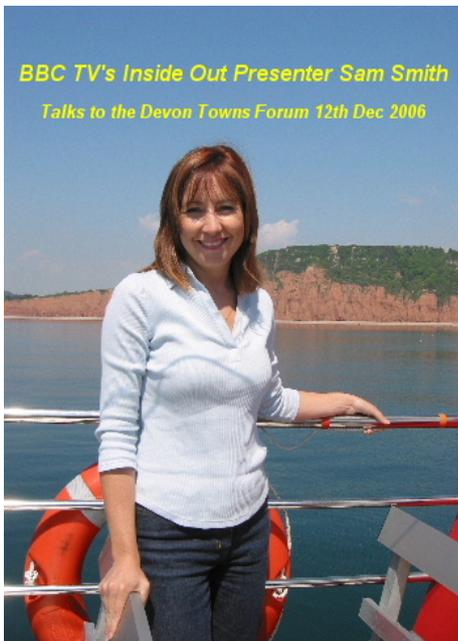


Forum News October 2006.

Free Gala Event 'Making a Difference' Book NOW!

Sam Smith top presenter with the acclaimed BBC TV series Inside-Out will speak at the Devon Towns Forum evening gala event 'Making a Difference' on the 12th December in Exeter. Admission is by confirmed booking only, so book your free places now by contacting the Forum on 01805 624874 or e-mail info@devontownsforum.org.uk



Book NOW to see Sam and Guests

Sam Smith presenter of the BBC's Inside-Out television series of hard hitting and ground breaking reports from around the South West is to Speak at the Devon Towns Forum Gala Event on the 12th December in Exeter. The event celebrates the positive contribution of communities make to the life, well being and environment of Devon. Sam who lives in Plymouth is no stranger to many of the issues tackled by our communities, from the lack of affordable homes, the problems faced by the young and the isolated not to mention how to protect our beautiful environment and heritage. Sam's experiences as highlighted by the television series will provide an excellent reflection of the power of people to come together and achieve great things Other guest speakers including James Hassett CEO of the Market and Coastal Towns Association, Philip Collins from Natural England and Professor Michael Winter. A display of Community Projects and a Gala Buffet is also included to make this pre Christmas event really sparkle.

MCTA News

Make a note in your Diary for the 2nd and 3rd February 2007 for the MCTA Annual Conference: Details to be announced soon!

The MCTA /SWAN report on Community Plans produced by leading Community Planning Consultants BDOR entitled '*An exciting Future for Community Plans*' is available to download from www.swan-network.org.uk or www.devontownsforum.org.uk.

This is an excellent '*must read*' report with impressive case study evidence and suggests the way forward for developing responsive and engaged LSP's.

'Free Website and Training Offer'.

Due to the fantastic success of the Forums Website and Training package offers we have decided to make it a special Christmas for more lucky Partnerships

The Devon Towns Forum is once again offering to provide a ***free website and training package worth up to £500***. If your partnership does not have a current or suitable website, is engaged in Community Planning, and can nominate at least one person to be responsible for the site, this could be just what you need.

The offer includes your own SWCO Website, initial one-to-one training, the first year's maintenance fee, usually £75.00, and free access to all future training for SWC webmasters. The Forum's offer is aimed at increasing individual and partnership skills, help to market your partnership, boost capacity and connectivity. So, don't delay, contact the Devon Towns Forum for an ***application form*** today!

The Winning Partnership will be selected by the Management Board whose decision will be final. Closing date for entries is Friday 1st December 2006. The winning partnership will be awarded with the package at the Forums Gala Event on the 12th December. So, get cracking, contact the Forum on info@devontownsforum.org.uk for an application form today.

Free Devon Renaissance Funding Master Classes

The Devon Towns Forum in partnership with the ***Devon Rural Network*** is delighted to offer a limited number of ***free*** places for a **Devon Renaissance Funding Master Class**. The event will be held near Tiverton in Devon on Monday 4th December 2006. Details of the venue will be sent with the confirmation of your booking.

This special half day event is aimed at all those developing significant Community Projects and Enterprises in East and Mid Devon. The event will be of great value to those wishing to know more about Devon Renaissance Funding, the work of Devon Renaissance, the Devon Rural Network and the Devon Towns Forum.

This is the second in a series of Devon Renaissance Master Classes to be sponsored by the Devon Towns Forum with others to follow for West, North Devon and Torridge early in the New Year. Places are limited and ***must be confirmed prior to attendance***. Please contact the Forum Facilitator now if you would like to attend this exclusive event e-mail to: info@devontownsforum.org.uk or telephone 01805 624874

Don't keep it a Secret

Remember, we can only let you know about the Forums free services if we have up-to-date contact details. There are no fees, so please keep your Forum up-to-date!

DTF Support More Partnership Working

The Devon Towns Forum's is to help develop better local networking between partnerships and promote engagement with the Local Strategic Partnerships. By offering each area board member some resources to help organise local joint working, such as joint meeting, events and to help to engage with Local Strategic Partnerships.

In addition to the partnership working already taking place there are now Joint Partnership groups operating in West Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge and now with some extra support from the DTF this can continue and be supported in South and East Devon too! For more information about support for Joint Working contact the DTF on 01805 624874 or e-mail info@devontownsforum.org.uk

DTF support the Bridges Project

Jane Mills DTF Northern Area Board Member was delighted to support the North Devon and Torridge 'Bridges Project' that celebrated the launch of it's Pocket Guide to Parish Planning to a very well attended gathering at South Molton Town Hall on the 19th Oct 2006. With displays from many local groups and organisations plus a proper 'Devon Spread' the Bridges Project was given a First class launch. The Bridges Project was a time limited project funded by Devon County Council, Torridge and North Devon District Council, the Countryside Agency and the RDA. The project was instigated by the two LSP's to promote and support Parish Planning across the Northern Devon Area. The Devon Towns Forum helped sponsor the celebration event and through its support for partnership working will help continue the valuable achievements gained through the project. Caroline Walker of the MCTA, Ian Hobbs and Ali Boyd from DCC and Cllr. Marguerite Shapland were among the many who supported the project team to produce an excellent guide plus a wealth of experience and good practice for the future. DTF facilitator Paul Delahoy who attended the event said: ' this is an excellent example of engaging local community partnerships with their LSP's and the resulting guide will be highly valuable to Parishes everywhere thinking about undertaking Parish Planning' Copies of the Guide are available from Ali Boyd; e-mail Alison.boyd@devon.gov.uk tel 01271 388912

CIB Funding Advisor Training - Put Your Name Down!

Its time to put your name down if you would like a DTF sponsorship for the next CIB Four-day Certificated Funding Advisors Training Course. The DTF will offer bursaries to cover course fees plus a contribution to travel, or accommodation worth over **£300** to approved applications made to the Forum to attend a Charities Information Bureau Certificated Funding Advisors Course. Working with the CIB Forum members are able to gain a recognised qualification in Funding advice at OCN level 2 or 3. So, apply now and get you name down on the waiting list. Tel 01805 624874 or e-mail info@devontownsforum.org.uk

Youth Needs Tackled

News from the Teignmouth Community Development Trust

A recent consultation of young people in Teignmouth highlighted a lack of sporting and leisure facilities; however one of the improvements already scheduled is the construction of a skatepark in 2007. The consultation also recognized that still more needs to be done including subsidised entrance fees at the Teignmouth Sports Centre that would allow young people to enjoy activities at subsidised rates at off-peak, times during the week.

The "Teenbridge Project" intends to provide a series of coaching activities in partnership with KMCA to promote sporting development and the social inclusion of young people in the area. "Teignmouth Police support the initiative to forge stronger working relationships with the Kingsway Meadow Centre and the Broadmeadow Sports Centre providing further activities for young people in the area". TCDT and KMCA have set about making specific requests for funding to support the project.

Tackling Social Exclusion in Devon

Our Colleagues at the Community Council of Devon are holding a Workshop entitled "Nothing about us without us". This workshop has been developed by people facing exclusion in Devon's communities and will provide lots of useful ideas and tools for helping to tackle Social Exclusion. The event is on the 29th November in Okehampton. If you would like to attend please contact Gail Hickson, Community Council of Devon, School Hut, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QB. Tel: 01392 383443 Fax: 01392 382062 or email: gail@devonrcc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Action Support Project

Representatives of Service Providers and Organisations from across Devon attended a Workshop organised by the NASP Steering Group to consider which issues were felt to be the most important and how best NASP might help address them. Led by Ian Hobbs of DCC the event produced some thought provoking challenges that will help guide the work of both NASP and Common Ground partnerships, both supported by the Devon Towns Forum to ensure our member community partnerships are better able to address inclusion and deprivation issues when developing or revising their Action Plans.

Countywide Project Database

The Devon Strategic Partnership is spearheading a proposal for a whole County Project database. The DTF has been asked to join a Steering Group for the project together with representatives of LSP's, the Devon Rural Network, MCTA, CCD and representatives of the Parishes and Town partnerships. The Forum's support for strategic working with the LSP's is hoped to assist with the task of collecting base data. More about the Project Database in the coming months.

DTF to Offer More Free IT Training Opportunities

Members who attended the recent free DTF IT training workshop on the 6th October confirmed the value of Website Know-how and appreciated the excellent training offered by South West Chambers On-line star trainer Kate Doodson, thanks Kate for another great workshop. If you have particular IT training needs perhaps looking at the production of E-Newsletters using increasing your Word and Publisher skills, then get in touch with the Forum and we will see what we can do to help. News of the next free training workshop will be announced as usual on the Forums own SWCO Website.

Have you checked out the MCTA WEBSITE?

Don't forget to visit the MCTA's new website at www.mcti.org.uk log on and make your contribution to keeping everyone better informed about your partnership news and find out the latest direct from the Association. If you have any other queries relating to the work of the Market and Coastal Towns Association please contact Caroline Walker the Devon Area Facilitator on 01237 478398 or 01823 250815

Call for New MCTi Towns

The MCTA call for application from Market Towns to join the MCTi programme has been highly successful with some really excellent applications received. The difficult process of selecting the next MCTi Partnerships across the South west including Devon will take place towards the end of the year with announcements made in the New Year, so good luck to all the applicants, but remember the Forums Services are there for MCTi and Non-MCTi partnerships.

Watch this Space!

Keep an eye on the DTF Website at www.devontownsforum.org.uk In addition to Forum News we put all the News, Board Vacancies, Special Offers, Training Events, Workshops, Seminars and Conferences on the DTF website. We also try to e-mail everyone on our contact database to keep members with up-to-date offers.

Who's Who!

Please remember to keep the Forum up-to-date with any changes to your partnership personnel and send full contact details including e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and postal addresses of your chairman, representative, or members to the Forum at the above e-mail address so they can be added to the contact database.

Members of the Devon Towns Forum are invited to submit news and information about their Partnerships to the above e-mail address.

The Devon Towns Forum cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy or content of information supplied. Articles may be edited where necessary. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the MCTA, DCC, The Devon Towns Forum or its partners.