



Dear Members

Firstly a warm welcome (again) to four new members who have joined Ealing LETS in the past few months: Sabrina, Amelia, Cheryl, and Samantha. Please do visit our website, view their profiles - and update your own Offers & Wants. You will need to login to do this – if you have forgotten your four-digit ID they are all listed - with instructions - in our May Newsletter – see foot of News page.

Without the ongoing help provided by David, who led Ealing LETS, and Laurence, our dedicated administrator, I've been doing my best to provide support, but without local knowledge, and with many other projects to take care of, it has not been easy. We need a local team to keep in touch with members, support those needing help to access the website, and arrange regular meet-ups.

I'm prompted to send this newsletter by an invitation from a team of researchers from Sheffield Hallam University, who are working with The Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership (Open University) and The Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR), to explore the value of small and medium sized charities in a project funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation. They are running this workshop in partnership with Ealing CVS, to explore the distinctive contribution of small and medium sized charities in Ealing. The date of the event is **Thursday 20th July 2017** from 12noon (for lunch) with a 1pm workshop start, continuing until 4:30pm. The venue is the Elizabeth Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, London W5 2BY. It seems to me that this will be an interesting event, and a way of connecting up with people who are motivated to revive Ealing LETS.

The background to this research is the current context for many in all sectors, which is extremely challenging at present, with austerity and reform agendas dominating the policy environment, and the need to develop a better understanding about what value small and medium sized charities bring to the local context. It's overall aim is to explore the local 'ecosystem' within which charities (broadly defined) are working. It will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including LETS members, to share experiences, make connections, and network across organisations and sectors.

The research team are keen to speak to stakeholders from across a range of organisations, including public sector partners, commissioners, funders, as well as representatives from voluntary sector organisations - both small and larger - within the area. We want to capture a wide range of perspectives within this initial workshop and start to encourage dialogue across partners about the role that small and medium sized charities play. The research team will facilitate the workshop, and will encourage dialogue and debate. Discussions and activities will be focused on the following areas: • What's going on within the area – stories, issues, structures, history • Exploring the role of small and medium sized charities in tackling disadvantage • Bringing to the surface the views of participants about the distinctiveness of small and medium sized charities.

I have booked a place for myself and other members of Ealing LETS who would like to participate. If this applies to you, email Katie Turner at katie@ivar.org.uk (copying in london@letslink.org) to let her know that you would like to attend and are a member of Ealing LETS and also if you have any access or dietary requirements - for more information about this workshop contact Katie Turner on 020 7921 2942. To talk about about Ealing LETS: Mary Fee (020 7607 7852 or 07966 216891).