

Financial Essentials training for Treasurers and Trustees via Zoom on Thursday 18th February

This training session will take place from 9.30am to 1pm. Details and booking forms will be emailed to members shortly or contact Sue Gibson to register your interest: sue.gibson@essexrcc.org.uk

Eastern Community Homes Launch Event

Eastern Community Homes is holding a free online launch event in Spring 2021.

A number of sessions will take place over 3 days: **16th March, 17th March, and 18th March.**

These sessions will cover a wide range of topics from an introduction to community-led housing, to successful schemes in the East of England, and a panel-style Q&A where you can speak to our experts. Click [here](#) to register your interest, and you will be emailed directly when tickets are released.

Grants for Neighbourhood Plans and Technical Support

The application process for Neighbourhood Planning grant funding from Locality is now closed for 2020-21 and any money already allocated has to be spent on or before 31st March 2021. Information about applying for the 2021-22 grant programme will be added to the Locality website <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/> and the scheme will open for new applications in April/May. Applications for technical support packages are considered on a rolling basis and can still be submitted during this hiatus. Please contact michelle.gardiner@essexrcc.org.uk for help to access the Neighbourhood Planning support from Locality.

The Prince's Countryside Fund – two grant programmes open for application

Barclays Covid-19 Community Response Fund: This opens on Tuesday **2nd February** and will close as soon as sufficient, eligible applications have been received. Projects must show how they are helping communities cope with the impact of Covid-19. Maximum grant is £10,000

The general grant opens to applications on **15th February** and will close on 19th March. Projects must show how they help create a resilient rural community. Maximum grant is £10,000

Both grants have the same eligibility criteria: applicants must be properly-constituted, community-led organisations and must represent a village/hamlet/settlement of up to 3,000 residents. For more information, please see the [website](#). A webinar is being held on 3rd March for application advice.

Essex Association of Local Councils – two grant programmes open for application

Alongside the Micro Grant Community Chest, Essex County Council has introduced the Micro Grant Communication & Technology Support Fund, both of which are delivered by EALC. This latter grant will help support grass root organisations responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, who largely rely on volunteers to deliver their projects and have no infrastructure to support communications and technology. Please click [here](#) for more information and with details on how to apply.

Buy a low-cost compost bin and discover the benefits of home composting

Essex residents can purchase a low-cost compost bin to help reduce the amount of waste needed to be processed elsewhere. The compost bins are made from recycled plastic and require no set-up. All you need to do is enter your Essex postcode [here](#) and your discount will be automatically applied.

Please Note: Our office still remains closed until further notice, and our staff are working from home and can be contacted by email. General enquiries can be sent to enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk. Our phone is being monitored and will be answered during normal office hours.