



**Essex Rural Partnership**

## **Full Partnership Meeting**

**The Marconi Club Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 14:00**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Mr	Simon	Amstutz	Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Partnership	SA
Mr	Yianni	Andrews	RSPB	YA
Ms	Laura	Bayley	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service	LB
Ms	Sue	Carter	Royal Horticultural Society	SC
Ms	Joy	Darby	Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)	JD
Mr	Peter	Davey	Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)	PD
Mr	Ken	Edwards	Associate Member	KE
Mrs	Lorraine	George	South East LEP	LG
Cllr	John	Gili-Ross	Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)	JGR
Mrs	Suzanne	Harris	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	SH
Mr	Paul	Hinsley	Essex County Council	PH
Mr	Roger	Hirst	Police and Crime Commissioner	RH
Ms	Anna	Hook	Essex County Council	AH
Dr	Andrew	Impey	Essex Wildlife Trust	AI
Ms	Wendy	Jackson	Essex County Council	WJ
Mr	Andrew	Lowing	Rochford District Council	AL
Mr	Rob	Mann	Abberton Rural Training	RM
Mr	Michael	Minta	Diocese of Chelmsford	MM
Ms	Tricia	Moxey	CPREssex	TM
Revd	Janet	Nicholls	Diocese of Chelmsford	JN
Ms	Jo	Norris	Essex County Council	JNo
Cllr	Mick	Page	Essex County Council	MP
Mr	Dominic	Petre	Visit Essex	DP
Mr	Richard	Puleston	Essex County Council	RP
Ms	Lizzie	Rose	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	LR
Ms	Jenny	Salisbury	Essex County Council	JS
Cllr	Peter	Schwier	Braintree District Council	PS
Mr	Adam	Scott	National Farmers Union	AS
Mr	Nick	Shuttleworth	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	NS
Mr	Edwin	Van Ek	Woodland Trust	EVE
Cllr	Simon	Walsh	Essex County Council	SW
Mr	Philip	Wilson	Essex County Council	PW
Mr	Matt	Wilson	Maldon District Council	MW

#### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

Cllr Simon Walsh welcomed those present to the meeting, with particular reference to those who would be giving presentations.

## 2 Apologies

Please see appendix.

## 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2016

These were approved.

## 4 Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project - Simon Amstutz

Simon provided an informative insight into the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Project, including

- how the project is funded and some of the challenges in maintaining funding levels
- the benefits for visitors (including health and wellbeing)
- residents
- businesses and the areas involved.

Simon gave a brief history dating back to 1945 where the first National Park report was created, up to the latest State of Nature Report, published in 2016. Simon explained how the two AONB's function, and their benefits to people, wildlife, communities, economic assets and the landscape itself. He also explained the current framework and likelihoods for the future.

For a full summary please see PowerPoint presentation – [Simon Amstutz](#) available on the ERP website

**Q&A** **PD** – With regard to national and local planning – how much do you get involved with protecting AONBs? How much is the government listening to you?

**SA** - We have a national association of AONBs trying to guide Ministers and central Government. We receive our funding from Defra, provided over a 4 year settlement. Defra ministers have visited the AONBs. We are part of the solution to planning issues; National Parks and AONBs give us something to try and preserve; major development shouldn't take part in AONBs. It's not about *stopping* development but having the *right* development, tending towards small scale, which the villages can take/sustain. Legislation designated for natural beauty of AONBs – recently commissioned a study to look at the natural qualities of the Dedham Vale which has been recognised by Colchester Borough Council, which will hopefully guide development in Colchester Borough. There is a need to get the best possible deal for AONBs; for example higher build costs due to specific requirements for AONBs.

**SW** - Economic benefits routed around tourism and countryside management in a designated area is a stepping stone to get involved with the environment and it can spread by bringing economic worth to the area.

## 5 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Update - Lorraine George

Lorraine reminded members that the SELEP Rural Strategy was produced in Spring 2015 after extensive consultation with key partners, and SELEP is one of only 5 LEPs to produce a rural strategy. The Vision and Strategic Objectives include: Rural Economy, Rural Communities and Rural Environment.

Lorraine explained how the EAFRD funding has been on hold since spring 2016 due to Brexit, but is now being relaunched with immediate effect. Lorraine informed the Partnership that local launch events will be held in February and March, focussing on three calls: *Rural Tourism, Food Processing, and Business Development* (micro and SMEs).

Lorraine advised that the value of the programme is £14.5million, with a minimum grant of £50,000. All calls would be open for 12 months. There are links (not overlaps) with the LEADER Programme. Lorraine also explained the requirements of each call, for example:

### **Rural Tourism Infrastructure**

- Create sustainable new/existing visitor attractions
- Create new/existing quality visitor accommodation
- Develop new/existing events – promote local culture, heritage, food and drink, environment

- Create sustainable year-round jobs

Launch Date : 1<sup>st</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Chelmsford City Racecourse at 2pm

For a full summary see PowerPoint presentation – [Lorraine George](#) available on the ERP website.

**Q&A** **MM** – Does it require match funding?

**LG** - Yes it does; as a guide, need an intervention rate of 40% maximum grant with 60% match funding.

**SW** – Cash only?

**LG** – No grant capital

**SW** – is there a general invitation to all to attend the events?

**LG** – Need to organise the programme and invite list but will encourage grant applicants and intermediaries to attend.

Comments:

**AS** – It has proved difficult for Essex to access this money from DEFRA and the RPA; historically other areas have been quicker to successfully bid for the money so we need to be quick to get in and need to start applying, otherwise Essex will miss out again.

**LG** – The money is there and it has to be spent, otherwise it will be returned. For technical support and clarification of the terms for funding sign up for the 27<sup>th</sup> March where surgeries will be held to help further understanding.

## 6 **Essex Vision – Richard Puleston**

Richard gave an informative presentation on developing a ‘Shared Vision’ for Essex. He commenced with an explanation of the benefits of having a vision for the county, where three key points were made:

- A narrative to promote Essex on the national and international stage;
- A framework for stronger collaboration;
- A statement of priorities for Essex that we can aspire to achieve together and can frame public consultation.

Richard explained how the Essex Partnership Board initiated the process, and going forward the Vision is being developed through a process of partner and public engagement between November and March. Engagement so far has been gained through interviews, two summits, public engagement and cultural probes facilitated by group workshops. Richard went on to say that emerging key elements about Essex have been recognised. These themes either are complimentary about Essex and/or need more work to improve. Richard explained what makes Essex great using quotes gained, as well as what needs to be improved upon.

Richard stated that a draft vision, based on feedback, is now being produced and will be discussed at an inaugural Essex Assembly event, bringing together a wide range of partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors in Essex to discuss what the draft will look like and how to make it a reality.

For a full summary see PowerPoint presentation – [Richard Puleston](#) available on the ERP website.

**Q&A** **PD** – What is the connection with Essex County Council? How will it fit with other work?

**RP** - The Vision work is being done in tandem with developing a new ECC strategy so that the linkages are clear. Collaboration is important as most objectives can only be achieved by working together.

**RM** - How can we get involved in the vision more?

**RP** - we need you to feed into framing and shaping the vision, happy to speak to you. How we can implement the vision and engage which will be done 6th March.

**JGR** – Slide 5 –What are the building Blocks of the vision? This could wrongly shape the vision for the future – how do you guard against this?

**RP** – Balance to be struck i.e. current priorities. Communication is gaining intelligence from various groups. Key trends – third party is being used to help think about looking at the evidence the challenges that Essex need to look at over the next 20 years and key challenges to respond to. Making use of intelligence – questioning and testing helps to avoid becoming locked into an ideal. Engagement with partners is important.

**DP** – It is heavily signposted on the so called Essex Image being a problem . Suggest to avoid the image issue and fix the other things then the image could be improved alongside it. Time and money could be wasted on trying to change the unchangeable, when residents of Essex are very proud to live in Essex.

**RP** – The image is coming out of the consultation, we are not undertaking a huge step to try and change it.

**MM**- Where do we find out about the other partners you have engaged? How do we pass the information on? How has it been publicised?

**RP** – There is a website and this can be passed on. Partners we have engaged with are:

- Police
- Fire
- District Council
- Voluntary Sector
- Business Groups

Email us directly we can help with information sharing – [TO ACTION RP](#)

Include an article in the ERP Bulletin - [TO ACTION LR](#)

## **7 Rural and Farming Network Update – Suzanne Harris**

Suzanne reported that the last meeting provided a good forum for discussion and that the Minister present, Lord Gardiner, was open to questions. The International food and drink plan focussed on protected food names. Suzanne requested members to feed any ideas on this subject back to us.

Suzanne advised that the impact of BPS payments is to be discussed in March and a wider public consultation will be available. Suzanne said an update will be provided as soon as it has been agreed.

Suzanne explained that with regards to the Migrant workers and the Rural Economy, additional information is to be sought and gathered by Defra.

Suzanne also advised that the use of Glyphosate's is still to be discussed further.

Lord Gardiner has requested case studies which show examples of developments that have been good for the economy but not harmful to the landscape.

Suzanne reported that she had posed a question to Lord Gardiner regarding the current plague of commercial fly tipping, alerting him to the scale of the problem in Essex, in particular questioning the role and effectiveness of the Environment Agency (EA). Suzanne was informed by the Minister that he will take it up with the EA's Chairman, raising our concerns. The outcome was positive and now we have a senior level contact within the EA. Next meeting of the RFN to be held in late spring, date tbc by DEFRA. Next Fly Tip Task and Finish Group meeting - 20/12/2017.

## **8 Task and Finish Group Update – Adam Scott**

Adam provided an overview of the large scale fly tipping experienced in the autumn of 2016, also depicting the problem using images of large scale tipping on private land.

Adam advised that Terms of Reference have been written for the Task and Finish Group:

### **Purpose**

The Task and Finish Group will seek to address the issue of industrial-scale fly-tipping in Essex.

## Aims

- To identify the areas most affected.
- To work together to address large-scale fly-tipping to:
- Reduce such fly-tipping in Essex.
- Increase convictions of those responsible.
- As a secondary aim:
- To reduce more general fly-tipping.
- Raise public awareness and increase knowledge of duty of care.
- Reduce fly-tipping through monitoring and convictions.
- Create an effective network between enforcement bodies across the county.

Adam discussed the need for media attention; he had already placed an article in the East Anglian Daily Times regarding the Task and Finish Group. Adam updated the meeting on progress to date, including the contact made through Suzanne at the RFN meeting with Lord Gardiner, lobbying by the NFU, a Police operation, vehicle seizures and media coverage. Adam finished by discussing the next steps which include a meeting of enforcement officers to share intelligence (this will be a closed meeting keeping information confidential and will not be privy to all members). Other future actions include:

- Further waste handlers under investigation
- Profile raising across partner organisations
- Profile raising across Government Departments
- Sharing best practice with Hertfordshire Fly tipping Forum

Adam also thanked Suzanne Harris for her help and dedication so far and also the amazing Christmas-themed ginger bread fly tip scene Suzanne made which can be viewed on the power point presentation.

For a full summary see PowerPoint presentation – [Adam Scott](#) available on the ERP website.

**Q&A** **YA** – Are there any combined costs for the county?

**AS** – There is a CPRE report completed a few years ago, currently there is not a focus on costs as there are other contributing factors. It may be possible to distribute the report but it will capture all fly tipping.

**SH** – For your information the ERP website has the full details on what you need to do, also you can visit crimestoppers, Essex Police and the EA's websites.

When reporting incidents to the EA, it is important to tell the call handler that it is an environmental crime issue and to refer to 'operation bayleaf'.

## 9 Delivering the Essex Rural Strategy – Anna Hook and Suzanne Harris

Introduction:

AH - Following the launch of the new strategy, and the pledges made at the launch, Anne said it is important to maintain momentum and find a way to deliver the strategy's priorities (and monitor activity) – with limited resources. It is proposed to develop a simple Action Plan using a template that has already been proven to work well. The strategy consists of ten chapters and we are proposing to allocate an 'owner' for each one; each chapter lead will fit naturally into the role (being someone already working in each given area) and will initially collate information about existing activity.

SH – Suzanne explained that chapter leads would report back to the Strategic Board, who can then provide the full Partnership with an overview. This will help to share information about existing activity, reduce duplication and, critically, will also enable us to identify gaps.

From this, new Task and Finish Groups can be commissioned by the full Partnership and Strategic Board (not by chapter leads), ensuring a joined up approach and retaining strategic oversight. Suzanne stated that if we are more aware then we can add value to existing activity and clearly see where new activity would be helpful.

Suzanne advised that any members wishing to volunteer as chapter leads should speak to her; she will also be making direct approaches.

RH – Feeling safe and reducing crime

WJ – Can feed back re transport

Those present raised no objections to the proposed way forward and the meeting agreed that Suzanne and Anna should proceed with implementation.

## 10 AOB

Lizzie Rose advised the meeting about the ‘Healthy Packed Lunch Plot’ competition. ‘Growing Communities’ is a project managed by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) and is inviting all schools and non-profit organisations in Essex to take part in a competition which requires design of a healthy kitchen garden plot and to create a recipe for a healthy packed lunch using the produce. For further information please click [here](#)

There were no other items raised.

### Apologies:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ms	Rosemary	Alexander	The Farming Community Network
Ms	Lindsey	Allen	Forestry Commission
Ms	Lisa	Bone	Essex County Council
Revd Canon	John	Brown	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)
Mr	David	Burch	Essex Chambers of Commerce
Mr	Anthony	Buston	Essex County Council
Ms	Paula	Chapman	Rochford District Council
Mr	Nicholas	Charrington	Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)
Cllr	Peter	Chillingworth	Colchester Borough Council
Mr	David	Eniffer	Volunteer Centre Tendring
Mr	Robert	Erith	Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Partnership
Mr	Tim	Hayward-Smith	CDA Herts
Ms	Ellie	Henderson	The Woodland Trust
Mr	Mark	Iley	Essex Biodiversity Project
Cllr	Sheila	Jackman	EALC
Ms	Andrea	MacAlister	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Mrs	Rosemary	Padfield	National Farmers Union
Mr	Richard	Park	Anglian Water
Ms	Debbie	Rayner	
Ms	Linda	Riley	Voluntary Sector Training (VST)
Mr	Stephen	Sadler	Voluntary Sector Training (VST)
Ms	Jacqui	Stone	Abberton Rural Training
Mr	William	Sunnucks	CLA
Ms	Helen	Ward	Natural England