



Essex News

Essex Rural Partnership Chairmanship

At the full ERP meeting on 11th November the Partnership elected a new Chair, Cllr Roger Hirst. Cllr Hirst takes over from Cllr John Jowers, who joined ERP in September 2007. We would like to thank Cllr Jowers for all his work in support of Essex Rural Partnership and more generally for rural communities in Essex. We also welcome Cllr Hirst to his new role, and very much look forward to working with him in the future.

Economic

South East LEP and European Funding

The South East LEP is currently developing a rural chapter for its European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Strategy. It is also working on a Rural Strategy which will cover the entire LEP area, which will compliment, but not replace, the county Rural Strategies that are in place.

Rural Development Programme and LEADER

Formal announcements regarding the success of LEADER Local Action Groups in their bids for funding have been delayed. The individual Local Action Groups have received initial feedback from Defra, but all news is currently embargoed. An appeal process, for potentially unsuccessful groups, is underway and once this has been completed budgets will be allocated to each LAG, enabling contracts to be issued and publicity to commence. Four LAGs incorporating parts of Essex will be expected to make announcements about their bids in the spring: Essex Rivers LAG, Eastern Plateau LAG, Wool Towns LAG and Heritage Coast LAG.

Communities

Rural Coalition issues the Rural Challenge

The Rural Coalition has issued a [Rural Challenge document](#), supported by its 14 member groups. Lord Robin Teverson, Chair of the Rural Coalition, has said that "In the build-up to the 2015 general election, we want to make the case for a healthy and flourishing countryside.... with a new Rural Challenge that asks the next government to do more to address rural concerns."

£193 funding for new flood defences in East of England

Thames Estuary, Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea are amongst 92 schemes in the region set to benefit from a £2.3 billion [flood defence programme](#) announced this month. The Thames Estuary project is worth over £62 million and will protect communities, homes and businesses; 6km of coastline including Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea will receive £18.6 million. The scheme intends to safeguard 17,134 properties in the region, with a possibility that further projects may be added as the programme develops.



**Thank you for your support
of Essex Rural Partnership.**

**We look forward to working
with you in 2015.**

Dates for your diary

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|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 13th January 2015 | Economic Action Group | RCCE Offices 10.00am | (Coffee from 9.45am) |
| 21st January 2015 | Steering Group Meeting <i>(by invitation)</i> | RCCE Offices 10.00am | (Coffee from 9.45am) |
| 13th February 2015 | Full ERP Meeting | RCCE Offices 10.00am | (Coffee from 9.45am) |

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