



Essex Rural Partnership

**Full Partnership Meeting
Friday 30th September 2016 at 10.00am
Crossing Temple Visitor Centre**

Minutes

1 Welcome and Introduction

2 Apologies

Please see Appendix

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2016

These were approved

4 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairs

The meeting unanimously elected Cllr Simon Walsh to serve as Chairman of the Essex Rural Partnership. Cllr Walsh gave the meeting a brief biography by way of introduction. Cllr Walsh proposed that Roger Hirst and Canon John Brown be appointed as Vice-Chairs and both were unanimously elected.

5 ERP Terms of Reference

Suzanne Harris gave a short presentation to the meeting to introduce a proposed new Terms of Reference.

Key points:

- The ToR were last reviewed in 2009
- The revision has re-ordered some information to make it easy to follow
- The Steering Group would evolve into a Strategic Board, with a defined membership

For full Summary see [Power point presentation – Suzanne Harris](#) available on the ERP website

Cllr Walsh invited members present to endorse the new Terms of Reference – all agreed.

6 A structure fit for delivery

Suzanne explained that the new structure allocated seats on the Strategic Board to named organisations/sectors. In some instances representatives had been identified by the old Steering Group, but where gaps remained these would be allocated at the earliest opportunity. The Task & Finish groups would be established on demand, and members were invited to consider topics they felt would benefit from a Task and Finish Group.

Questions and Answers

PD – Is the strategic board always 100% attendance? Need to make it clear if they come on board they have to commit.

SH – The amendment will encourage a good attendance record.

SW – It is a good method to address ideas/work by sharing ideas work on it and then return with the information - I endorse this.

PD – Yes I agree it does work.

AS – Suggested a task and finish group be formed to look at the issue of large-scale fly tipping, which is a huge problem, particularly in south Essex. Incidents have been increasing throughout the year and are costly to clear up. It not only causes an eyesore but also a hindrance to local communities and businesses. It was recognised that it is likely to be organised crime fly tipping possibly coming from London.

RH – This is not a council clear up job it's a criminal act.

All agreed that ERP should support action on this by creating a Task and Finish Group.

Action SH - to liaise with Adam regarding this.

7 The Police and Crime Plan for Essex – Roger Hirst

Roger Hirst presented the draft Police and Crime Plan for Essex to the meeting. For full Summary please see [Power point presentation – Roger Hirst](#)

Roger Hirst discussed the future, recognising matters that require addressing and/or improving. The aim is to provide monthly reports on crime statistics and budgets and engage with communities; the ERP are key representatives for the rural communities.

Reported crime to the police in urban areas is higher in comparison with rural communities.

Therefore police resources are more focused in urban areas, resulting with people in rural areas some of whom are quite isolated being affected by crime and are not being heard. The focus of protecting Essex has been on apprehending criminals. The solve rate however is lower which is highlighting the need for more action regarding prevention. The police need to keep in contact with the area and be seen. Other matters recognised for example: currently there is a decline in cases involving anti-social behaviour, this could be possibly be due to less people reporting it. If crime goes unreported then the police cannot deal with it. This leads to the police needing to be being more victim friendly and try to encourage victims to come forward. The new powers in place with regard to violence without injury known as coercive behaviour requires people to come forward this is paramount as disturbingly there is an increase in domestic violence. The number of homicides are falling and remains fairly low this needs to be kept as low as possible.

Gangs – the metropolitan police have been successful in London against crime related businesses however they are recognising other areas to move to. With this comes the threat of targeting the vulnerable who are commonly used as runners to do the work for them. (Example boys aged 12-15 impressed by a new watch or befriending). The businesses have to be disrupted to prevent the colossal amount of money making and in turn they will be prevented from moving on.

Vulnerable children: strategies in place to identify vulnerable people.

Safety on roads: Strong level of public demand to have a road safety plan this is the biggest killer in this country. Poor driving is inexcusable.

The four killers in the county are Drink, Drugs, phone and speeding.

Prevention is the key word the police have to engage and communicate better than they have done in the past.

Mr Hirst requested feedback via a website a survey which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and closes 10th October. This feedback will be considered and used at the Police Crime Panel, and they hope to have an approved plan in place by November.

Details can be found on the ERP website [here](#)

Questions and Answers

KE – Visibility of policing 1-2% isn't enough perhaps not seen or worth while?

RH – There is no promise of police on the beat, it's the need to get them out and about more.

Introduced to 'some' tablet devices to use on foot or in the car. Feedback – amazing saved time and could go to the next job instead of being held up.

No need to return to the station for paperwork, a great time saving device.

KE - Neighbourhood policing – what does it mean?

RH – We are making changes going forward with new schemes.

KE - Electronic Fraud ?

RH – is very much part of the national agenda and being looked into by London police. A software control room will provide a report to the police to look at it.

TS – How does it relate to the Neighbourhood Watch schemes (community Policing) there are no Police contacts anymore?

RH - Neighbourhood Watch AGM – works in some parts well but not all so we need to improve on this. I want to be very much a part of this get in contact with the council.

PD – Texting emails, facebook and selfies on the increase instead of speaking.

JD – Low level crimes unlikely to be solved van crime is one.

RH – Police engagement – Better understanding is required the police are only meeting people doing bad things or having bad things done to them we need to engage with them more.

NS – Commented on how much non policing work the Police do for communities, which is good. To pledge to put a special in every village of the country, if we can help to spread the word we would be in support. If such people were to be found will they be deployed in the village fully or will they be dragged into the urban areas to assist?

RH – Training in specific areas could be mean removal or if a special constable could mean they become a regular.

TS – Expect community partnership to ensure community confidence in the police, what is the definition of the community how big is it?

RH - Southend is a community as example. Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Braintree all parts of the same Policing community area. Epping and Brentwood community safety partner structure. The rural parts of Essex are necessarily represented in the community safety partnerships. No meetings known.

RP – Cut backs in Police officers - current officer for my area is called out to urban areas more so than he wants to be. Farm watch – wait authorisation too long to hear regarding continual support.

RH – Hopefully this will change when the PCC will be signed off which includes farm watch and if this does happen again let me know please.

CE – Now works for CVS but served 20 years in the police both London and Essex – Engagement is crucial for area like ours and is a large area to cover with the resources available. Realism that needs to be taken on board concerns that policing is withdrawn from areas so the engagement is needed more than ever now. There is a disconnect in reporting crime if we can support we would like to do that.

RH – Do report crime so that patterns can be recognised. And criminals can be caught and dealt with.

Police website do it on line has been revamped and you can also call the 101 number.

SH – Vandalism – contact the police and all is said is not much we can do about this look at your insurance but when it's an ongoing problem what do we do. No crime prevention was suggested at the time.

RH – You need crime prevention advise.

Consultation feed back **by 7th October** please.

8 Superfast Essex – Lucy Dickinson

For full Summary please see [Power point presentation – Lucy Dickinson](#)

Q & A:

AS – Take up of the offer are people aware?

LD – The codes provided to people is low reception areas

RP – Is it the first they have heard of the scheme as it's the first time I have.

LD - Information has been sent to Parish Councils, it has been recognised that there is a low uptake.

AS – People who are aware and decide not to take it up is there a reason for this?

LD – Perhaps we should give it a further push, some people do say they prefer the superfast instead.

PD – Looking at the white spots are you addressing them?

LD - Anything not written into a current plan they eligible to receive a code scheme. BDUK do target the right addresses to ensure awareness .

PD – For those unable to access Superfast perhaps there is a need to make people aware they can have the interim solution and still be eligible for the superfast when it arrives.

LD – As part of the contract there is the opportunity to leave it early when superfast becomes available.

Lucy explained that the white areas are where no broadband operators are currently working. Superfast Essex can invest to include the white areas.

The yellow areas require clarification with the broadband providers that they meet BDUK requirements and they are under review so are not eligible for Superfast investment. It does require providers to feedback from saying they are providing the service but they actually can't.

AS – For the rural areas where are the speeds actually being measured from? Downloading appears to be better than uploading. It is important in rural areas to have a good uploading rate taking into account forms to fill in on line.

LD - Download is usually higher than upload speed, the measuring comes from the broadband operators.

AS – This is needs challenging no one is taking them to task.

LD – Released by Ofcom if a service is sold at a certain speed and you are not receiving it then it can be challenged. We do challenge operators using external accessors who feed back.

WS – Orientated towards fibre but some areas fibre might not be the solution, as in it may not be answer for everyone.

LD – Very true non technology specific so when we go out to procurement it needs to meet the next generation access requirements. Some white areas are able to get 24 but not 30. Still those areas we are focusing on with the lesser speed of under 30.

PD – Do you go outside the county and request the numbers from them – as a comparison? Challenge the figures by looking at another counties results.

LD - Challenging speeds I will ask, all regional programmes do have to follow the same process but sharing data all depends on the area itself.

PD –Just use common ground i.e. black, white and yellow spots.

Official Lunch RCCE Village Halls Conference 15th October

RP – Are you encouraging firms such BT and Gigaclear to secure packages so that as existing customers we can provide additional hubs outside the unit if our clients prefer something else?

LD – If we know that a service is already accessed then we would not fund it but it should be future proofed to access the network. If you have it then they would provide a funding for it but if it is not in place & existing they may not include it.

RP – What about new build developments ?

LD – All working together to ensure broadband provision is written into planning guidelines. BT made a pledge of 20+ dwellings and they will automatically put superfast in place. It should be made for business use also. **To Action - LD will contact RP regarding this matter**

AB – Current problem with new builds is there is a significant back log in getting the connection in. Firstly a postcode is required to register before you move in which takes time. BT who place the service then won't do the last bit due to competition from others which further delays the process. People can be waiting months for a connection in their new home.

LD – Superfast Essex are unable to help with that apart from feeding back to BT and BDUK. The provision is not part of our programme placing services in new properties. BT need to do more work to make connection available and avoid waiting lists.

CW – Responsibility should be placed onto the developers to ensure a line is positioned to make it more accessible.

Superfast phase 3 has its official launch at the RCCE Village Halls Conference 15th October.

9 A.O.B

JD - Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) informed the Essex Rural Partnership that DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation included a proposal to cap Parish Council precept increases at 2%. EALC explained that if this new rule is put in place, it would have a potentially severe impact on Parish Councils and could significantly restrict the activities they could afford to undertake, and the support they might be able to offer to local projects. The meeting agreed that a formal response objecting to the proposal would be sent on behalf of ERP. Members were also encouraged to make their own representations.

Additional information:

The Parish Sector is hugely important in the County of Essex, representing both urban and rural communities, supporting community and voluntary organisations. Many Parish Councils provide services, look after open spaces and give grants to voluntary/community organisations, if the power to precept is capped, the communities will have limited resources available from the Parish Sector and this will be detrimental to the voluntary/community organisations.

- Currently the CIF is used by communities, in many cases with match funding from the Parish Sector, if Parish Sector is capped, CIF funding will not go as far!
 - The Parish Sector help fund Neighbourhood Planning – will they have the funds to do this in the future?
 - Grants go to community organisations that are able to use this funding to help attract other funding streams.
 - With Principal Authorities reducing expenditure, services are either lost or picked up by the Parish Sector, this will be hampered in the future
- These are just a few of examples of how this may affect you or your organisation.

To Action SH – To distribute information

PD – proposed a motion that ERP object to the proposed 2% capping.

All agreed.

To Action SH – To write response to DCLG consultation.

The ERP wish to thank Tony Shelton who is leaving Age UK . Tony added that the ERP meeting is one of the most valuable meetings he has attended over the years and expressed his thanks.

Appendix:

Attendees

Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Initials
Mr	Adam	Broadway	Flagship Housing Association	AB
Revd Canon	John	Brown	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	JB
Mr	Anthony	Buston	Essex County Council	ABu
Ms	Sue	Carter	Royal Horticultural Society	SC

Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Initials
Cllr	Penny	Channer	Maldon District Council / Essex County Council	PC
Mr	Nicholas	Charrington	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	NC
Ms	Joy	Darby	Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)	JD
Cllr	Peter	Davey	Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)	PD
Ms	Lucy	Dickinson	Superfast Essex Communications	LD
Mr	Ken	Edwards	Galleywood Good Neighbours	KE
Mr	Clive	Emmett	Council for Voluntary Services Essex	CE
Mrs	Suzanne	Harris	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	SH
Mr	Paul	Hinsley	Essex County Council	PH
Cllr	Roger	Hirst	Police Crime Commissioner	RH
Ms	Andrea	MacAlister	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service	AM
Mr	Mark	Nowers	RSPB	MN
Mrs	Rosemary	Padfield	National Farmers Union	RP
Cllr	Mick	Page	Essex County Council	MP
Mr	Richard	Park	Anglian Water	RPa
Ms	Lizzie	Rose	RCCE	LR
Ms	Chris	Rust	Maldon District Council	CR
Cllr	Peter	Schwier	Braintree District Council	PS
Mr	Adam	Scott	National Farmers Union	AS
Mr	Tony	Shelton	Age UK Essex	TS
Mr	Nick	Shuttleworth	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	NS
Mr	William	Sunnucks	CLA	WS
Ms	Heidi	Turnbull	Maldon District Council	HT
Cllr	Simon	Walsh	Essex County Council	SW

Apologies

Title	Name	Surname	Organisation
Ms	Rosemary	Alexander	The Farming Community Network
Ms	Lisa	Bone	Essex County Council
Mr	David	Burch	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Ms	Gill	Burden	Tendring District Council
Cllr	Peter	Chillingworth	Colchester Borough Council
Bishop of Colchester			
Ms	Rachel	Fahie	BDVSA
Mrs	Lorraine	George	South East LEP
Cllr	John	Gili-Ross	EALC
Ms	Anna	Hook	Essex County Council
Mr	Mark	Iley	Essex Biodiversity Project
Cllr	Sheila	Jackman	EALC
Archdeacon	Robin	King	
Ms	Kerry	Martin	Maldon District Council

Ms	Cheryl	Milton-White	Rochford District Council
Mr	Michael	Minta	Diocese of Chelmsford
Ms	Tricia	Moxey	CPREssex
Revd	Janet	Nicholls	Diocese of Chelmsford
Mr	Dominic	Petre	Essex Tourism Association Ltd. And EcG
Ms	Rachael	Price	Essex County Council
Ms	Linda	Riley	Voluntary Sector Training (VST)
Ms	Anna	Watson	Essex County Council
Mr	Philip	Wilson	Essex County Council
Mr	Stephen	Sadler	Voluntary Sector Training (VST)