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| VCS Newsletter  |

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| [View this email in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/913850f9f0d2/vcs-newsletter-02-march-2022-1805728?e=bf09beaf88)  |

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| Voluntary and Community Sector Newsletter, your latest update for the district |

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| **In this issue...** * Over to You VCS group feature
* Community Grants Update
* Community Volunteer Week
* Neighbourhood Link
* VAL Training Sessions
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|   * A Place to Grow
* News
* Green tip of the month
* External Funding
* Get in touch with us
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| 👋**Hello from Sharon**  |

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| February is the month of romance and I hope you have all had a good month. With love in mind read our green tip for this month which is “grow your own”; anything from flowers to fruit and veg. Put some time and love into gardening or learning a new skill and grow something of your own.   We have been speaking to Support for Carers in this edition. The organisation works with unpaid carers to support where they can. Over the years they have built a community of people who can support and rely upon each other. Read more below. In other news there is information on community bank accounts, electric car hubs, free PPE offering, VAL training opportunities and finally the community volunteer week.  |

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| Councillor Sharon Coe |

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| Stay safe and get in touch should you need anything.Councillor Sharon CoePortfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing, Community Engagement and Business Support  |

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| 💬**Over to you**  |

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| Support for Carers logo |

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| In February we spoke with Support for Carers who support unpaid carers across the district and have recently created a Carers Passport. Find out more by reading the full article below.  |

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| [**Read the full article**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=24c760bd6d&e=bf09beaf88)  |

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| If you are interested in your group/organisation/club being featured in one of our VCS newsletters, please contact us at vcshub@blaby.gov.uk.  |

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| 💰**Community Grants Update**  |

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| Community Grants logo. Funded by Blaby District Council. |

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| Last chance to apply for a community grant this financial year! Despite the ongoing challenges of the last year, the good news is that we’ve awarded 36 community grants since April 2021 to a wide variety of fantastic local projects. The even better news is that we still have over £50k available to award in March. So it’s a good time to apply if you need funding to help achieve your organisation’s goals.  |

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| We offer a range of funding: * Capital Green Grants – up to £4000 (20% match funding required)
* Revenue Green Grants – up to £500
* Large Capital Grants - up to £4,000 (50% match funding required)
* Small Capital Grants - up to £500
* Revenue Grants - up to £500
* Everyone Active Grants - up to £500

 **The deadline for applications is Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 5pm.**If your organisation has not already received one, you can also still apply for a one-off VCS Re-Start Grant up to £250 until the end of March 2022.  |

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| [**Community Grants**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=fdebe701dd&e=bf09beaf88)  |

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| If you have any questions contact our Funding and Awards Officer at grants@blaby.gov.uk or by calling 0116 272 7566.  |

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| **Community Grants Case Study**1st Huncote and Croft Scouts were awarded a Revenue Grant in October 2020. Treasurer - Kevin Peacocke – says of the community grants scheme:"At the end of a difficult lockdown period, Blaby District Council made it possible for us to provide all the necessary equipment to return to face-to-face scouting. A fantastic and easy to use service. Without this we would have really struggled to react to the changing environmental situation as quickly as we did."  |

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| **Community Volunteer Week 2022**  |

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| We are looking for local groups who need support with their projects small or large. Council employees are eager to chip in and we need projects to match them up with. Community volunteer week will take place from 6 – 10 June 2022.If you are interested in gaining some additional hours for your group please email VCSHub@blaby.gov.uk with details of the project and someone will be in contact with you to discuss further. Please note groups who have not taken part in the community volunteer week before will be given priority over those that have. But please put yourself forward anyway as we are looking for a few different projects to support.  |

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| **Neighbourhood Link**  |

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| Keep up to date with what is going on in your local area. Neighbourhood Link is a free email messaging service from Leicestershire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you. To stay up to date sign up to their emails which will inform you about policing activity, initiatives, crime prevention advice and further information.  |

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| [**Neighbourhood Link**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=7d733b3a4a&e=bf09beaf88)  |

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| **Voluntary Action Leicester Training Sessions**  |

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| 08 March | [Setting up/reviewing voluntary group governance structure](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=15b87131ad&e=bf09beaf88) - Online 17 March | [Introduction to writing a business plan](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=a3c451b699&e=bf09beaf88) - Online |

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| **A Place to Grow**  |

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| Do you love gardening, and want to get out in the community? Our Enderby community garden, A Place to Grow, is always looking for more volunteers.Our free and sustainable garden promotes positive health and wellbeing by helping residents of the district to become more physically active, get involved in the local area and meet new people in a friendly and safe environment.If you are interested in helping out or would like to find out more about the sessions currently running, email leisure@blaby.gov.uk and follow the link below.Find the garden next to Enderby Leisure Centre on Mill Lane, LE19 4LX.  |

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| [**A Place to Grow**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=64f6d05d6e&e=bf09beaf88)  |

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| 🗞️  **News**  |

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| **Community banking** is changing, with more banks charging groups to hold a bank account. If you would like some further advice on the best account for you contact Voluntary Action Leicester on 0116 2575050 who will be happy to provide you with advice.  |

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| [**Community Banking advice**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=685a2a143b&e=bf09beaf88)  |

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| **Go Green** and register your interest in a community run electric car:  |

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| [**Electric Cars**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=95ec7547e8&e=bf09beaf88)  |

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| **The Leicestershire resilience fund** has brand new PPE that it is giving out to voluntary and community groups free of charge. Available stock is as follows: * Face masks – boxes of 50
* Gloves – Packs of 100 individual gloves
* Alcohol gel – packs of 6 x 270ml bottles

If you need to restock your supplies please email VCSHub@blaby.gov.uk with what you need and the quantities.  |

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| **Hinckley Rail Freight**Have you had your say yet? The public consultation for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange is underway and we're urging you to have your say [on the consultation website.](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=829e6c8f16&e=bf09beaf88)The deadline has been extended to Friday 8 April.  |

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| 🌍 **Green Tip of the Month**  |

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| Regardless of whether you’ve decided to go green to help the environment, to save money, or just see how easy it is, every step you take towards eco-friendly living is one that helps the world. Each month we will offer a sustainable living tip: **Grow Your Own**Growing your own veg isn’t just a good way to save money, it’s also a great way to cut down your carbon footprint and be eco-friendly. Don’t have any outside space? Windowsill boxes are a great way to brighten up your view, filter the air coming into your home and offer plenty of space for herbs and small vegetable patches.  |

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| 💰 **External Funding**  |

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| **Police and Crime Commissioner’s Safety Fund**The second round of funding is now open to community projects that help reduce the risk of crime and abuse and increase public safety. The deadline for applications is 28 March 2022. For more information visit [the Police and Crime Commissioner's website](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=47ecc18cef&e=bf09beaf88). **Leicestershire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**Leicestershire County Council will be awarding funding for HAF holiday provision to Leicestershire schools, charitable, voluntary and community sector organisations and other organisations, who can deliver out of school holiday activities during the Easter school holiday. The HAF programme is aimed at supporting school-aged children (5 to 16 years) who are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals. For more information visit [the Leicestershire Communities website](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=c94fdf0bf9&e=bf09beaf88). **Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation** manage different grants from local funders and private donors and it would be great to see more applications from Blaby district based organisations. Funds available include: * Making Local Life Better –up to £3k
* Getting Help in Neighbourhoods – up to £50k

For more information visit the [Community Foundation website](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=1ac3ef99c5&e=bf09beaf88). **Biffa Award**Biffa Award gives grants to projects that benefit communities living near landfill sites. There are three themes: Community Buildings, Recreation and Rebuilding Biodiversity. Under these themes we provide funding to create or improve community amenities such as upgrading kitchens, meeting rooms and toilets in village halls, creating new playparks, or establishing, protecting and enhancing habitats for biodiversity. Between £10,000 and £75,000 can be awarded to projects that have a total cost of less than £200,000 including VAT. For more information visit [the Biffa Award website](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=dfdeccc138&e=bf09beaf88). **Rural Funding Digest** If you’ve not already checked it out, visit the Rural Services Network website to view monthly copies of the [Rural Funding Digest](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=d413058e83&e=bf09beaf88)Do keep an eye on the following websites for lists of current funding opportunities: [Leicestershire County Council's Leicestershire Communities website](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=ea7283226d&e=bf09beaf88) [Voluntary Action Leicestershire’s website](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=e1e667bfe6&e=bf09beaf88) Don’t forget you can also register and use the [Leicestershire Funding Toolkit](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=2d9e194e61&e=bf09beaf88) for free to search for funding opportunities.  |

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| 📧 **Get in touch**  |

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| If you have any queries or would like to get in touch with us, please email:Laura Harris - Voluntary and Community Sector OfficerTracy Gaskin - Community Development OfficerZoe Coulson - Funding and Awards OfficerYou are receiving this e-newsletter because you consented to be on our VCS database and mailing list. If you no longer wish to receive contact from us, please email VCSHub@blaby.gov.uk.    |

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| Copyright © 2022 Blaby District Council, All rights reserved.You are receiving this email because you consented to be on our VCS database and mailing list. If you no longer wish to receive contact from us, please unsubscribe.Want to change how you receive these emails?You can [update your preferences](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/profile?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=f264230255&e=bf09beaf88&c=c7ee26de20) or [unsubscribe from this list](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=f264230255&e=bf09beaf88&c=c7ee26de20)View our accessibility statement on the [Blaby District Council website.](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=f48753be53&e=bf09beaf88)  |

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