

Enquiries regarding this Agenda:  
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## ***Rural Area Working Party***

***Thursday 30 September 2010 at 5.00 pm  
in Room GFR14, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds***

***CONSTITUTION:***     *Chairman:*            Councillor J Thorndyke  
                          *Vice-Chairman:*    Councillor Mrs S O Broughton

***FULL MEMBERS:***

<u><i>Conservative</i></u> <u><i>Members (8)</i></u>	<u><i>Liberal Democrat</i></u> <u><i>Member (1)</i></u>	<u><i>LLINK</i></u> <u><i>Member (1)</i></u>
<i>Mrs Bone</i> <i>Mrs Broughton</i> <i>Mrs Levack</i> <i>Ray</i> <i>Spicer</i> <i>Stevens</i> <i>Thorndyke</i> <i>Mrs Whittaker</i>	<i>Chappell</i>	<i>Redhead</i>

***SUBSTITUTES:***

<u><i>Conservative</i></u> <u><i>Members (3)</i></u>	<u><i>Liberal Democrat</i></u> <u><i>Member (1)</i></u>	<u><i>LLINK</i></u> <u><i>Member (1)</i></u>
<i>Mrs Charlesworth</i> <i>Clifton-Brown</i> <i>Houlder</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Nettleton</i>

***QUORUM:***            *Four Members*

<p><b><i>Please switch off mobile communication devices during the meeting, unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise.</i></b></p>
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# *Agenda*

## Procedural Matters

**1. Substitutes**

Any Member who is substituting for another Member should so indicate together with the name of the relevant absent Member.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

**3. Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2010 (copy attached).

**4. Declarations of Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

## Part 1 – Public

**5. Introduction to the 'Village Hub' Concept**

Oral presentation by Steve Cook, former Chief Executive of Havebury Housing Partnership.

**6. Participation of our Rural Communities in the future stages of the Delivery of the Local Development Framework**

Oral presentation.

**7. Targeting of campaigns to promote the take up of benefits in Rural Areas**

Oral presentation.

**8. Review of Rural Area Funding: Final Report**

Report **B235** attached.

**9. The Council's approach to the new neighbourhoods agenda in the rural area**

Members of the Working Party will recall that a Neighbourhood Development Section was formed as part of a modest reshaping of the organisation last September. The section brings together the line management of the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership Manager, the Electoral Services unit and the functions of the Community Development Unit, which includes grants advice,

community safety, youth and health improvement work as well as support to local communities and groups. Following the creation of the new section it was thought appropriate to put an item on this agenda to highlight the existence of the section and how its support can be accessed for your local communities.

Over many years rural communities have demonstrated their self-sufficiency in setting up groups, accessing funding and campaigning for local services and facilities which is what neighbourhood development is about. In this respect many rural communities have a long history of putting the 'Big Society' into practice. However there are some occasions when rural areas which have specific issues or groups and communities want support for a particular activity. For some of these issues the Economic Development Officer who focuses on rural issues will call on Neighbourhood Development staff for their assistance. For example, in providing model constitutions for community groups, advice on the options for setting up a bank account for a local group or technical support around establishing a working Parish Meeting. Staff from the section also support some of the projects in the current Rural Action Plan, and look forward to working with the Economic Development Officer on future plans.

This narrative is by way of a reminder that Neighbourhood Development staff are there as a resource to be accessed. However to keep the overview of rural activity with the Economic Development Officer it is helpful for these requests to come through her where they are for one-off assistance, rather than part of on-going pieces of work.

#### **10. Rural Area Working Party Work Programme**

Report **B236** attached.

#### **11. Dates of Future Meetings**

The following dates for future meetings of the Working Party have been approved:-

18 November 2010;  
13 January 2011; and  
10 March 2011,

All dates are Thursdays and meetings to commence at 5.00 pm.

### **Part 2 – Private**

**NONE**