



The Digbeth Trust

Active in Turning Community Ideas
Into Community Action

Update 5 – September 2007

WELCOME

In this issue you will find details of the Trust's forthcoming **AGM** and our **new capacity building** and **grant programmes**.

We welcome your feedback on this update – and on all our services. Please contact us if you would like to know more.

OUR ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS – 2006/07

The Trust's Board of Trustees approved the audited accounts and annual report at their meeting in September 2007.

The audit shows that the Trust continues to develop a diverse range of funding sources and activities to fulfil our objects.

The annual report and accounts will be formally presented to the Trust's membership at the AGM in November.



Members of the Trust's Board

ABOUT THE DIGBETH TRUST

The Digbeth Trust is a development support organisation offering services to **voluntary and community groups** and **public and charitable funders** across the West Midlands.

Our Mission

The Digbeth Trust exists to enable the development of an influential, effective, independent and sustainable voluntary and community sector across the West Midlands through the influencing of policy and the provision of expertise.

Our Services

We provide specialist support to voluntary and community groups through our register of quality-assured consultants, links to other sources of support and access to funds.

We are a not-for-profit charitable company and a membership organisation.

To find out more about The Digbeth Trust and the services we offer please contact us at:

Unit 321 The Custard Factory
Gibb Street
Birmingham B9 4AA

Tel: 0121 753 0706
Fax: 0121 248 3323

email: info@digbethtrust.org.uk

website: www.digbethtrust.org.uk

THE DIGBETH TRUST'S POLICY AND LIAISON WORK

One of the Trust's strategic objectives is to become more involved in policy debates that affect our members and the work that we do.

The Trust has been appointed as the Third Sector representative to Birmingham City Council's Asset Transfer Task Group – helping to develop the Council's policy on transferring the ownership and/or management of publicly owned assets to the voluntary and community sector. The Task Group is due to report early in 2008.

Another example of our policy work is the recent response we made to the government's Community Assets Fund consultation. The government has recently published its final proposals for this Fund and have adopted many of the Trust's recommendations. **The Trust will continue to monitor developments** – in particular where the government has chosen not follow the Trust's recommendations.

The Trust has also submitted a response to consultation on the development of a **volunteering strategy** for Birmingham.



The Trust's Chief Executive briefing Hilary Armstrong MP on issues for the sector in the West Midlands

THE TRUST'S GOVERNANCE – RECRUITING NEW TRUSTEES

As one of our strategic objectives for 2007/08 we are checking how well the Trust is governed by auditing ourselves against the standards in the Code of Good Governance.

As part of this process we have recently undertaken a trustee skills audit and this has identified 2 key areas where we would like to recruit new trustees. These are:

Property: someone who has skills in property management or development who will be able to assist the Trust to develop our expertise in buildings and land use issues.

Marketing: someone who has skills in marketing/PR who will be able to assist the Trust to continue to raise our profile and to more effectively represent the needs of our members and the groups and communities we work with.

As a trustee you will be expected to attend Board meetings and actively contribute to the Trust's governance and strategic development. You will receive a comprehensive induction to your responsibilities as a charity trustee and to the Trust and its work.

You will join our Board of 10 trustees – the majority of whom are drawn from our membership.

In return you will have access to training and support – as well as an opportunity to contribute to the development of a well regarded, effective and dynamic membership organisation.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee of The Digbeth Trust please contact James Fitzpatrick (Chief Executive) on 0121 753 0706.



PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL AID SERVICE (PTAS)

PTAS offers:

- to voluntary and community groups: access to quality-assured consultants who can help you to improve your services and organisation;
- to consultants: access to a wide range of opportunities to make a difference to voluntary and community groups;
- to other partner organisations (including funders and statutory authorities): access to our database of quality-assured consultants to help with needs assessments, service evaluations, etc.

PTAS is a **free** service for voluntary and community organisations in the West Midlands. Currently we can only fund a small number of consultancy each year. However, for every group that contacts us we will:

- Assess your needs;
- Help you write a consultancy brief;
- Help you find a quality assured consultant;
- Give you advice about how to manage the consultancy.

If we cannot fund the consultancy ourselves we will signpost you to other sources of possible funding or organisations that might be able to help free of charge.

For more information please contact us or see our website.

The second **Continuing Professional Development** Session for our registered consultants took place on **4th September**.

The session focused on the implications of accreditation for professional advisers, with **Judith Kirkland** (Chief Executive of BES) speaking on developments in the **SFEDI** system for accreditation of business advisors.

These sessions are a way of the Trust ensuring that its registered consultants remain up to date on key issues affecting the sector.

The topic of a further event (in February 2008) will be set following consultation with PTAS consultants.

If you are a PTAS-registered consultant and would like to know more please contact the Trust.

If you are interested in becoming a PTAS registered consultant you can find out how by going to our website at:

www.digbethtrust.org.uk/ptas/index.html

NEW RESOURCES

The Trust has recently published a new resource which is available to download from the Publications page of our website or by phoning 0121 753 0706. The new resource is:

- **Asset Transfer – a briefing on the transfer of publicly-owned assets to the voluntary sector**

We will be producing new resources on a regular basis – so check the website regularly.

NEW GRANTS PROGRAMME – HEALTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of our innovative partnership with the Heart of Birmingham Teaching Primary Care Trust, the Trust is developing a new grant and capacity building programme to be launched in October.

The new HCEP programme will be a partnership between the Trust, the HOBtPCT and The Health Exchange. The Health Exchange began as a partnership between HOBtPCT and Birmingham Libraries, developing hubs of resources and expertise where communities can access health information.

Our new HCEP programme is aimed at providing targeted support to a key group of organisations in the HOBPCT area. The programme will enable them to develop more sustainable ways of carrying out health promotion work within their communities.

The Trust will administer the programme and work with The Health Exchange to ensure that the funded projects are linked to professional health promotion expertise and to the development of local health policy.

Full details of the programme will be publicised shortly. Keep watching the Trust's website for further information.

Heart of Birmingham Teaching 
Primary Care Trust

health
exchange

NEIGHBOURHOOD PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT – UPDATE

The Trust is continuing to provide support to the four groups which have been selected by the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership to participate in the NPRG pilot programme.

The groups have all begun their projects to tackle local 'Crime and Grime' issues.



Street racing being tackled by Washwood Heath Youth & Community Network



Kingstanding Neighbourhood Forum leading a community clean up

If you are a commissioner interested in talking to us about undertaking similar work please contact James Fitzpatrick on 0121 753 0706.

NPRG is an initiative of



Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

NEW CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME – SOUTH WEST BIRMINGHAM

The Digbeth Trust has been commissioned by **Community Network South West** to undertake a programme of capacity building activities with voluntary and community groups. The programme is focussed on supporting groups to develop sustainable funding strategies, including exploring options for social enterprise activities.

The programme, focussed on the constituencies of **Northfield, Edgbaston and Selly Oak**, will run from September to December 2007.

The Trust will be working with a total of 30 groups, including 5 tenants halls – selected by CNSW. **The work with tenants halls is part of Birmingham City Council's asset transfer pilot** – and the Trust's work will assist the Council to develop its policy on transferring the management and/or ownership of publicly-owned assets to the voluntary sector.

The Trust has put together a team of specialist consultants who will work with the Trust's staff to deliver this programme. The Trust will be designing and delivering specially designed training and one-to-one support activities. We will also be producing a range of resources for the groups to continue to use after the end of the programme.



Participants in the first South West Birmingham capacity building workshop
4th September 2007



Community Network South West

THE DIGBETH TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

The Trust will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday **15th November 2007** from 6pm-8pm at BVSC, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR.

As well as the usual AGM business, the evening will also be a celebration of the Trust's 21 years working to support community groups.

We hope everyone we have supported over the years – and everyone who has supported us – will be able to come and help us mark this anniversary.

If you would like more information please contact the Trust on 0121 753 0706.





THE WILLIAM DUDLEY TRUST

The Digbeth Trust administers the William Dudley Trust's grantmaking. The WDT funds groups in Birmingham and gives priority to smaller charities benefiting older people – those older people who are frail, housebound, at risk or experiencing ill health, poverty, disadvantage or disability. The average grant is currently £250.

For more information and application details please see our website or call us on 0121 753 0706.

ENTERPRISING COMMUNITIES – COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Trust manages a community consultancy grant fund on behalf of the Enterprising Communities Programme in Birmingham – using European funding.

Our Trustees can award consultancy grants to groups within the Enterprising Communities area to help them develop sustainable regeneration projects.

For more information about this programme please see the **GRANTS** page of our website.



Project Part-Financed
by the European Union

European Regional
Development Fund

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

The Digbeth Trust is a membership organisation. We currently have 126 members – the majority of which are voluntary and community based organisations. If you share our aims and would like to support our work, please see our website for information about how to become a member and / or make a tax efficient donation.



OUR APPROACH:

We aim to deliver real outcomes for the groups and partners we work with. Our approach is to:

- tailor our support to the specific needs of individual groups;
- work with groups to transfer skills to build their capacity;
- focus on sustainable development – so that groups and projects develop realistically;
- facilitate links between groups and the wider policy and funding environment in which they are working.

OUR IMPACT:

Recent evaluations show that the Trust is:

- Effective at reaching marginalised communities and groups;
- An effective administrator of grant funds – delivering positive outcomes for groups, individuals, communities and funders;
- Effective at helping groups to build their own capacity – thereby having a lasting impact on the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the groups we work with;
- Effective at helping to lever-in additional financial and non-financial resources to the sector.

**The Digbeth Trust Limited is a
company limited by guarantee
registered in
England No: 1985299
Registered charity No: 517343
Registered Office:
Unit 321 The Custard Factory
Gibb Street
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