

VOLUNTARY ACTION



Voluntary Action North
East Lincolnshire

CHANGE FOR GOOD

In order for the UK's businesses, communities and economy to work well, we all accept that the country's infrastructure – roads, railways, telecoms, power and so on, needs to be kept running well to support everything else. So it is with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector – the infrastructure to support these organisations all needs to be in place.

So at VANEL we've been reading with interest "Change for Good: a report of the Independent Commission on the future of local infrastructure" published this month by NAVCA. The research has been thorough, the findings comprehensive, and the conclusions and recommendations are very focused. You can read the report yourself via www.vanel.org.uk/changeforgoodreport.

The report indicates that "research shows that infrastructure will be needed in some form as long as people come together to form voluntary organisations and community groups". At VANEL we agree and are playing our part in continuing to provide that support to the non-profit community across North East Lincolnshire and especially to our Member and Friend organisations.

The report has a main recommendation, that "local infrastructure needs to be redesigned and creatively resourced to meet the challenges of tomorrow." Again, we agree, and VANEL has always tried to react to needs, evolve and develop and ensure that we continue to provide the support services that you need. Our recent changes to our volunteer service by 'going mobile' to meet organisations and people where they need support is a case in point. Our Supporting Volunteers Award (SVA) which we created a couple of years ago was also an example of this innovative evolution (and features in the NAVCA report).

Change for good

Report of the Independent Commission
on the future of local infrastructure

January 2015

FEBRUARY 2014

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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The report ("Change for Good") highlights many key challenges that affect our entire sector and then makes numerous recommendations to infrastructure organisations such as VANEL, to independent funders, to local commissioning bodies and local and central government in order that everyone works together to provide continuing and better infrastructure support.

For anyone operating in the sector, the report contains a lot of relevant information about the current state of the environment in which we all work. Findings in the report cover key areas of; enabling change, shaping places, stewardship of the sector's role, harnessing resources, demonstrating value and communications and storytelling.

At VANEL we're reading it with interest and ensuring that we continue to evolve to meet the needs of the future. We'd be interested to hear from our Members and Friends as to what else they'd really like from us.

Karl Elliott, Development Manager

www.vanel.org.uk/changeforgoodreport

Change for good

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to move the project forward and fed back to Liz and Jenny with their plans and who was doing what towards the scheme.

Molly, lead student for the group said – "We plan to hold a food (and toiletries) drive for our local Homeless Day Centre, Harbour Place. This will take place in and around our college, and staff, students, parents and local residents will be encouraged to donate non-perishable foods and toiletries. We will also be contacting some of the local schools that we as students have links with, to talk in their assemblies and classes to try to gain their support. Students will also deliver plastic bags and leaflets to houses in the area, and then return another day to collect the filled bags. On the college campus collection bins will be situated at a number of focal points to collect items."

Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire will be assisting the students in this project through the support of Jenny who says, "It was great to be part of encouraging the local students to lead on their own voluntary and community projects. Any engagement like this for and by students is a positive move and helps to give students a broader picture of their local communities and the issues within it. To know that on their first go at Student Volunteering Week they managed to be successful in gaining a £200 pot to help with their marketing and collection bag costs is a real encouragement to the students and the college. They will be linking into the National Student Week blogs on a regular basis to let the national team and other college and universities know of their progress and experiences, be they good or bad, emotional or hilarious. We wish them every success in this challenge."

Watch the VANEL website for further updates as this project progresses.

Back in December, **Franklin College** students under the leadership of Liz Drury, were delighted to be told that they had been selected as one of the ten nationally funded projects for Student Volunteering week. (Further investigation shows they are the only sixth form college nationally to have succeeded in gaining funding. The other 9 are all universities.) This is the first time the college have considered taking part in student volunteering week. They were approached by Jenny Hodson from VANEL with initial information via a last minute "why not apply for this funding bid, it closes tomorrow night!" email message. Liz duly completed the application with resulting success.

In January 15 students got together to discuss ideas on how

Member of the Month – Franklin College

Franklin College are the VANEL Member of the Month for February and our team will be busy continuing to work with the students throughout the month, particularly during this upcoming Student Volunteering Week. www.franklin.ac.uk

Member Focus – One Voice

Our Member of the Month for January was One Voice. They are the community organisation for Immingham and surrounding villages, with the aims of bringing the community together for the economic, social and physical regeneration of the whole community, ensuring that the community is represented in regards to existing and new agendas and initiatives.

Their website contains all the relevant information on what's going on in the community and they can also be found on facebook, twitter and linkedin. www.onevoicecommunity.com



Volunteer Centre

North East Lincolnshire

A ROUND UP OF LOCAL, VOLUNTEER RELATED NEWS FROM US, OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND THE COMMUNITY.

The Volunteer Brokerage Service is changing....

We're mobile!

Come and find out what this means to you and how you can get the best out of the new service.

Join us on

Tuesday 24th February 2015

10am–12noon

at Immingham Resource Centre, Margaret Street, Immingham

The event is open to:

- ⇒ organizations and groups that involve volunteers
- ⇒ Organizations and groups that are interested in volunteering generally
- ⇒ Organizations that encourage their clients to volunteer
- ⇒ People who are volunteers themselves

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - PLACES LIMITED!

To book your place:

RSVP by Tuesday 17th February

Email: volunteer@vanel.org.uk

Ring: 01472 231123

Do you need some help with something IT related?

We now have more and more volunteers coming forward with a range of IT and digital technology related skills that they'd like to use. So does your charity/group need a bit of support? It might be website, social media, software, hardware or anything technical at all.

Contact Karl (karl@vanel.org.uk / 361043) to discuss your needs and get help in describing it properly as a volunteering opportunity. Then with a bit of luck we can find the right person to help you.

More ways we can help with your TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

We're working with more and more Members and Friends at the moment helping them to understand and use technology better, improve their digital skills, and improve the technology support they have available. So if your organisation has any questions or issues or wants inspiration on how to use technology in better ways, why not get in touch with VANEL to see how we can help. Contact Karl Elliott on 01472 361043 or karl@vanel.org.uk.

Here's a range of technology related events coming up soon. For more details contact Karl or keep an eye on www.vanel.org.uk where we'll post updates:

Next **WebClub** sessions are **Wed 11th Feb, Wed 4th Mar and Wed 25th Mar**. All 12noon-2pm and all at VANEL offices at the Willows.

Wed 18th February is a "WordPress workshop". Part direct training, part workshop and discussion, this session is introductory (rather than advanced) for anyone interested in learning more about how to get going with this website development tool.

Fri 20th February: "Better Backups" workshop. Ideas, suggestions and advice on better ways to manage your backups.

Wed 25th February: "Maximising MailChimp" session, 9.30am-11.30am. If you're already a bit familiar with the Mailchimp e-newsletter tool then this session is to help you learn more, solve your problems and answer your questions.

Tue 3rd March: "Cooking up a website" 10am-12noon. Another of our introduction to website development training sessions.

Further details about agendas, timings, costings etc will be online soon or contact Karl if you are interested in any of this training. We're also running Technical Surgeries on demand, so if you have any tech questions that you really need some help with, then get in touch.

MEMBER NEWS



Communities Together

The latest, bumper edition of the Communities Together newsletter has been sent out. If you didn't receive it, it's here: <http://bit.ly/1v4STUk>

In this newsletter Communities Together are introducing their new logo, and you can see this and all the news on their website www.nelcommunitiestogether.co.uk.

There is a **Chinese New Year celebration** event on Sunday 22nd Feb at Cleethorpes Memorial Hall. It's on from noon till 5pm and tickets are £3. With lots going on, check for full details on their website.

The newsletter also takes a look back at the Holocaust Memorial Day celebrations in January, looks at Shoreline involvement with the SleepEasy event, introduces the "Sunday evening club" which Oasis Church Grimsby is putting on and introduces the Community Organisers and how they are working with Migrants and refugees.

Communities Together is also working with Alison Hobbs from Happy Soul Training to provide **Interpersonal skills training** and details are in the newsletter.

And finally, the invitation is for people to attend the next **Communities Together Forum** meeting. This is on Wed 18th Feb from 5.30pm-7pm at the Islamic Centre, 79 Weelsby Road. All welcome. Have your say. Your voice counts.

Read the newsletter online for all the details behind these stories.

Communities Together are also relaunching their **luncheon club for BAME members**. There are two lunches – every second Monday is an Indian Lunch at the Spice of Life in Wellowgate, and every fourth Monday is a Chinese lunch at Chung Choice in Lower Spring Street. More details, timings, tickets and menus are available on the Communities Together website.



Gems from Gilbert and Sullivan



The next performance from **Grimsby Philharmonic Society** will be "Gems from Gilbert and Sullivan". This will be on Sat 25th April, 7.30pm at Grimsby Central Hall. Tickets from £9-13 and available from the box office on 355025. Flyer and more details on the VANEL website here: <http://wp.me/p3cThd-16I>

Fifth YMCA Sleep Easy



The flagship fundraising project for YMCA, Sleep Easy, took place in Grimsby for the fifth successive year. More than 100 participants, the largest ever number, joined together in the car park at Freshney Place Shopping Centre to sleep rough for the night on Friday 30th January. Organisations such as Shoreline Housing Partnership and Harbour Place Day Centre, as well as staff from YMCA itself. Jonathan Byrne, Communications Coordinator for YMCA Humber is naturally delighted at the response from the public. He said: "We've been absolutely overwhelmed by the support generated by Sleep Easy this year.

"To have over 100 people signed up for the event with a week of preparations to go is magnificent and shows the dedication the people of North East Lincolnshire have to helping the homeless charities of the region.

"We would like to thank all those that have signed up so far and of course we would like to express gratitude to Freshney Place for all their support of Sleep Easy, which included two bumper days signing people up in the centre – 20 registrants in all." Amanda Austin, Centre Director of Freshney Place commented: "We're delighted that Sleep Easy will be taking place in our shopping centre car park this week. It is a fantastic event and raises money for a very well deserved cause.

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MORE NEWS

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"The sign up response and support from the local community has been astounding and we are extremely pleased that five members of our team will be sleeping rough for the night to help raise essential funds...on behalf of the Freshney Place staff and centre team we would like to wish all participants good luck!"

All funds raised through Sleep Easy 2015 in Grimsby will stay in North East Lincolnshire and go towards the work of YMCA Humber and its partner charities, Harbour Place and CARE NE Lincs, so that they can carry on their work with homeless young people.

Read more <http://wp.me/p3cThd-16U>

Recycling in Action

As part of a clear out of some of our unused items, a number of our members were able to benefit from some unused and unnecessary items that we have accumulated over time.

Of the items donated, **GHoPA** were able to benefit from the impressive Reception desk that graced our offices in Town Hall Street for a number of years.

Another beneficiary was **Care4All**, who recently received a large donation of clothing that remained from a recycling project.



Care4all is a local charity that works to enrich the lives of older people and people with disabilities in the local area by providing a range of services. One of these service branches is enterprises, under which the organisation runs several café's, a charity shop (Keeping Up Appearances, Victoria St.), and a series of textile banks (situated across N.E.Lincs) to name but a few.

These enterprises generate much needed income to help run the charity. The textile banks in particular are of vital importance because the funds raised from these clothing donations go directly towards creating a wage packet for a disabled member of staff.

Janet Coates, Deputy Enterprise Manager at Care4all, said of the donation, 'We are absolutely thrilled with VANEL's



generous donation. Ordinarily, we probably get 5 or 6 small or medium donations of textiles per week. These can be anything from old curtains to 3 piece suits and pairs of shoes. This donation however is one of the largest we have recently received.'

Jo Avery, Care4all Marketing Support Assistant, was overwhelmed by the generosity of VANEL when she went to collect the donation.

'I couldn't believe how many bags there were – this is fantastic because the funds raised from these donations help to keep a young person with a disability in paid employment. If you think how difficult it is in today's market to find a job, imagine the difficulties someone with a significant disability might face. Jobs that we provide are often a lifeline. This donation is brilliant, and I'd like to thank VANEL on behalf of Care4all.'

Phil Simpson, part of the **Enfuse** team, said 'We're just happy to help. VANEL enjoys a close working relationship with Care4all and other groups in the local community, so when we have bits to donate, we instantly look to our friends in the community.'

To make a donation yourself - Keeping Up Appearances is open Tues-Fri, 9:30am-3pm. For more information, please visit www.care4all.org.uk or call 01472 571100 and ask for further information on textile banks.

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Care4all believes that there is a real shortage of good quality short breaks for people with complex needs and their carers, and they have an ambition to develop something that is quite different and unique.

If you have a moment, please complete their survey to express your views on this: <http://bit.ly/1zfye09>

FURTHER NEWS

Scope Sleep Solutions

It is very sad to hear and report that Scope Sleep Solutions is coming to an end:



Scope has successfully run the North East Lincolnshire Sleep Solutions service for over five years and in that time we have supported over 500 parents of children with additional needs to manage their child's sleep issues. The service was initially funded by a private donor for a few hours a week and for the past five years it has been funded by North East Lincolnshire Council. In that time, the service has grown and developed into a full time support service for parents.

In the current financial climate we have been unable to secure future funding for Sleep Solutions North East Lincolnshire and this will regrettably result in the closure of the service with effect from 31 March 2015. We are currently working with a number of families and will continue to support them to complete their sleep programmes. We also have a number of families on our waiting list and will ensure that they too are offered support.

We are pleased that our Face2Face service will continue in North East Lincolnshire offering emotional and practical peer support to parents of children with additional needs and our monthly coffee morning drop ins will continue. In addition we have a national Helpline and a locally based information team who may be able to offer support to parents.

www.scope.org.uk

Commercial masterclass with NCVO

This is advance notice of the above masterclass taking place in Scunthorpe in April.

On April 28th and 29th a Masterclass will take place at Heslam Park Rugby Club in Scunthorpe. The masterclass will be delivered by a partnership of voluntary sector and private sector trainers, including NCVO, NAVCA, Capita and Cofely. It's funded by Cabinet Office and ESIF and the cost for the two days including a buffet lunch is £30.

It runs 9.30am-5.30pm. For more details and bookings email enquiries@vanl.org.uk / telephone 01724 845155 / www.VANL.org.uk



New Chief Executive for ERVAS

East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS) Limited has appointed Sian Broughton and Judith Leech to the post of Chief Executive on a job share basis for the organisation.

Both individuals are current employees on the Senior Management Team of ERVAS and were originally appointed on an interim basis of three months after Penny Brown, previous Chief Executive provided by Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council left the organisation.

The Trustees are pleased to promote both employees to this role on a job share basis and feel that it is an excellent opportunity for ERVAS to achieve continued growth. In addition, Sian and Judith will be continuing with their other positions within the organisation.

Read more about this news on the ERVAS website www.ervas.org.uk

Helping Young People turn their ideas into reality



O2 Think Big aims to find young people with great ideas and help them turn their ideas into reality. This is done by awarding funding and delivering training and support. Up to £3,000 is available for projects that help the community or tackle a problem with society, and funding can be spent on anything appropriate that will make the project work, apart from on a salary for the applicant. Beyond that, applicants can do everything or anything – the more bold and creative the ideas, the better. Individuals or groups between the ages of 13 and 25 can apply for, and run, a project; however, people of any age can get involved by becoming fans or members of the project in the UK. The deadline for applications is 11th March 2015. See www.o2thinkbig.co.uk

Improving Local Communities

Grants of between £2,000 and £50,000 are available via WREN for projects within a 10 mile radius of a landfill site that can demonstrate commitment to the protection of the environment, and the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or another public amenity. The first deadline for applications is 18th March 2015. Find out more and apply here www.wren.org.uk

"TEA AND TRUSTEES"

During National Trustees' Week in November 2014 we ran a first "Tea and Trustees" informal session at Grimsby Minster with good feedback. We'll now be running these on the last Friday of each month starting on Friday 27th February. If you're a Trustee, board or committee member and are interested in chatting through things as a Trustee and with other trustees, then why not come along. It's very informal and held in Grimsby Minster café area starting 10am until around 12noon. Drop in whenever and for as long as you can. No fee and no refreshments, but you can buy yourself a drink/food from the Minster café. (Thanks to Rev Andrew Dodd and Grimsby Minster for allowing us to hold our meeting in the café area).

This is not training. It's informal peer support – Trustees/committee members talking to each other about experiences, problems, things they've learned, advice they want and so on. We've got governance related resources available to talk through if that's helpful to you. We can talk you through better recruitment approaches, the code of good governance, policies, approaches and much more – but what you talk about is up to you.

For more info or to tell us you are coming, contact Karl Elliott at VANEL via 01472 361043 or karl@vanel.org.uk.

"Tea and Trustees" will be on again on Fri 27th March. Visit www.vanel.org.uk/teaandtrustees

Our "Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees" training course will also be running again on Friday 13th March (10am-12noon, venue tbc). See more details at www.vanel.org.uk/trusteeroles If you are a new Trustee, need a basic refresher on the role, or as a board would like to introduce your new Trustees to their role then this would be a good introductory session. Fees apply and booking is essential, so contact us or look online for more details.



www.vanel.org.uk

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Volunteer Centre
North East Lincolnshire



enfuse
Helping Young People. Help Communities.
Help Themselves

VANEL News

Well done Louis

Louis Cox, our Apprentice Development Worker with the Victim's Champion, has passed his initial fitness checks and has been accepted as a trainee Special Constable. Congratulations on your success and we hope that all goes well with your training.

Share your events

We're experimenting again with our online calendar of Member events on our website. Take a look at www.vanel.org.uk/calendar If you're a Member or Friend and have upcoming events that you'd like to share with other Members then email details to editor@vanel.org.uk and we'll try and get them added.

Contacting VANEL

To complement our new mobile approach to working through the North East Lincolnshire Volunteer Service we have some new contact details to share with you. Our new base at The Willows, 23 Bargate, Grimsby, DN34 4SS, has the same main contact number, 01472 231123 as before and each team has their own contact number. For the Volunteer Centre and Mindworks call 359326. For the Finance team and Karl call 361043. The enfuse team can be reached as before on 315437.

CONTACT Us

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