

ERP News

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ERP is 10 years old!

The ERP is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and we'd like to invite you to a special meeting to mark the occasion on Tuesday 31st July. The meeting will be held at [Channels Golf Club, Chelmsford](#) from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Confirmed speakers include Cllr Peter Martin, Leader of Essex county Council, ERP Chairman Cllr John Jowers and a representative from the South East LEP. If you would like to attend, please contact daisy.martlew@essexrcc.org.uk

Economic

Rural Housing at a time of economic change

Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) has produced a briefing which summarises a Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) report entitled '[Rural housing at a time of economic change](#)'. The report considers the effect of recent national policy changes on the rural housing market in England and the impacts of people needing to move as a result.

South East LEP calls for action to free up Dartford Crossing

The delay in introducing free flowing tolls at the Dartford Crossing is damaging economic growth and must be brought in before 2014, the [South East LEP](#) has warned. It also called for barriers to be lifted during times of peak congestion and for assurances that some of the revenue raised from the tolls would be invested into a third Thames crossing.

Communities

Community Right to Challenge comes into force

Communities now have the opportunity to bid to take over services they think they can run differently and better under the New [Community Right to Challenge](#), which came into force on 27th June. A range of specialist support to help communities wanting to take greater control of their area is also being put in place.

More barrier-breaking powers for communities

Communities, volunteers and social enterprises keen to make improvements to their local area will benefit from new powers that will remove barriers that prevent them from being heard. The [Sustainable Communities Act](#) will provide a way for communities to ask, via their local council, that central government cut the red tape that prevents them from taking local action.

Community shops thriving while large retailer growth stalls

Community-owned shops experienced record sales during 2011, while large retailers reported a stalling of growth, a new report by the Plunkett Foundation found. 'Better Business' found that average gross sales for community-owned shops are up by 18.4% and like for like sales by 9.4%.

Environment

New Bovine TB Eradication Group for England

Following a review of the Bovine TB Eradication Group (BTBEG), the Government has set up a new [Bovine TB Eradication Advisory](#) Group (BTBEAG) for England, with a broadened membership to include additional areas of scientific expertise and a range of farming experience. The new group will be a sub-group of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England.

Sustainable forestry remains strong

Latest figures published by the [Forestry Commission England](#) show that our woodlands are well protected and sustainable forestry remains strong. Just 0.04% of tress felled in England where done illegally and a thriving timber industry has increased domestic supply as imports have fallen.

Dates for your diary

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 th July | Economic Action Group visit to Walton-on-the-Naze, The Naze Tower , 11:00am |
| 31 st July | 10 Year Anniversary Full ERP meeting , Channels Golf Club, Chelmsford, 10:00am – 3:00pm |
| 29 th August | ERP Steering Group meeting , RCCE Offices, Feering, 10:00am (<i>Steering Group members only</i>)
Community Action Group meeting , RCCE Offices, Feering, 2:30pm |
| 14 th September | EERF meeting , NFU Offices, Newmarket, 10:00am |
| 10 th October | Full ERP meeting , venue TBC, 10:00am
Steering Group meeting after lunch at 2:00pm (<i>Steering Group members only</i>) |
| 9 th November | Community Action Group visit to Highwood Catch-up Café , Highwood Village Hall, 11:00am |
| 19 th December | ERP Steering Group meeting , RCCE Offices, Feering, 10:00am (<i>Steering Group members only</i>) |
| 30 th January 2013 | EERF meeting , venue TBC, 10:00am |

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.

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