



# Media Release

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## **VILLAGE HALL ‘GET TOGETHER’**

**AS** legislation tightens, fundraising gets more difficult and leisure needs lengthen, the band of volunteers who run village halls across the Harrogate district are being invited to a ‘get together’ where they can get help with these issues and others.

Harrogate Borough Council has joined forces with the Harrogate and Area Council for Voluntary Services and the Yorkshire Rural Community Council to run an information and training workshop on Saturday, 13 November. The event will be held at Copt Hewick Village Hall between 1.30 pm and 5.00 pm.

Co-ordinated by Helen Bowles, Harrogate Borough Council’s Project Development Officer, a range of presenters is set to run workshops on:

Activities for Young People – Sara Atkins, Community Services Manager, Harrogate Borough Council (HBC)

Funding and Fundraising – Sheena Spence, Senior Advisor, Yorkshire Rural Community Council (YRCC)

New Licensing Regulations – Helen Sefton, Licensing Enforcement Officer, HBC

Health & Safety Risk Assessment – Sheena Spence, Senior Advisor, YRCC

Volunteer training Needs – Nina Muir, Lifelong Learning Development Worker, Harrogate and Area Council for Voluntary Service (HACVS)

Kevin Douglas, Director of Leisure and Amenity Services, said: “Those people who run village halls are a great local asset and we want to be able to give them as much support as possible. In the past, village halls just needed a willing hand or two to keep the building safe and secure and manage the bookings. But these days, it is much more complex than that. The new licensing regulations will be implemented from February next year and we especially want to give expert advice to those who arrange licences for events at the halls.

“We are pleased to be working with HACVS and YRCC to put on this event, which is the first of its type in the district. We are hoping for a good turnout. As well as the help and advice on offer in the workshops, those attending will also get the chance to network with other volunteers and share their own experiences and expertise.”

The event is free but booking is required. Those interested should telephone Helen Bowles on 01423 556702.