**Changes in the council’s Community Investment Team**

There has been a reorganisation in the council’s community investment team (CIT) to extend its role in strengthening community partnerships. As well as administering the council’s main programme and Fast Track grants, the team is now refocusing on improving community engagement, particularly online and working to promote take up of the services offered by funded organisations.

As part of the reorganisation, the CIT now sits within the council’s communications and communities service, led by Head of Communications and Communities, Louise Raisey. Sue Spiller has left the organisation, so your day-to-day contact is now Katherina Hermann, supported by Susan Hughes. Management of property-related issues has been transferred to the council’s property services team.

The council wants to change its relationship with the voluntary sector to a more mature partnership that focuses primarily on promoting community involvement with local organisations, engaging people on the issues they care about. A report on this new vision is currently being developed and we’ll share it with you shortly.

In the meantime, we’d like to help promote what you do.

The communications team sends an e-newsletter every week to over 80,000 subscribers and has been including news stories on local groups. We’re currently working on marrying up these stories with our website profile on each funded group (<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/community/information-about-community-groups/building-stronger-community>). If you have any news we’re keen to tell residents about it. So whether it’s a new service, a new funding allocation or an event, please do get in touch. There’s a template to help you get the information together.

The contact to send it to is michael.russell@lbhf.gov.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Community Investment Team.