



## Essex Rural Partnership

### STEERING GROUP

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**  
**The Salings Millennium Hall, 2.00 pm**

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<b>Present:</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Orgn</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Cllr John Jowers	Chairman	ECC	(JJ)
Canon John Brown	Vice Chair	RCCE	(JB)
Dominic Petre	EcAG	EET	(DP)
Philip Wilson	EcAG	ECC	(PhW)
Cllr. Peter Baggott	EnvAG	EALC	(PB)
Suzanne Harris	CAG & EERF	RCCE	(SH)
Joy Sheppard	CAG	EALC	(JS)
Peter Chillingworth	LGA (Essex)	CBC	(PC)
Cllr Wendy Scattergood	LGA (Essex)		(WS)
Cllr. John Buchanan	EERF	EALC	(JBu)
Ed Gregory	facilitator orgn	ECC	(EG)
<b>Attending:</b>			
Kirsty Monk	(minutes)	RCCE	(KM)
<b>Apologies:</b>			
John Hall	EnvAG	EWT	(JH)
Richard Woolley	EERF	RCCE	(RW)
Cllr. Mick Page	EERF	ECC	(MP)
Chris Allen	EEDA	EEDA	(CA)
Nick Shuttleworth	facilitator orgn	RCCE	(NS)

**1 Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Cllr. John Jowers welcomed all to the meeting.  
**Apologies were read** (*please see above for details*).

**Action  
By**

**2 Minutes of the [SG] meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

**Matters of Accuracy.**

No matters of accuracy were raised, those present agreed the minutes.

**Matters Arising from the previous meeting.**

**Action Outstanding:**

DP and JJ to liaise in order to ensure a clear understanding of the ECC interpretation of the vetting and barring scheme and its implementation.

*Further Matters arising were covered in the main agenda items*

DP  
JJ

**3 Draft Rural Strategy**

## Review of Feedback (from earlier Full Partnership Meeting)

The Steering Group felt that the meeting had gone well and were pleased that the Draft Strategy had been approved for wider consultation by the Partnership.

## Consideration of Written Feedback (received to date)

SH explained that the written feedback to date was generally positive with only minor points highlighted; these were items which respondents had felt needed to be added rather than a disagreement with existing content.

SH reported on the comment regarding the term “flexible” planning (pg25 of the Strategy) and asked for the Steering Group members’ thoughts on this.

JJ suggested “pragmatic” and this was felt to be suitable alternative to “flexible” by the Steering Group. The drafting team would consider revision when they next met.

## Proposed Action

- The Steering group felt that in the Executive Summary that there should be a statement to the effect that each section and extracts from the Strategy needed to be set in the context of the Strategy as a whole, as there was inter-linkage between the Strategy Themes. Task Group
- That perhaps a Venn diagram showing the Strategy Themes inter-linkage should be considered for the document. SH/KM

## Action:

- JS to liaise with SH regarding a footnote to explain the definition of the “first tier” of local government. JS/SH
- Strategy Drafting Team (SDT) to collate all responses and to finalise the drafting process for circulation to the Steering Group for final approval. SDT - due to meet 9<sup>th</sup> October 09. Changes to the Strategy to be highlighted (not in colour text) for ease of reference. SH/NS/EG/PhW

## Action Groups

The Steering Group held a brief discussion regarding the future of the Environment Action Group. It was felt that a strong Chair was needed to guide the Group and ensure that the Strategy action plan was followed and encourage membership. The name should perhaps reflect a wider perspective; a change of name to the **Country and Coastal Heritage Action Group** was suggested. It was paramount that the Chair be found prior to the launch of the new Strategy on 24<sup>th</sup> November. SH made a provisional offer of secretariat support from RCCE – to be resourced from existing arrangements.

## Action:

- Urgent meeting of the Steering Group to be organised for the first week of November.
- SH/KM/NS to look at providing secretariat support to the future Environmental Action Group. KM/SH
- Suggestions for a possible Chair to be put forward by the Steering Group.

## Strategy Launch Event.

SH explained that due to other pre-arranged meetings at the end of November, the 24<sup>th</sup> were the best date to hold the Launch event at Ingatestone Hall.

The Steering Group agreed the date.

PB advised that he would not be able to attend as he was due to speak at the NALC conference on that day.

SH invited suggestions regarding the VIP guest speaker for the Launch from SG members present. Etholle George, Alan Titchmarsh, Michael Talbot, Dan Norris, Bonnie

Hart, Stuart Burgess, Richard Kemp were all suggested.

**Action**

- SH and DP to liaise regarding hire of the hall for the ERP Strategy Launch Event.
- Further VIP suggestions to be sent to SH/KM
- ECC VIP list to be requested
- EG to invite Lord Hanningfield to the event/ check his availability

SH/DP

All  
SH/PhW  
EG/SH

4 **A. O.B**

**Issues for Future Discussion**

The Steering Group felt that the Marine Bill/ Coastal issues would be a good theme for the Jan/Feb 2010 Full Partnership Meeting. Andrew St Joseph was suggested as a speaker.

**Date of next Steering Group Meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> November 2009, RCCE Offices Feering, 10.00am – 12.30pm

***Meeting concluded 3.30pm***