

PPS14 – We Need Your Views

The Minister of the Environment, Arlene Foster, MLA, is chairing an Executive Subcommittee which is reviewing draft Planning Policy Statement 14 (PPS14). As part of the review process the Minister has decided that there should be a number of stakeholder engagement events across NI. We have been invited to attend a number of these events on behalf of rural women.

In order for us to better represent the views of rural women we would ask for your views prior to attending the events. We want to ensure that the views we give are fully representative of all rural women and that we can help articulate your voices at these meetings.

The events take place from the 15th to 22nd February and if you want to feed through any views to us please do so before Monday 11th February. You can do this by ringing Nora on 028 86769191 or e-mail us at info@nirwn.org.uk.

A revised draft policy will be published in April and will be subject to a full public consultation. We will be arranging a number of focus groups across Northern Ireland at that time. If you are interested in being part of the focus group then please let us know.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Would you like to make a contribution to the development of a transport system in Northern Ireland which is inclusive to disabled and older people? The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) is an independent Committee set up to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on transport issues that affect the mobility of older and disabled people. IMTAC is interested in hearing from people who would like to be members of the committee. Application packs are available in alternative formats and you can submit your application in your preferred format (eg. audio tape, electronic) or you can complete the form over the telephone/textphone. Please contact IMTAC to discuss your requirements.

Imtac members are expected to:

- * Have experience of transport issues that affect older and disabled people.
- * Represent the best interests of older and disabled people.
- * Be able to give at least 1½ to 2 days per month to Imtac activities

Further information, including details on how to apply, can be obtained from Imtac, Portside Business Park, 189 Airport Road West, Belfast, BT3 9ED Tel: 028 9029 7885 Email:

info@tacni.org.uk

Further details are also available on the web at www.imtac.org.uk

CONSULTATIONS

NIRWN will be making a response to the consultations below and if you would like to express your views on either of these subjects please contact our Policy Worker Nora on 028 86769191 or email nora@nirwn.org.uk

DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON EQUAL PAY

The Equality Commission has developed a draft Code of Practice on Equal Pay. It is consulting on the Code until **Friday 7 March 2008**. To receive a copy, please contact the Promotion and Education Administrative Team on 02890 890 890.

Lunch-time focus group meetings are planned, subject to interest, to take place as follows:

Belfast	Mon 25 February 2008
Derry	Tues 26 February 2008
Enniskillen	Wed 27 February 2008
Cookstown	Thu 28 February 2008

Venues and dates to be confirmed

For further information visit their website www.equalityni.org

REVIEW OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT POLICY

Over recent months the Department of Education has undertaken a review of its current school improvement policy.

The findings of this review and proposals for the way forward have now opened for consultation. The consultation runs until the 31st March 2008. The consultation paper which is entitled, "Every School a Good School" and the consultation response document can be viewed on their website www.deni.gov.uk.

The Department will accept written responses but would encourage recipients to download the response document and return it via e-mail : schoolimprovementconsultation@deni.gov.uk by **31 March 2008**

Funding Information

Northern Bank Community Funding

Northern Bank has launched the third round of its Community Grants programme which distributes £100,000 for local community activities across Northern Ireland.

The Northern Bank Community Grants programme provides much-needed funds for local community activities that support knowledge or learning, the arts, or community sport. Rosamond Bennett, Head of Communications, Northern Bank explained,

"This is the third round of our very popular Community Grants programme and we're expecting our biggest number of entries yet. Over the past two rounds we have received over 1000 applications, made 155 awards and invested £200,000 in local communities throughout Northern Ireland".

Not for profit organisations working at a local grass roots level are eligible to apply for a grant of between £500 and £5000.

Application forms are available from all Northern Bank branches and online at www.northernbank.co.uk.

The closing date for application is 12 noon **Friday 29 February 2008**.

Community Arts Grants Open for Application

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is offering small grants ranging from £500 to £1,000 for community arts projects.

The aims of the Community Arts Grants Programme include:

- ◆ Supporting grassroots arts initiatives that foster 'a shared future' and that promote the inclusion of the new immigrants, asylum-seekers and their families as well as travellers.
- ◆ Giving community and arts organisations the opportunity to develop small scale, new or innovative inclusive projects that will make a difference at local level.

Participants should be highly involved in planning the project and only small scale projects will be considered. There are no set deadlines and applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

For further information, please visit www.communityfoundationni.org

You can do it with a B&Q Award

On 28 January 2008 the 'You Can Do It' Awards were re-launched with a new name, new criteria and a new prize fund for groups to win B&Q materials for community projects across the UK and Ireland. The B&Q Awards will offer between **£1,000** and **£10,000** of B&Q products to community and charitable organisations across the UK and Ireland. The Awards aim to play a key part in helping local communities create inclusive and sustainable projects of which they can be proud.

The 2008 Awards will be open to applications between **Monday 28 January** and **Friday 28 March 2008**. For further information, please visit www.diy.com

Fall in Love with Grant Tracker

- ◆ Want to find your perfect partner?
- ◆ Looking for a long-term relationship?
- ◆ Tired of being rejected?
- ◆ Looking for someone to support you financially in the coming years?



Grant Tracker is five years old in February 2008 - so to celebrate NICVA is offering Grant Tracker free for one day on 14th February 2008. On the day you will be able to search through an online database for a perfect funding match for your projects. If you don't already subscribe, this is a great opportunity to find out why over 300 other organisations subscribe to Grant Tracker.

To access Grant Tracker for free, visit:

www.grant-tracker.org on **14th February 2008** and read the online instructions.

For further information on Grant Tracker please contact Georgie Finlay at NICVA on 028 9087 7777 or email georgie.finlay@nicva.org

New Staff Member

We would like to welcome Nora Smith who has joined us as our new Policy Officer. Nora will be based in our Cookstown Office and you can contact her at 028 86769191 or email: nora@nirwn.org.uk



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