



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A627

Rural Area Working Party 15 April 2010

Rural Area Working Party Work Programme 2010

What	Purpose	Source	When	Officer Lead
Rural Action Plan update	To advise the WP of recent developments and funding decisions taken under delegated powers	Core business identified by Cabinet	Every meeting (or as required)	Kirsty Pitwood
Review of rural area funding	To advise Cabinet on a new funding strategy for rural areas in time for 2011 budget setting	Requested by portfolio holders	Scoping paper for review in January 2010, with a view to concluding by Autumn 2010	Alex Wilson/ Davina Howes
Business Rates (NNDR)	To consider issues surrounding business rate relief in villages and the impact of the 2010 revaluation	Officer referral	January 2010	Hayley Urquhart
Mobile Youth Service Provision	To look at the future operation of the 'WOS Up' scheme	Officer referral	January 2010	Simon Pickering
Parish Conference planning	To review the agenda of forthcoming parish conferences	Core business	January 2010 and September 2010 (Bi-annually at meeting prior to agenda being finalised)	Kate Blazeby

Rural Housing	To examine rural housing need and delivery issues and to seek to attract additional external funding	Core business identified by Cabinet	April 2010 and then ongoing as required	Carole Herries
Delivery of the Local Development Framework in the rural area	Following development of the 'masterplans' which are needed for Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill under the LDF process, the Council will need to consider a complementary approach (which will be necessarily different) for the rural area. The Working Party will be a key consultee for this work and may be asked to lead on specific elements as the work progresses. For instance defining, for the purposes of Community Infrastructure Levy, the minimum expectations for facilities in villages of certain sizes	Core business identified by Cabinet	Initial discussion in April 2010 and then ongoing as required.	Patsy Dell/ Ian Poole
Local Development Framework rural allocations	To consult Members on the draft rural allocations document	Officer referral	April 2010	Ian Poole
Place Survey	To inform Members of the findings of the Place Survey and the differences between rural and urban areas	Officer referral	April 2010	Davina Howes
Fuel Poverty (Affordable Warmth)	To consider targeting of initiatives in the rural area where fuel poverty is often concentrated	Officer referral	April 2010	Peter Gudde

Ixworth Conservation Area Appraisal	The document was approved for consultation at the January Rural Area Working Party meeting. Following consultation, the document and the conservation area boundary have now been amended. Members are now asked to approve: (i) the final version of the appraisal and management plan for adoption as planning guidance and (ii) the revised conservation area boundary.	Officer referral	June 2010	Christine Leveson
Rural deprivation and accessibility	To examine any findings of a pilot project instigated by the Diversity Group to map the location and distribution of various Council customer groups. When combined with other available data, this may allow the Working Party an insight into issues of rural deprivation and accessibility to services which will assist in the development of the Rural Action Plan	Officer referral	Summer 2010	Alex Wilson
Neighbourhood development	To consider the Council's approach to the new neighbourhoods agenda in the rural area	Core business identified by Cabinet	Summer 2010	Cathy Manning
Rural cleansing	To advise Cabinet on its future approach to the cleansing of rural areas	Requested by portfolio holders	Summer 2010	Mark Walsh
Benefits	To target campaigns to promote take-up of benefits in rural areas	Officer referral	Summer 2010	Hayley Urquhart
Village Hub concept	To discuss Steve Cook's 'Village Hub' concept, which looks at how village halls and playing fields can be used more effectively to engage and re-energise communities	External request (Steve Cook)	Summer 2010	TBA
Review of Rural Action Plan	To give an update on progress of projects and to look at next steps when the current Action Plan expires in 2011	Core business identified by Cabinet	Autumn 2010	Kirsty Pitwood

Rural Action Plan: Project Update

Since October, when Members of the Rural Area Working Party received a full update on Rural Action Plan projects, progress has included:-

- (i) **Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project** – the season has now started and the caravan will be visiting Ampton, Euston, Fakenham Magna and Timworth like last year, but it will also be visiting Cowlinge, Great Livermere and Ousden, following requests from residents.
- (ii) **Ampton, Little Livermere and Timworth Parish Meeting** – this will be twice yearly. The first one took place in March and one action from the meeting is that a community coffee morning will take place in June.
- (iii) **'Connected Villages' project** - this enables village halls to access the internet, and to date equipment has been installed at Clare, Wickhambrook, Stansfield, Hawstead and Great Whelnetham. Equipment is due to be installed at Hundon and Ousden shortly.
- (iv) **Transport to the Christmas Fayre** – a route was provided to allow some residents to get to the Fayre on a free coach.
- (v) **Rural business event; 'Trading in difficult times'** - this took place in February 2010 at Great Whelnetham Community Centre. The event included presentations on finance and marketing.
- (vi) **'Smart Business' conference** – this took place in March 2010 and aimed to show businesses, particularly those that have to travel frequently to urban destinations, how to work more effectively and travel less.
- (vii) **Community café leaflet** – this includes case studies of thriving community cafes, and gives people ideas about how to set up a cafe in their local area. This project has been linked to the Western Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership (WSLSP), because we hope to assist villages across West Suffolk and not just in St Edmundsbury. Currently working closely with Hundon, who hope to set up a café this Summer.
- (viii) **Tree Warden Seminar** - this took place in February 2010, with presentations on Winter buds, twigs and tree identification and an update on the Suffolk Orchards project.
- (ix) **Biodiversity surveys at St Edmundsbury's County Wildlife Sites** – these have taken place in partnership with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk County Council.
- (x) **Community Transport** – a demand responsive transport route to cover villages to the west of the A143 is being developed by Suffolk County Council, following consultations with residents. These new services are due to be in place by August 2010.