



Community Action Group

Wednesday 21st March 2012, commencing at 2:30 pm

RCCE Offices, Threshelfords Business Park, Feering CO5 9SE

MINUTES

Present:

John Brown (Chair) (JB)
Suzanne Harris (SH)
Daisy Martlew (DM)
(Minutes)
Ken Edwards (KE)

Darren Smart (DS)
Julie Nelson (JN)
Gary Raynor (GR)
Sheila Jackman (SJ)
Joy Darby (JD)

Pooneeta Mahadeo (PM)
Paul Williams (PW)
Philip Wilson (PhW)

1 Welcome & Introductions

1.1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from: Angela Balcombe, Judy Cuddeford, David Eniffer, Andy Payne, Rachael Price, Linda Riley, Chris Rust, Brenda Towle

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 29th November 2011

2.1 Accuracy

Approved for accuracy

2.2 Matters Arising

No matters arising

3 Reflections on key items from 29th November meeting

3.1 Good for Essex

GR recapped what the Good for Essex website has been set up to do and reported that it had been formally launched. Staff at ECC are given two days per year to volunteer and the website is the vehicle for this.

A lot of research was done prior to setting up the website and it emerged that 30-40 year old women were most likely to volunteer.

ACTION: GR will send the data to the CAG

GR

JD suggested that the ERP promote giving staff one or two days to volunteer to organisations, Parish Councils etc.

GR explained that there are many benefits to organisations – improves staff wellbeing. Lots of organisations have a 'social conscience'

3.2 Village Agents

DM reported that in summary the service continues to grow. More information and figures for the project can be found on the Village Agent's website or by

contacting Brian Goodwin at the RCCE.

SH explained that the project is looking at securing funding for continuation before looking at expansion.

ACTION: SH will ask Brian to update the CAG regularly and attend future meetings if possible.

SH

3.3 Police Authority Consultation

SH explained that the Police Authority has undergone a restructuring exercise and that Maureen Browning has left; as a result this piece of work will not be going ahead.

ACTION: KE will send the CAG some papers about the Neighbourhood Policing and Police Commissioners

KE

3.4 Gypsy and Traveller Communities

DS explained that the training session is run periodically for those who come into contact with Gypsy and traveller communities through work.

4 Follow up on Localism and Neighbourhood Plans

JD reported that they will have delivered training to 500 – 600 Parish Councillors by the end of this week. Neighbourhood Planning training has been very popular. EALC will be running a further training session on Statutory Planning.

General Power of Competence – parish clerks must be qualified for this to apply. This will enable the Parish Council to properly address more issues and shows that the Government has greater confidence in the Parish/Town tier. Also, if a clerk is qualified they are more likely to be driven and encourage involvement from the community. About 90 clerks out of 240 are qualified.

JD suggested that we promote being a Parish Councillor at an ERP meeting before elections.

5 District and Borough Council Liaison with Rural Communities

SH suggested that the 10th anniversary meeting of the ERP in July might be a good opportunity to invite representatives of areas not involved in the Partnership, to show how they could benefit. It was noted though, that Boroughs/Districts do not necessarily need to be involved with organisations like the ERP to engage with communities.

KE suggested that we have a ceremonial re-signing at the anniversary meeting.

DS added that it is important to ask the people on the ground whether they feel they are treated equally and fairly by the local authority.

ACTION: SH will look at the original list of delegates for the Strategy launch to see who was involved. SH will also contact Chris Rust and Gill Burden to ask about the work they do in liaising with communities.

SH

ACTION: JD and SH will agree a list of questions about the state of communication that exists between the local authority and communities. The questionnaire (possibly using Survey monkey) could be sent to both the Chief Executive of the local authority and to community representatives. **JD/SH**

6 Community Visits

6.1 Harwich Connexions

Representatives have been invited to come and present at the next full ERP meeting on 2nd May.

6.2 Future Visits

Suggestions for future places to visit were as follows:

- Wimbish – visit the new Passivhaus affordable housing
- Nazeing
- Thurrock – West Horndon, Orsett
- Brightlingsea

KE suggested that we ask the Village of the Year judges for good places to visit. DM will consult with Sara at RCCE. **DM**

7 Local Healthwatch Pathfinder

Deferred until the next meeting

8 AOB

Members of the CAG would like to express their sadness at the loss of Peter Baggott. He was heavily involved with the ERP as part of the Environment Action Group, Steering Group and full Partnership.

JD is putting together a collection of memories for Peter's wife to let her know about everything he has done and been involved with.

ACTION: SH will send JD something to include from the ERP. **SH**

ACTION: JB and SH will revisit the ToR to make sure they are still fit for purpose. JB will also bring this to the attention of the full ERP **JB/SH**

8.1 Forthcoming events/information sharing

ACTION: GR will send details of a social media one-day course to the CAG **GR**

PhW reported that the Race Online 2012 campaign is coming to an end, to be replaced with 'Go On' – aims to encourage people to spend just one hour with someone teaching them how to get online.

Next full ERP meeting will be held on 2nd May at the Reid Rooms
Anniversary meeting will be held on 31st July, venue TBC

8.2 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to set meeting dates in advance for the next year.

ACTION: DM will send options for a CAG meeting in June, plus future meeting dates for this year. **DM**