



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK AND HELP TO SHAPE THE NEW RURAL STRATEGY FOR ESSEX

The Essex Rural Strategy is a key document which highlights the priority issues for rural Essex and a vision for the future of the county. The document is written by Essex Rural Partnership, with over 80 member organisations sharing ownership. These members can refer to the guidance of the strategy to offer evidence and support for funding bids, project proposals and lobbying work to help those who live and work in rural Essex. The strategy is also used to raise the profile of rural Essex, influencing future strategic documents and encouraging joint working.

In February this year the Essex Rural Partnership began to look at what new issues have emerged since 2009, and what is still important. The list included:

-  Affordable housing
-  Access to services
-  Community and public transport
-  Communications infrastructure
-  (including superfast broadband)
-  Ageing population in rural areas
-  Informing local planning policies
-  Making the best use of community assets
-  Climate change mitigation
-  Supporting communities using Agents and volunteers
-  Encouraging tourism and increasing visitor numbers
-  Housing and settlement growth
-  Improving economic outlook
-  The changing shape and vitality of the rural economy
-  Healthy and resilient communities
-  Community safety
-  Demographic/cultural changes
-  Substantially re-configured public sector
-  Early years provision & school place demand
-  Changes in environmental priorities
-  Energy production
-  Changes in agricultural practices
-  Food security and shortening supply chains

HAVE YOUR SAY BY TAKING PART

The consultation has now been launched its purpose is to find out what matters to people who live and work in rural Essex. It is important that we find out what matters to the people who matter – and that's you!

Please complete the survey and tell your friends and colleagues about it and help us to spread the word as far as possible.

The more people that answer the better! It is proposed that the consultation will stay open until 4th December, so if you are able to publicise it in local newsletters or on noticeboards that would also be helpful.

The questions are mainly multiple-choice and it should take less than 20 minutes to complete - That's it!

The survey responses will help to inform the strategy, which we intend to launch in early 2016.

SPREAD THE WORD!!

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOW OPEN

Please click here to access the questionnaire: <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/EssexRuralStrategy>

HIGH SHERIFF INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

The countdown is on for local voluntary and community organisations to apply for grants and recognition from the High Sheriff of Essex Awards Scheme.



Grants of up to £1,000 are available from the High Sheriffs' Fund, which is managed by Essex Community Foundation (ECF). The money will be awarded to voluntary and community groups working to make their local communities safer places to live and work.

The High Sheriff's Awards Scheme also gives recognition to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in making their community a safer place and nominations are being invited for this category.

Since it came under Essex Community Foundation's management in 1997, the High Sheriff's Fund has distributed 529 grants totalling more £ 435,000 to voluntary and community organisations which are all working hard to support local people and address crime related issues in their area.

Projects which have received support include women's refuges, anti-social behaviour reduction initiatives, garden maintenance schemes for elderly residents to reduce incidence of burglary, neighbourhood watch schemes and activities for children and young people.

The deadline date for applications and nominations is 1 December, so now is the time for organisations to take the opportunity to apply for a grant.

To apply please click: <http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/grants/grants> or call the grants team on 01245 356018

Outstanding teachers are to be sent into struggling coastal and rural schools, the government has announced

Education secretary Nicky Morgan said she was "acutely aware that recruitment isn't easy at the moment for lots of schools".

As the economy improved and demand for graduates grew, more needed to be done to recruit and retain great teachers, she said.

"We also need to get teachers into the right places, said Ms Morgan.

"We can't simply have most of our best teachers concentrated in some areas – that isn't a one nation education, far from it.

For further information please click: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/services/best-teachers-destined-for-rural-schools>

Everyone will have a legal right to request a 10Mbps broadband speed by 2020, the Prime Minister has pledged



David Cameron said the government was putting access to fast broadband on similar footing as other basic services.

The government would help ensure every home and business had access to fast broadband by the end of this Parliament, he said.

Treating broadband as a service like water and electricity would help to cement Britain's position as Europe's most digitised major economy.

Work is now starting on introducing a broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) with a government consultation expected in early 2016.

The ambition is to give people the legal right to request a connection to broadband with speeds of 10Mbps - no matter where they live.

For further reading please click: <http://www.rsonline.org.uk/services/david-cameron-pledges-faster-broadband>

What's the point of organic farming?

A fantastic read that describes the intricate work required to run an organic farm to get it right not only for the livestock and crops involved but also greatly benefits the environment and local wildlife.



The article is based around a mixed farm that began their conversion to organic farming in 1986, it is clear from the outset that the farmer Helen Browning is passionate about her choice and very successful in what she does!

'It's a convincing argument for those who want to see more wildlife in the countryside – not just for interest and beauty value but also for the hidden benefits of pollination, improvements in soil quality and natural pest control that some creature provide. A new study published by the Royal Society adds weight to the idea that farming

with wildlife can increase profitability if done correctly LINK.' Source – Countryfile.com

Diversification within the farming industry is paramount to survive for some, though organic farming is nothing new it is not everyone's cup of tea and can be frowned upon. However farmers are the gatekeepers of our beautiful countryside and if some can improve the natural environment a little more than others with what they do then why not...?

Enjoy the read please click here:

http://www.countryfile.com/explore-countryside/food-and-farming/long-read-whats-point-organic-farming?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Countryfile-responsive-newsletter-10-11-15_38768_Countryfile_Newsletters

Photo: Elliott Neep

Rural-proofing response 'this autumn'

A long-awaited response is expected this autumn to a major report examining the impact of government policies on rural communities.

The 'independent rural-proofing implementation review' report by Lord Cameron was published on 30 January 2015. The review assessed how well government departments were including rural issues in policy making and decision taking – a process known as rural proofing. The document highlighted some important areas where simple changes can be made to strengthen rural proofing efforts.

It included a call for the government to set up a 'rural proofing forum' to share best practice across departments and ensure rural needs were taken into account.

Lord Cameron and his review team were commissioned by Defra to conduct the review.

The House of Lords by the Bishop of St Albans, has asked what progress had been made in implementing the report's recommendations.

The Bishop also asked when the government expected to report fully on that progress.

Speaking on behalf of the government, Lord Gardiner of Kimble said ministers were "currently carefully considering the recommendations" made in the review.

He added: "The government response will be published in the autumn."

Just a snippet from the review published: January 2015 by Elizabeth Truss MP and Lord Cameron of Dillington pledging their commitment to the Rural Proofing ethos. We look forward to receiving the next instalment.

Independent Rural Proofing Review January 2015

Foreword from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Elizabeth Truss

'This Government has strong rural credentials and is committed, from the Prime Minister down, to ensuring the interests of rural communities and businesses are accounted for within our policies and programmes.

For central government, rural proofing means assessing policy options to ensure that evidence is adequately considered and that the fairest solutions are delivered. Rural communities and businesses rightly expect that all Government policies and programmes should be sufficiently flexible so that they deliver quality services to meet their everyday needs.'

Independent Rural Proofing Review January 2015

Foreword from Lord Cameron of Dillington January 2015

'In my capacity as past Chair of the Countryside Agency and a Rural Advocate for England I have witnessed first-hand the issues faced by rural communities and the impacts that a lack of the rural perspective can have on individuals and businesses. As well as being intimately connected with a small rural village, I am also a businessman operating out of a rural area. I represent many people like me who want to see England's rural social and economic potential unlocked.

Mainstreaming rural issues into policy making and decision taking is fundamental to enabling all stratas of the rural community to access services that allow them to engage fully with our increasingly diverse and dynamic lifestyles, and to ensuring that rural businesses can thrive even in the most remote parts of England. And of course, sound rural proofing is the mechanism by which this can be achieved.'

Source: Independent Rural Proofing Implementation Review

Please click here for the full publication: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-proofing-independent-implementation-review-lord-cameron-review>

New home wanted...



Councils must produce local plans for new homes in their area by 2017, the government has warned

Failure to do so will see the government produce plans for councils instead, said Prime Minister David Cameron. While 82% of councils have published local plans – which should set out how many homes they plan to deliver over a set period – only 65% had fully adopted them, said Mr Cameron. Almost 20% of councils still did not have an up-to-date plan at all. Mr Cameron said he expected all councils to create and deliver local plans – making sure they take action to help reach the government's ambition of delivering 1 million homes by 2020.

"A Greater Britain must mean more families having the security and stability of owning a home of their own," he said.

"My government will do everything it can to help people buy a place of their own – at the heart of this is our ambition to build 1m new homes by 2020."

"Many areas are doing this already – and this is great – but we need a national crusade to get homes built and everyone must play their part."

"Councils have a key role to play in this by drawing up their own local plans for new homes by 2017. But if they fail to act, we'll work with local people to produce a plan for them."

The Prime Minister unveiled the proposals ahead of the publication of the Housing Bill which the government claims will help deliver 1m homes by 2020.

Please click: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/community/councils-must-deliver-plans-for-homes>

Supporting the Youth of Today!

THE RURAL YOUTH TRUST

RYT

GRANT AID FROM THE RURAL YOUTH TRUST

The aim of the Trust is to support effective voluntary youth work in the rural areas of England and Wales.

The Trust will concern itself primarily with the motivation and training of young people, developing their personalities and individual capacity to play their full part as caring and active members of their rural communities.

The Trust's aim will be achieved by making grants for projects put forward by organisations or individuals whom the Trustees are satisfied will be able to carry out such projects effectively.

Young people are our nation's greatest asset and voluntary youth organisations - whatever their particular style - play an essential part in the vital areas of self-development and leadership training. With a friendly word, a helping hand and a good example to follow, the young can and will shape their own destiny and that of others less fortunate.

The Rural Youth Trust supports youth organisations in rural areas with membership aged between 11 and 26 years.

An admirable charity helping and supporting young people in rural areas if you know of an organisation that would benefit greatly from any extra bit of help and meet the RYT criteria then please contact them ☺

Contact information please click: <http://www.ruralyouthtrust.co.uk/home>



Photo by: Elliott Neep

This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please email info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

Compiled and edited by Lizzie Rose, Rural Community Council of Essex.

Rural Community Council of Essex Registered Charity No. 1097009. Company registered in England and Wales No. 4609624