



## Rural Area Working Party 9 November 2011

### St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Support to Rural Voluntary and Community Groups

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 When the 2011 Rural Area Working Party Work Programme was being developed, a Councillor requested that officers investigated possibilities of how the Council can enhance the support that it offers to rural voluntary and community groups.
- 1.2 Since Council resources are limited, and given that the Council already supports rural voluntary and community groups in various ways, it was felt that officers must do more to ensure that the support and advice that is already available is fully understood by the groups that may benefit from this support.
- 1.3 The officers have, therefore, produced a draft leaflet which is attached as Appendix A to the report.
- 1.4 The intention is for this leaflet to be distributed to as many rural groups as possible, with support from rural Ward Members. It will also be made available on the Council's website.

#### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Working Party is asked to **RECOMMEND** to the Cabinet that:-
  - (1) the leaflet contained in Appendix A to Report C212 be approved for distribution to rural voluntary and community groups in St Edmundsbury; and
  - (2) the Economic Development Manager, in consultation with the Chairman of the Rural Area Working Party, be authorised to make minor spelling, grammatical, factual and formatting amendments, provided they do not materially affect the substance or meaning of the leaflet.

For further information please contact:-

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# St Edmundsbury's services for voluntary and community organisations in rural areas



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



## What we can offer you:

- We have a small range of grants that you may be eligible to apply for. Please see: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/grants>
- We provide funding information (including where you can apply to get grants) and can help with applications - this could include writing letters of support and acting as an independent referee.
- We can help you set up a community group and provide advice on how to run committee meetings, and so on.
- We can provide examples of best practice and can put you in touch with people who may have similar projects or experiences to share.
- We can promote your groups' services and events through our *Rural News* magazine which comes out every other month. Please see: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/new/ruralnews.cfm>
- We hold a Parish Conference twice a year, where you can have a stand to promote your services, or you can provide us with literature which we will give to attendees, or you can attend the event to get an update on current initiatives and support available. Please see: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/parishconf.cfm>
- Several departments in St Edmundsbury Borough Council can offer specific advice and assistance (e.g. Parks for playground inspections at Parish Council-owned play areas; Community Development for support with projects for young people; Licensing for community venues and events; Planning for planning applications; Economic Development for business advice and to let you know if you are eligible for any grants via the Rural Action Plan). Please see: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk>
- If we cannot help, we can give you details about other organisations that may be able to help, for example Suffolk ACRE or Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

**To find out more about any of the above options, please call us on 01284 757109, email us at: [rural@stedsb.gov.uk](mailto:rural@stedsb.gov.uk) or visit: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/rural>**