



ERP Full Partnership Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held at 10:00am on 13th June 2014

The Warren Golf Club, Woodham Walter

1 Welcome and Introductions

Cllr John Jowers welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the meeting would focus solely on development of an Essex LEADER group, in preparation to bid for RDP funding under the LEADER programme.

2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

These were approved and no matters arising were raised.

3 ERP Reports

Brief reports were received from the Action Group Chairs. Dea6tils are available in separate Action Group minutes.

4 Introduction to:

- **Leader and the proposed LAG area**

Philip Wilson gave an introduction to the proposed area for an Essex-based LEADER Local Action Group (LAG).

- **The LDS development process**

Martin Collison explained the process for bidding for LEADER funding. A LAG must come together in a 'bottom-up' way to create a Local Development Strategy (LDS). The LDS forms the bid for funding, and is submitted to Defra.

5 SWOT analysis of the proposed Leader area

In table groups a SWOT of rural Essex was undertaken, with each group identifying its top 2-3 issues for each category (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats).

6 Leader priorities:

What should the vision for the Leader area be: what would the Leader bid allow to happen in the next five years?

What priorities should the Essex Rivers leader group focus on?

Martin explained that vision and priorities should recognise Defra's expectations:

- Alignment with EU, DEFRA and LEP priorities
- Match funding from the private sector
- Job creation & economic growth projects
- A desire to make a real difference to the area

Each group shared it's top priorities and all information was collected to form a detailed SWOT to be later used in the LEADER LDS.

7 Leader projects: Potential Leader project ideas

Martin explained Defra's desire (requirement) for successful LEADER LAGs to 'hit the ground running, and the resulting need to identify potential projects at an early stage.

A project idea form was circulated for completion at the meeting or subsequently. This would also be made available electronically and should be shared amongst colleagues and contacts.

8 Next steps

Martin explained that consultation is a key element of developing an LDS and that this would be ongoing throughout the process.

The need to recruit LAG members was highlighted and volunteers were asked to put themselves forward over lunch, or by contacting Suzanne after the meeting.

All those present were reminded of the importance of distributing the project ideas form.

9 AOB

There was none.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm