



Essex Rural Partnership

Tuesday 24th February 2009

Welcome

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Canon John Brown, Vice Chair

Background to the Essex Rural Strategy

- Essex Rural Partnership est 2002
 - Why
 - How
- Essex Rural Strategy published 2005
- Partnership Structure Formalised

Background to the Essex Rural Strategy

Key Priorities

2005 Strategy had 15 priority areas:

- Access to services
- Improving transport
- Promoting Essex
- Business Support
- Improving skills & employment opportunities

Background to the Essex Rural Strategy

Key Priorities

2005 Strategy had 15 priority areas:

- Improving infrastructure
- Responding to climate change
- Attracting funding
- Encouraging community involvement
- Conservation and enhancement of environments

Background to the Essex Rural Strategy

Key Priorities

2005 Strategy had 15 priority areas:

- Affordable housing
- Influencing planning system
- Education/awareness of rural environment
- Influencing policy and co-ordinating delivery
- Research and analysis

Background to the Essex Rural Strategy

- ERP Steering Group agreed to revise
- Strategic and context changes
- Simplified Objectives needed

- New Strategy 2009-2015
- New Strategy Vision 2009-2020

Essex in Context

Key Facts

- Population : 1.6million
- 72% of Essex is rural
- 7 districts classified as 'rural'
- Almost 50% of parishes have no shop
- Largest coastline in the country
- Complex, cross-cutting boundaries

Essex in Context

A Changing Strategic Framework

- Defra and the Regional Rural Affairs Forum
- The East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy)
- Essex Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks

Essex in Context

Where does the Essex Rural Strategy Fit In?

- 'Mainstreaming'
- A unified rural voice
- Co-ordinating delivery

... and what about the Essex Rural Commission?

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

Key Themes for Rural Essex

- Affordable Housing
 - Affordable housing
- Rural Enterprise & Strengthened Rural Economy
 - Promoting Essex, Business Support, Skills and employment
- Access to Essential Services
 - Access to services, Improving transport, Improving infrastructure
- Land Issues (accessible green space, land management)
 - Conservation and enhancing environments, education/awareness
- Policy and Planning
 - Influencing policy & co-ordinating delivery, influencing planning system, research
- Community well-being and Empowerment
 - Encouraging community involvement

Key Themes for Rural Essex

Priorities not covered:

- Responding to climate change
 - Not rural-specific
 - very-well covered in other strategies
- Attracting funding
 - Cross-cutting
 - Part of all priorities

WORKSHOPS

- Who isn't here today that should be:
 - (a) consulted about the strategy
 - (b) invited to join the Partnership
 - (c) sent a copy of the completed Strategy / invited to the launch event
- What is not covered by the 6 key themes presented this morning?
- If anything is identified:
 - Should any of these new themes have equal importance to the six? Or Could they sit within the scope of the existing six?
- What do you feel the role of the Partnership ought to be?
- *Influencing? Projects? Sharing information?*

WORKSHOPS

- What are the key issues relating to *your theme*?
- What should be the ERP standpoint/**policy** on this key theme? (5 statements/sentences demonstrating opinion)
- What are potential solutions / useful **projects**/actions?
- Which of these projects/actions can ERP and its members be involved in?
- Is the **focus** of the project or issue: (a) community, (b) economy, (c) community & economy, (d) environment
- **Who** should be involved? (And who might lead?)
- If the project is not mainly **environment**-focussed, would it benefit from environmental scrutiny/being 'enviro-proofed'?
- What **resources** would be needed? Where might these be found? (ie member contributions, grant applications)