

RCCE IS RECRUITING - RURAL HOUSING ENABLER



A Part time role with a fixed term until March 2025.

This is an exciting time to join RCCE as we expand our team. You will work with the Senior Rural Housing Enabler to promote the service across Essex and provide advice and guidance for parishes, including helping them identify their local housing needs and support them through the process of bringing forward a development. You will produce case studies, provide administrative

support to our Rural Housing Advisory Group meetings, and keep up to date with local and national policy, as well as being involved with training and network events. To find out more please visit the [RCCE Work with us page](#).

COMMUNITY AGENT - MALDON (SOUTH)

This is a permanent, home-based part time position.

Do you enjoy or want a rewarding role working for a local charity, supporting adults to live independently? (This is not a carers role). We are a network of people who provide advice and guidance to adults; in particular older people, but it can be anyone over 18 who requires a home visit to help them to remain living in their own homes. We're also here to help Informal carers. The job involves visiting people in their own homes – on an appointment system – and explaining the help and support that is available to meet their individual needs. It is not a personal caring role. The job is flexible to fit around personal/family commitments, working between 15 and 20 hours a week. To find out more please [click here](#).

RCCE MEMBERSHIP – WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU



Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for the current year and special thanks to all members who attended our recent in-person and virtual membership evenings. The events gave members an opportunity to find out more about the range of services RCCE provides, the categories of membership on offer

and the wider benefits membership brings to those who join.

The events coincided with the release of a [new booklet](#) which provides more information on RCCE membership, which this year includes an additional category for parish councils that own or manage village/community halls.

If anyone missed the membership events, we are planning to hold another one later in the year. Watch out for further details in Warbler.

VCSE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME



A funding scheme to help voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in England improve their energy efficiency. The grant is available to those who supply frontline services in their communities. For example, having activities in the hall which work with the foodbank, offer debt advice or have a free lunch club or community hub. Although they are aware that many clubs and societies in halls offer support with social isolation and mental health,

the grant provider wants to see direct support with the cost-of-living crisis.

Applications will close in August 2024 officially, but demand has been constant, so this may be brought forward. All works need to be completed by March 2025 and you can only apply once. The FAQ section provides a lot of useful information for completing the application forms. The IEA will be a very useful report to have to find other funding and to guide your committees with their action planning and project development. For further information please [click here](#).

EAST HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE HALL



Congratulations to East Hanningfield Village Hall who have successfully completed their solar panel project. This hall was successful in getting a grant from the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund and campaigned hard to get other funding from local groups and other funders. On Saturday 20th April they held an Open Morning which was attended by user groups and suppliers, including Solar Green who completed the project on the hall.

This project will make a considerable financial difference to the hall, and they are happy to discuss the pitfalls and positives with any hall interested. They would also recommend Solar Green as a supplier.

PLATINUM JUBILEE VILLAGE HALLS FUND- Update



The large grant allocation has been closed to stage 1 applications since the first round. However, there may be a possibility that the stage 1 application process will open again in the near future. It would be a good opportunity for halls to dust off any projects which may be suitable and update them, just in case.

ENTER RCCE'S ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR & RURAL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024



RCCE's Essex Village of the Year competition has returned after an absence of four years, accompanied for the first time by a series of Rural Community Awards for village halls, community enterprises and community and voluntary groups. Essex has a wonderful variety of villages where local people are doing great things to sustain and strengthen community life, much of it through the efforts of volunteers. RCCE wants to celebrate and reward these efforts, especially given the challenges presented in recent years by the

pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

To find out more and how to enter please [click here](#)

RCCE GROWING COMMUNITIES – BEE GOOD SCHOOLS COMPETITION RETURNS!



Whether your school is just starting out or looking to develop an established garden, the Bee Good Plot Competition can help **demonstrate the value of gardening, enriching the curriculum, teaching life skills and contributing to children's mental and physical health.**



This year it is all about the British Bee and how we can help by supporting these mini beasts that are so crucial to our ecosystem. GC has some exciting prizes to be won this year including literature for the classroom, Bee Good Hotel and the number one request via our Bee Good Survey that supersedes all other needs, gardening equipment!

To find out more and to enter the competition please [click here](#). or alternatively contact Lizzie Rose email: elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk

RCCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 – SAVE THE DATE



Date: Wednesday 3rd July

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Oaks Pavilion, Rivenhall Oaks Golf Centre, CM8 2FX

Guest Speaker: James Blake, Chair, Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

Featuring: Presentation of the Essex Village of the Year & Rural Community Awards 2024