



ERP Full Partnership Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th February 2009
 10.00 am Reid Rooms, Margaret Roding

Present:

Chair – Canon John Brown (JB) - RCCE	Cllr. Peter Baggott (PB) - EALC EnvAG
Chris Allen (CA) –EEDA	Terry Taber (TT) – FSB EconAG
Cllr. John Buchanan (JBu) -EALC – EERF	Joy Sheppard (JS) –EALC - CAG
Cllr. Mick Page (MP)– EERF	Keith Cheesman (KC) ECC
John Hall– EWT (JH) EnvAG	Dominic Petre (DP) – ETA
Philip Wilson (PhW) – ECC	Rosemary Alexander (RA) FCN Essex
Suzanne Harris (SH) - RCCE CAG (/ EERF)	Keith Hughes (KH) Business Link
Kitty Barrett (KiB) -Braintree District Council	Chris Rust (CR) Maldon District Council (MDC)
Cllr. Jo Beavis (JoB) Braintree District Council	Wendy Jackson (WJ) ECC
Peter Chillingworth- (PC) ELGA	Richard Woolley (RW) – RCCE EERF
Alison Jennings (AJ) – In-TEND	Phil Smith (PSM) Rural Shops Alliance -
Paul Williams (PW) -ECC	Nick Shuttleworth (NS) – RCCE
Keith Blackburn (KB) -ECC	Linda Riley (LR) Voluntary Sector Training
Julie Harkus (JH) Essex and Southend LINK	Judy Cuddeford (JC) - BDVSA
Iain Wicks (IW)- Federation of Small Businesses	Pat Roberts (PR) - (EALC/ECC)
Sophie Blythe (SB) - CERA	S Wilsher (SW)- CERA
Ken Rolls (KeR) Colchester CVS	Brian Stacey (BS)- ECC
Jonathan Thompson (JT) Environment Agency	Catherine Gaywood (CG) - ECC
Rachel Price (RP) - ECC	Linda Tubb (Essex and Southend LINKs (LT)
Paul Murphy (PM) - Maldon CVS	Mike Hall (MH) AUEE
Angela Balcome (AB)- ECC	Helen Clothier (HC) CPRE
Jeremy Squier (JS)	Sam Jarvis (SaJ) - Essex Police
Ken Edwards (KE) Active Chelmsford	Steve Parker -(StP) Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr. Sheila Jackman Ongar (SJ) Town Council	Ms Caroline Fuller (CaF) Ingatestone and Fryerning PC
Cllr. John Gili-Ross (JgW) West Bergholt PC	Cllr. Asad Aly Khan (AaK) Great Burstead & South Green PC
Cllr. Peter Wardel (PeW) Gosfield Parish Council	Cllr. Matias Coombs (MaC) Kelvedon Hatch
Ms Jean Allen (JaB) Bradwell on Sea PC	Cllr. Caroline Ruffle (CaR) Great Burstead & South Green PC
Cllr. Alan Price – (AIP) Quendon and Rickling PC	Cllr. Kevin Ascott (KA) Purleigh PC
Ms Moira Tarrant (MT) -Mashbury Parish Council	

In Attendance

Kirsty Monk- RCCE (KM) (minutes)

Sue Sheppard RCCE (SS)

Apologies:

Chair – Cllr. John Jowers (JJ) – ECC

Theresa Coyne (TC) Tendring Community Transport

Dianne Hardy (DH) – Haven Gateway (EconAG)

Neil Keylock NK- ECC

Ed Gregory (EG) - ECC (EG)

Anthony Buston (AB) ECC

Cllr. Wendy Scattergood (WS) – ELGA

Doreen Marsden (DM) Volunteer Centre Uttlesford

Cllr Roger Walters (RoW) Braintree District Council

Jacqui Mee (JM) Age Concern

Welcome and Introductions

Action

Vice Chairman John Brown took the Chair in the absence of Cllr. John Jowers and welcomed all to the meeting.

By

Apologies were taken as read

1 Minutes of the previous meeting 24th October 2008 & matters arising.

No matters of accuracy were raised

Those present agreed the minutes.

Matters Arising were dealt with in the main agenda items.

2 Background to the Essex Rural Strategy – Presentation by Suzanne Harris (RCCE)

(An electronic copy of this presentation has been circulated with these minutes).

SH advised that the current Essex Rural Strategy had been published in 2005. The current Essex Rural Partnership Structure had also been formalised at this time, out of the existing original 3 hub groups founded in 2002.

The current Essex Rural Strategy had 15 key priorities (please see presentation for details). Due to a number of factors ERP Steering Group agreed to revise the current Essex Rural Strategy in order to reflect strategic, political and contextual changes in Essex and the region. This would mean updating, removing or adding where necessary current and future key rural priorities.

New more simplified, deliverable rolling objectives were needed to make the Strategy effective in response to a changing Essex. A new ERP Rural Strategy had been planned to be published in 2009 with a proposed life span of 2009 -2015. A new ERP Strategy Vision had also been proposed, which would span 2009-2020.

3 Essex in Context: current strategies and plans and their relationship to the Essex Rural Partnership – presentation by Nick Shuttleworth (RCCE).

(An electronic copy of this presentation has been circulated with these minutes).

NS highlighted that Essex remained a significantly rural county with 72% of its land area still devoted to agriculture. He summarised some of the major changes to the planning system that had been introduced since the publication of the current Essex Rural Strategy including the adoption of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the abolition of individual County Structure Plans. He also commented on the role and increasing influence of the Local Area Agreement. In view of this context, NS emphasised that an updated Essex

Rural Strategy would be vital in influencing and informing the content of other strategies and plans at county, regional and national level.

4 **Key Themes for Rural Essex**

Delegates divided into workshop groups divided into the 6 Key Themes for Rural Essex:

- Affordable Housing
- Rural Enterprise & Strengthened Rural Economy
- Access to Essential Services
- Land Issues (accessible green space, land management)
- Policy and Planning
- Community well-being and Empowerment

Workshop1 – Identifying other Key Rural Issues

Workshop 2 – Building on Key Themes

(A summary of the workshop findings will be able to be obtained online at www.essexruralpartnership.org.uk shortly).

5 **Report from the East of England Rural Forum (EERF)**

SH advised the meeting that the topic of the December 2008 EERF meeting had been Social Inclusion. The EERF Position Paper on Sustainable Rural Growth had been formally adopted at the meeting.

March 09 EERF Meeting

Members were invited to submit issues they would like to be raised to one of the County Representatives (John Buchanan, Mick Page, Richard Woolley or Suzanne Harris).

6 **Reports from the Essex Rural Partnership Steering Group and Action Groups: Current Projects/ Actions for these groups are listed below.**

Steering Group – Suzanne Harris RCCE reported.

Natural England

To encourage Natural England to attend ERP meetings.

Marine Bill

This was noted as being of relevance to the ERP and information was circulated to Steering Group members.

Action: Make the Marine Bill Summary available on line.

KM/SH

Post Offices in Essex

SH advised the meeting that 3 Post Offices had now re-opened – two of them in rural areas. (Little Hallingbury and Henham)

A New Strategy

It had been agreed by the Steering Group to use the Spring meeting for an event to allow wider consultation on the content of the new Strategy (i.e. 24th Feb 09)

The new strategy would include:

- A five-year rural plan
- 10-20 year aspirational objectives

It was agreed that the existing Action Groups should be involved in developing the relevant sections of any Action plans.

Rural Commission

The ERP met with the Essex Rural Commission on 4th November. This allowed the ERP to engage in discussion with members of the Rural Commission about priorities for rural Essex. A further, more focused, meeting has also been arranged for the 10th March 2009.

Local Area Agreement

The Steering Group heard an update on the progress of the new LAA. Various members were involved in different aspects of the emerging Action Plans and useful discussion took place.

Economic Action Group - Philip Wilson ECC

PhW advised that the Economic Group had not met since his last report to members.

Community Action Group (CAG) Meeting 13/01/09 Summary

KM reported that the main focus of the meeting was Community Well Being, with a presentation by Keith Cheesman ECC including an overview of the ECC Community Well Being and later life Strategies and various partnership projects such as:

- Time Banks
- Community Schemes
- Day Care for Older People
- BE Smart BE Safe Scheme
- Trading Standards Buy with Confidence Scheme
- 50 Not Out
- Village Agents Project

The CAG are continuing to work on 2 ongoing joint actions with the ERP Economic Action Group regarding fear of crime and tourism. They are also reviewing the ERP Essex Rural Strategy from a community perspective during the current refresh process.

Environmental Action Group – Update Peter Baggott

PB reported that due to work on the LAA the last meeting for the Environmental Action Group had been cancelled and had not met as a group since last summer (2008). A meeting had been held to discuss the future of the group but no satisfactory outcome had been achieved to date. SG

Action: Steering Group to discuss the EnvAG to find a way forward.

7

Forthcoming Events

The East of England Rural Forum Annual Conference 2009 - 4th March 2009

'Rural Communities Helping the Region through the Economic Downturn', Lavenham Village Hall. Contact email for details: EERFconference2009@goeast.gsi.gov.uk

RCCE Events

28th / 29th April Transition Training

Thurs 14th May "Introducing Community Led Planning"

Sat 27th June "Linking Community Led Plans to policy and strategy"

Please call the RCCE Field Officer Team for details tel: **0844 4773938** or email: [**fieldteam@essexrcc.org.uk**](mailto:fieldteam@essexrcc.org.uk)

Diary dates raised at the meeting by Mike Hall, AUEE:

An evening with Sir Don Curry – GM issues Tuesday 24th March 2009 17.30 for 18:00
SCI Headquarters 14-15 Belgrave Square London UK

For further information **contact Erin Taylor 0207 598 1594 email erin.taylor@soci.org**
or visit their website on www.soci.org/events

Carbon Connections conference 12th March 2009, Natural History Museum

Please follow link to book a place: <http://www.carbon-connections.org/>

8 A.O.B

EEDA Rural Proofing Toolkit:

CA reported that EEDA had now put the rural proofing toolkit on their website to download.

(Link: <http://www.eeda.org.uk/rural-proofing.asp>)

9 Date of Next Essex Rural Full Partnership Meeting

Date: Friday 15th May 2009

Time: 9.30am Registration and Refreshments 10-00am – 1.15pm meeting followed by a buffet lunch and the Essex Rural Partnership Steering Group at 2.00pm

Subject: Rural Health

Venue: Essex Records Office, Chelmsford

Meeting concluded 12.30 pm