

Essex Partnership & Essex Rural Partnership

Environment Group

Meeting held on 1st May 2007, 10am at County Hall

Present:

Graham Tombs (Chair)	Essex County Council – Environment & Commerce
Kevin Jones	Essex County Council – Environment & Commerce
Sandy Cruickshank	Go-East
John Hall (from 10.30am)	Essex Wildlife Trust
Paul Hinsley	Essex County Council – Environment & Commerce
Peter Garrett	Maldon District Council
Ian Haines	Braintree District Council
Peter Baggott	EALC
Suzanne Roast	RCCE
John Brown	RCCE
Genevieve Broad	Essex Biodiversity Project
Menaka Dharmaraj	Essex County Council – Highways & Transportation
Keith Blackburn	Essex County Council – Highways & Transportation
Dan Gascoyne	Essex County Council – Quality of Life
Jane Coskry	Chelmsford Environment Partnership
Tim Isaac	CLA
Natalie Stringer (minutes)	Essex County Council – Essex Partnership Support

1.	Apologies	Action
	Jason Searles (ECC – Environment & Commerce), Martin Wakelin (ECC – Landscape & Ecology), Emma Simmonds (ECC – Landscape & Ecology), Helen Clothier (CPREssex), Mike Hall (Writtle College), Jake Roos (Uttlesford District Council), Oliver King (Maldon District Council)	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 12th January 2007 and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>Page 3: Kevin reported in relation to the event at Cressing Temple that there will be a programme of workshops with the next one being arranged soon.</p>	KJ
3.	<p>Essex Carbon Management Programme</p> <p>Kevin handed out copies of the relevant pages in the ECC Corporate Plan which are attached.</p> <p>ECC have put together a management programme focussing on segmenting individual corporate targets, the targets will have a RAG assessment. They are also developing a computer system which Kevin is hoping to demonstrate at the next meeting.</p> <p>Kevin attended a meeting with ELGA and has a declaration on carbon management. Kevin will circulate this to partners.</p> <p>Graham talked through the targets of the Corporate Plan. The corporate plan is an internal focus that ECC have set. ECC are working on reducing carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide emissions.</p>	KJ KJ

	<p>Graham informed the group that ECC are currently in discussion with Ford about producing bio-ethanol vehicles and also with Morrisons who may be prepared to put these pumps in some of their petrol stations (Witham, Maldon and Hadleigh).</p> <p>There is also a plan to build an environmentally sound house in partnership with a builder and a District/Borough Council. Ian was very interested in this project and agreed to speak to Planners at Braintree District Council.</p> <p>Paul to give an update on Sustainable Procurement Drive at the next meeting.</p> <p>ECC are currently working hard on encouraging employees, where possible, to work from home or their nearest satellite office. There was a general feeling around the table that flexible working is positive. Suzanne reported that they try and encourage home working at RCCE however the technology they have does not allow people to check emails and access the internet from home. They do not have an IT support firm as their charges are too high therefore Dan agreed to facilitate some help.</p> <p>Peter Baggott reported that the NALC is organising a conference in October in Bournemouth. Climate change will be one of the issues for discussion at this meeting. It was agreed that this would be a future agenda item for Peter to feedback after the conference.</p> <p>Kevin informed the group about a Colchester Environmental group called Enform who are promoting local produce and they have produced a food directory. The Rural Partnership had a presentation from them as well and they were in full agreement with promoting local food sources. Kevin will update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Suzanne updated the group that the RCCE will be launching, as part of the 'Best Kept Village' competition, the 'most sustainable community' as a new category in the competition and will be launched this year for July 2008. Suzanne agreed to do a slot at the next meeting to talk about this in more detail.</p>	<p>IH</p> <p>PH</p> <p>DG</p> <p>PB</p> <p>KJ</p> <p>SR</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>Kevin explained the purpose of this agenda item was to re-visit the terms of reference specifically looking at the priorities agreed by the group to evaluate if we are achieving them and if they are still relevant in terms of the LAA.</p> <p>Progress is being made with the Climate Change agenda, however there needs to be more focus on water efficiency measures. The Climate Change Bill/Act is out to consultation currently and the deadline for comments is 12th June.</p> <p>Dan suggested it might be a good idea to link the priorities to the new Sustainable Community Strategy thus giving this group a chance to inform the new strategy but to also identify new priorities for this group.</p> <p>John Hall talked through the Biodiversity priorities and there is general progress on this and Genevieve Broad will be giving a presentation on the Essex Biodiversity project action plan at the next meeting.</p>	<p>GB</p>

5.	<p>Essex Rural Strategy Annual Review</p> <p>Suzanne requested this agenda item be deferred until the next meeting so that it can be linked to the Terms of Reference and information circulated before the meeting.</p>	SR/NS
6.	<p>LAA Update</p> <p>There is due to be a new LAA in place by Summer 2008. There are a set number of government targets (35 in total) and there will be significant funding through the performance reward grant process. There was a workshop event held on 25th April for the Safer & Stronger Communities block of the LAA which looked at lessons learnt through the LAA.</p> <p>ECC are in the process of developing the sustainable community strategy and consultants are in to assist with this. Graham asked for a short presentation on the Sustainable Community Strategy and about how this group can be involved.</p>	NS
7.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Suzanne reported that the Rural Partnership meets on 16th May in the morning at Cressing Temple, members to inform Suzanne if they would like to attend.</p> <p>Keith informed the group that ECC are organising a farming conference on 15th May in the afternoon at Abbess Roding which will be focussing on farming and climate change and there will be speakers from NFU. Further details are available from Keith Blackburn on 01245 437558.</p> <p>Ian reported that World Environment Day is happening on 5th June and there will be exhibits on sustainable farming. Ian will circulate details.</p> <p>Dan reported that there will be a quality of life conference in October around 23/24. If anyone would like further details to contact Dan Gascoyne.</p> <p>Jane reported that there will be a transport conference at Writtle College on 12th September; further details will be available soon.</p> <p>Items for next agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Essex Rural Strategy ➤ Essex Biodiversity action plan ➤ Sustainable Community Strategy ➤ Sustainable Procurement Drive ➤ Essex Carbon management programme – computer demonstration ➤ ‘Best Kept Village’ competition – ‘Most Sustainable Community’ 	IH
8.	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>5th July 2007 10am in Committee Room 1 at County Hall</p> <p>Future meeting dates have been set as follows: 4th September, 2pm at County Hall 6th November, 2pm at County Hall</p>	All to note