



**Minutes of Community Action Group meeting
23rd March 2009
10.30 am RCCE, Offices, Feering**

Attendees:

Canon John Brown (JB)	RCCE – CAG Chair
David Eniffer (DE)	Volunteer Centre Tendring
Paul Williams (PW)	ECC
Philip Wilson (PhW)	ECC
Judy Cuddeford (JC)	BDVSA (Reporting On behalf of EACVS)
Joy Sheppard (JS)	EALC
Suzanne Harris (SH)	RCCE
Ken Edwards (KE)	Chelmsford Sport
Chris Rust (CR)	Maldon District Council

Attendance

Kirsty Monk (KM)	RCCE (minutes)
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Apologies

Angela Balcombe (AB)	ECC
Keith Brown (KB)	FSB
Mike Hall (MH)	AUEE
Melanie Rundle (MR)	Colchester Borough Council
Doreen Marsden (DM)	Volunteer Centre Uttlesford
Elaine Woods (EW)	ECC
Dianne Hardy (DH)	ECC
Gill Pike (GP)	UVC
Brenda Towle (BT)	ECVS
Karen Flack (KF)	ECC
Sue Sumner (SS)	CVS Uttlesford UVCC
Tony Shelton (TS)	Age Concern Essex
Paul Murphy (PM)	Director Maldon DC Vol. Service
Chris Allen (CA)	EEDA
Gill Burden (GB)	TDC
Kitty Barrett (KB)	BDC
Keith Cheesman (KC)	ECC
Wendy Jackson (WJ)	ECC
Rachel Price (RP)	ECC
Neil Keylock (NK)	ECC
Linda Riley (LR)	VST
Jenny Salisbury (JeS)	ECC

1 Chairman's Introduction

John Brown (JB) (Chairman) welcomed and thanked all for attending the meeting, introductions were made. Judy Cuddeford (BDVSA) advised she would be reporting back on behalf of the Essex Association of CVS and Voluntary Sector Training.

Apologies were taken as read. (please see above)

KM advised that both Terry Taber (Federation of Small Businesses -FSB) and Theresa Coyne (Tendring Community Transport- TCT) were due to retire shortly and would sadly no longer attend ERP/CAG meetings. Keith Brown was to attend on behalf of FSB, but we had not heard yet whether an alternative representative from TCT would be able to attend future ERP meetings.

SH felt it was important to retain representation from TCT (as well as FSB) as TCT was an established, experienced community transport organisation.

Action: DE to keep the group informed as to any news regarding TCT.

DE

2 **Minutes of the previous meeting (13th January 2009) & matters arising.**

Matters of Accuracy:

No Matters of Accuracy were raised.

Those present then agreed the minutes.

The following were reported as updates/ matters arising from those minutes

Improve Access to Healthcare in Tendring Seminar (Wed 25th February 2009, Walton on the Naze)

KM reported on behalf of Rachael Price ECC re the above seminar. The seminar, organised by ECC in conjunction with Tendring LSP, aimed to enlighten key community members of Tendring District of how healthcare services are being delivered, inform participants of transport services presently offered and then establish what the gaps and barriers are in the present service.

There were opportunities for the invited audience, who were mainly the voluntary sector, to ask questions and give examples of the barriers preventing users accessing Healthcare.

The main barriers identified were

1. Quality of information given/ communication
2. Transport - the expense of the Hospital Hopper bus
3. The need to take services to the users.

Recommended actions are being considered by the Access to Healthcare Partnership Group.

Migrant Workers/ Essex Multi Agency Forum - MAF.

PW Advised that he was due to attend the next Essex MAF meeting on 30th March. *Meeting commences at 10am and will be held at Kelvedon Fire Station, Kelvedon Park, London Rd, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex CM8.*

SH felt that until such time as rural issues regarding Migrant Workers became distinct from urban, that the Essex MAF would be the most appropriate forum to take things forward on this issue, however they were still in the early stages of developing the role of this forum. ERP presence on the Essex MAF would be useful.

PW

KE asked if there was any solid statistical data available on migrant workers in Essex.

Action: PW offered to report back to members from the Essex MAF meeting and find out if any statistical data available on migrant workers in Essex.

Further matters arising were covered within the main agenda items

3 **Essex Rural Strategy**

Members reviewed a spreadsheet of the workshop priorities and key rural themes identified at the last full ERP Conference held on 24th February 2009 (a consultation event designed to inform the refresh of the ERP Essex Rural Strategy).

Emergency Planning

Members felt that the New Rural Strategy should contain an Emergency Planning element including scoping strategies for Pandemic Flu.

LSP Representation

KE felt that it was important to differentiate between the overarching County LSP Officers and LSP Officers at District level.

The Group decided to review which key people/organisations were missing from the current ERP membership.

Missing Essex Rural Partnership Representation:

Members felt there was a need to recruit representation from Health/Mental Health and Social Care sectors such as:

- o Essex PCT's
- o Strategic Commissioning Health Mangers reps.
- o Mind/ Alzheimer's UK/NEST
- o Essex Health/ Mental Health Forums
- o Community Care/ Carers Organisations

CAG members felt that the New Rural Strategy should inform and influence policy; linking in now by flagging up rural issues in existing strategies and LAA2 and that the Strategy should also be forward looking and inform future strategic documents such as LAA3 and beyond.

SH felt that the Essex Rural Strategy Launch (scheduled for late November after its sign off at the September 2009 Full ERP Partnership Meeting) should be timed to have maximum impact on other strategic documents such as the future LAA3 and publicised to LSP's at district level.

SH was also concerned that at present the ERP had no formal representation on the main Essex Partnership, only the Sustainable Communities Partnership.

SH/
Steer
Group

Action: to seek ERP representation on the Essex Partnership.

Action: KE to forward Mental Health and Well Being Forum /Involving Essex contact details so that KM can invite them to future ERP meetings.

KE/KM

Essex Rural Commission (ERC) Update

- 4 PhW reported that the Essex Rural Commission had now met twice with the Essex Rural Partnership; once as the full partnership and recently on 10th March with a small delegation of the ERP to highlight the work and concerns of the ERP. The second meeting had been much more productive and helped inform the ERC.

The ERC had commission several items of public research with a company called QA Research; this was still on going. For example, one recording perceptions of Essex and another young peoples in Essex aspirations for the future.

An interim report had been produced by Jules Pretty (ECE Chair) and considered by the Commission. The Full report was due to be presented at the end of July 09 to the Essex Cabinet.

5 Village Agents Update

KM advised that she had met with the Village Agents Project Manager Jane Hurt (ECC) who was undertaking the start up work for the project.

Jane had advised KM that there will be a launch event for the Village Agents in early May and will let KM know the information nearer the time. Village Agents will initially be rolled out in 3 participating Essex districts.

Action: KM to circulate Village Agent event details to CAG members

KM

6 Any Other Business

Invitation to a Tourism Research Briefing, Joint Economic/ Community Action Working Group Meeting:

8th May 9.30am, RCCE Offices, Feering, Joint action group meeting 9.30-11.00am regarding the QA research which will inform the ECC Tourism Strategy with Lisa Bones (Tourism) ECC.

Action: Circulate details to CAG/ECON Action Group Members

SH/KM

Action: Joint Working on Fear of Crime – to be reviewed at a later date.

SH/JB/

Forthcoming Events

PHW

JS advised members of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) Conference, Wednesday, 22nd April 2009 :

Parish and Town Councils Alive and Well in Essex - Making Your Contribution
9.45 am - 3.30 pm, Venue : Foakes Hall, Gt Dunmow, CM6 1DG

Please contact Alison East on 01371 879722 for further details or to book a place.

KM

Action: KM to circulate details to CAG members

8 Date of next CAG group meeting

Next meeting of the CAG Joint meeting to be held : Venue and Time TBA

Subject: Economic Down Turn

Action: KM to circulate proposed meeting dates (15th or 16th June suggested)

KM

Action Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) representative to be invited to attend the meeting

SH/KM

Meeting Concluded 11.55 am