



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# D325

## Rural Area Working Party 13 March 2013

### Review of Year 2 (Covering the Period 2012/2013) of the Current Rural Action Plan

#### 1. Summary and reasons for recommendation

- 1.1 The Rural Action Plan (RAP), covering the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014, was approved on 10 March 2011 (report B499 refers).
- 1.2 The current Rural Action Plan has now been in operation for two years. This report forms the second Annual Monitoring Report, covering the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is requested that the progress made towards the Rural Action Plan 2011 to 2014 be noted.

#### Contact details

Name

Title

Telephone

E-mail

#### Portfolio holder

Cllr John Griffiths

Leader of the Council

01284 757136

[john.griffiths@stedsbc.gov.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@stedsbc.gov.uk)

#### Lead officer

Kirsty Pitwood

Economic Development Officer

01284 757109

[kirsty.pitwood@stedsbc.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.pitwood@stedsbc.gov.uk)

### **3. Corporate priorities**

- 3.1 The recommendation meets the following, as contained within the Corporate Plan:
- (a) Corporate priority: 'Working together for strong, healthy and diverse communities' and 'Working together for prosperous and environmentally-responsible communities';
  - (b) Vision 2025: St Edmundsbury will be a place: 'where the rural economy is thriving with an increase in small local industry and diversification resulting in an increase in employment and improved services' (V:E2); 'where local support networks for the whole community are on hand to provide advice on emotional and physical' (V:He3); 'which has an affordable range of housing to meet the needs and demographic profile of the community' (V:H1); 'where first time buyers are able to buy a home in their own communities' (V:H5); 'where communities work together to reduce waste and litter, conserve resources and to make their settlements sustainable and attractive' (V:S1); 'which values, protects and enhances the distinct landscapes and biodiversity within the borough' (V:S4); and 'where communities and businesses have benefited from adopting a low carbon approach to energy' (V:S8).

### **4. Key issues**

- 4.1 The Rural Action Plan 2011 to 2014 has 37 projects which aim to help the Borough Council achieve its vision for the rural area: 'Active, sustainable and thriving communities in peaceful and unspoilt countryside'.
- 4.2 The projects come under four headings:
- (a) *Empowerment* - enabling communities to help themselves (Projects 1 to 8);
  - (b) *Environment* - improving both the built and the natural environment (Projects 9 to 16);
  - (c) *Prosperity* - to generate a healthy economy (Projects 17 to 23); and
  - (d) *Well-being* - actions which improve the quality of life of individuals and communities (Projects 24 to 37).
- 4.3 Some projects are carried out on an annual basis, whilst others are one-off projects that will be completed before the end of March 2014.
- 4.4 The projects have been subjected to a traffic light approach, whereby:
- (a) 'Red' indicates that a project has not yet started (3 Projects);
  - (b) 'Amber' indicates that the project is currently in progress (22 Projects); and
  - (c) 'Green' indicates that the project has been completed (12 Projects).
- 4.5 The progress report is attached as Appendix A to this report.

### **5. Other options considered**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

## 6. Community impact

### 6.1 Crime and disorder impact *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

6.1.1 All projects are assessed on an individual basis.

### 6.2 Diversity and equality impact *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

6.2.1 All projects are assessed on an individual basis.

### 6.3 Sustainability impact *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

6.3.1 Nothing to report.

### 6.4 Other impact *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

6.4.1 Not applicable.

## 7. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

7.1 Internal and external consultation was carried out prior to developing the Rural Action Plan 2011 to 2014. The projects within the plan were all included as a result of positive feedback during consultation.

## 8. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

8.1 The Rural Action Plan has its own specific budget, and to date this budget remains on target with enough funding to complete the final year of the Rural Action Plan 2011 to 2014.

## 9. Risk/opportunity assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
Projects may not be completed due to restructuring of services and therefore changing priorities, etc.	Medium	Ensure that projects remain within individual service plans.	Low

## 10. Legal and policy implications

10.1 Nothing to report.

## 11. Wards affected

11.1 All rural wards in St Edmundsbury.

## **12. Background papers**

12.1 B499.

## **13. Documents attached**

13.1 Appendix A – Rural Action Plan monitoring detail for 2012-13.

T:\SEBC Democratic Services\Democratic WP Services\Committee\Reports\Rural Area Working Party\2013\13.03.13\D325 Review of Year 2 of the current Rural Action Plan 2012-13.doc

## St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Rural Action Plan

### Monitoring report for 2012 to 2013

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
1	Deliver training for community leaders	Suffolk Association of Local Councils has been commissioned to deliver a package of training which will be available to parish councillors and members of community groups. The bespoke training pack (which will include topics such as finding volunteers, forming a group or committee, gaining charitable status, producing business plans, writing funding applications, and project management) has now been produced and training sessions will take place in 2013-14.	Amber	
2	Deliver funding advice surgeries	<p><b>Project completed as at 2011-12 monitoring report (details from report below).</b></p> <p>Suffolk County Council's Rural Development Managers delivered training on 7 November at Hundon Village Hall and 18 November at Horringer Community Centre.</p> <p>11 community groups benefitted from the surgeries, plus the advice via phone and email that followed.</p>	Green	
3	Deliver the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme	<p>11 applications for grants up to £5,000 have been approved (totalling £17,888.77) to the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Saxham Parochial Church Council (£1,100 towards a hearing loop in the Church);</li> <li>• Kedington Community Association (£5,000 towards a heating and hot water upgrade in the Community Centre);</li> <li>• Combined Halls of Clare (£2,500 towards the upgrade of the bar and kitchen area in the Town Hall);</li> <li>• Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council (£1,500 towards a new village sign in Ixworth Thorpe);</li> <li>• Stanton Parish Council (£2,712 towards an underground sewage pipe from the Village Hall);</li> </ul>	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brockley Carpet Bowls Club (£320 towards a new bowls carpet);</li> <li>• Horringer Hedgehogs (£1,000 towards new tables, chairs, safety mats and play equipment);</li> <li>• Great Barton Bowls Club (£1,176.77 towards tables and chairs);</li> <li>• Troston Village Hall Management Committee (£580 towards a new cooker in the Village Hall);</li> <li>• Bardwell Baby and Toddler Group (£400 towards new toys and a storage facility); and</li> <li>• Thurlow Sports Club (£1,600 towards the refurbishment of the Pavilion showers and new timed-flow basin taps in the toilets).</li> </ul> <p>Two applications for grants between £5,001 and £10,000 have been approved (totalling £16,000 and subject to match funding being secured).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fornham All Saints Parish Council (£8,000 towards a skate park); and</li> <li>• St Edmunds Archers (£8,000 towards a purpose built indoor range with a clubhouse).</li> </ul>		
4	Deliver the 'Connected Villages' project	<p>This project was officially completed as at the 2011-12 monitoring report after 10 villages benefitted from the free laptop, free router and a grant towards phone line installation and phone line rental and broadband for one year.</p> <p>Although the original intention was to support ten villages only, it was agreed at the Rural Area Working Party on 14 March 2012 that, since budgets allowed, should more villages show an interest in the project they can still apply.</p> <p>Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council has since successfully applied to this scheme and received their grant in September 2012. There has been interest from other villages but to date no other formal applications for grant funding has been made.</p>	Green	
5	Deliver a grant towards the cost of a projector, screen and	Nine villages to date have benefitted from this grant and the equipment is now installed in their respective village halls/community centres:	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
	other equipment for community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clare</li> <li>• Fornham all Saints</li> <li>• Great Barton</li> <li>• Hawstead</li> <li>• Horringer</li> <li>• Pakenham</li> <li>• Stanningfield</li> <li>• Stanton</li> <li>• Westley</li> </ul> <p>There has also been interest from several other villages.</p> <p>The grant, which is up to £250 or 50% of the total equipment cost (whichever is the lesser), is being used by the villages above for parish council meetings, youth clubs, computer clubs, other community group meetings and hirers of the hall.</p>		
6	Deliver the 'Help Yourself' pilot	<p>The aim of the 'Help Yourself' project was for one local community group to be part of a pilot whereby the group had access to staff from various sections in order to complete a project from start to finish (e.g. Community Development to assist with forming a group and constitution, Economic Development to assist with grant funding support, and so on).</p> <p>The council was approached by Hundon Tiddlywinks (Pre-School) for advice and funding regarding their project to develop a new community building (the existing village hall is heavily used and more community space is needed). A steering group was formed and regular meetings took place with borough and county officers and community stakeholders.</p> <p>Unfortunately, after several meetings with the groups involved, the group decided that the project was too complex and they did not have the capacity and the volunteers needed to take it further.</p> <p>The project has therefore been temporarily put on hold, however should the group come back and wish to look at alternative ways to complete the project officers</p>	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		will support them to do so.		
7	Deliver a participatory budgeting event for Parish Councils	This project (which will aim to encourage rural communities to take an active role in the allocation of their parish council's grants) has not yet started and will be carried out during the final year of the Rural Action Plan.	Red	
8	Produce an information pack on running community events and street parties	<p><b>Project completed as at 2011-12 monitoring report (details from report below).</b></p> <p>This project is particularly timely due to the Royal Wedding, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics. Information has been added to the borough council's website: <a href="http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/community-and-living/your-community/organising-a-street-party-or-fete.cfm">http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/community-and-living/your-community/organising-a-street-party-or-fete.cfm</a>. Flyers promoting this information were produced and given out (e.g. in Parish Conference delegate packs).</p>	Green	
9	Identify environmental organisations, projects and grants that are available in St Edmundsbury	<p><b>Project completed as at 2011-12 monitoring report (details from report below).</b></p> <p>Research has been carried out and a leaflet has recently been produced which identifies relevant current grant schemes and local environmental organisations. This leaflet is available via the Rural Action Plan web pages and will be disseminated appropriately, for example at the next Parish Conference.</p>	Green	
10	Deliver a tree and hedge planting scheme	<p>The aim of this project is to plant more native species in the countryside for everyone's benefit.</p> <p>Semi-standard oak trees have therefore been delivered this Winter to nine villages (Bardwell, Barnham, Clare, Coney Weston, Great Thurlow, Hopton, Little Thurlow, Whepstead and Wickhambrook) ready for the community to plant their specimen oak. This will be a continuation of the Jubilee celebration, championed by the Mayor of St Edmundsbury.</p>	Amber	



No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>As last year, the trees have been sourced from a local nursery and were stored at Nowton Park ready to be planted out once the cold snap passed.</p> <p>The project was promoted via all the Parish Tree Wardens and Parish Clerks and through an article in the Rural News magazine.</p>		
11	Deliver enhancement projects on St Edmundsbury-owned nature reserves	<p>For 2012-13 officers have focussed on Clare Castle Country Park, working in partnership with the Friends of Clare Castle Country Park and Clare Town Council.</p> <p>The Ranger South team have led volunteer work parties in the park from May to December 2012 and have improved a number of habitats based on a five year work plan for the site. Sections of Buddleia have been pruned to encourage greater flowering to attract butterflies. Meadows at the end of the railway walk and verges have been cut and raked to improve the sward for wild flowers and areas have been opened up where scrub species have attempted to colonise.</p> <p>Further monthly sessions will be taking place to ensure key habitat management is complete.</p>	Amber	
12	Promotion and support for the Upper Stour Valley and The Brecks	<p>Officers attend regular project meetings with partners. The borough council has agreed to promote and support both partnerships for a further term of the Memorandum of Agreement.</p> <p>Linked to the project above, the Parks Service has agreed to run regular volunteer work parties at Clare Castle Country Park, working with partners. A monthly volunteer programme is in place, with 299 volunteer hours achieved to date. A programme of public events have also taken place at Clare Country Park, including a boat race, welly walk and a birdbox workshop.</p>	Green	
13	Further support for the development of the 'Sustainable Tourism East' project in St Edmundsbury	<p><b>Project completed as at 2011-12 monitoring report (details from report below).</b></p> <p>The aim of this project was for East of England Tourism, with the support of partners including district councils, to produce 50 local information guides (with</p>	Green	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>associated business support opportunities for those businesses that featured in the guides). Unfortunately, following the demise of East of England Tourism, their element of funding for this project was withdrawn after only 16 guides were produced. Fortunately the guide for Clare and Cavendish was one of the 16 that was produced (however the other two guides that were due to cover areas of St Edmundsbury were not produced). The guides are available at tourist information points and at the participating establishments in Clare and Cavendish.</p>		
14	Deliver the Greener Business grant	<p>53 Greener Business Grant applications have been received since March 2011, and of these 42 have been approved to date.</p> <p>The total value of works for all applications approved is £179,612 and the total grant value to date is £34,641. The lifetime savings are £619,931 (financial) and 3,357 tonnes (CO<sub>2</sub>).</p> <p>Measures grant aided include loft insulation, replacement heating, lighting upgrade and variable speed drives.</p> <p>The project is a real partnership effort, with partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babergh District Council;</li> <li>• Bury St Edmunds Chamber of Commerce;</li> <li>• Forest Heath District Council;</li> <li>• Green Light Trust;</li> <li>• Ground East of England;</li> <li>• Resource Efficiency East;</li> <li>• Suffolk Climate Change Partnership; and</li> <li>• West Suffolk College.</li> </ul> <p>The project has been promoted in various ways, including press articles; flyer mail outs through council and media distributions; letter mail outs; and presentations to target groups.</p>	Amber	
15	Deliver the 'Warmer	To date, 263 homes in St Edmundsbury have benefited from energy saving	Green	Project now

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
	Greener Homes' initiative	<p>materials through the scheme, and this has used £25,000 from the funding pot (funding was received from the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership).</p> <p>The project was a real partnership effort, with partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babergh District Council</li> <li>• Citizens Advice Bureau</li> <li>• Energy Saving Trust</li> <li>• Safer Neighbourhood Teams</li> <li>• Suffolk – Creating the Greenest County</li> <li>• Suffolk Climate Change Partnership</li> <li>• Suffolk Energy Action Link</li> </ul> <p>The project as a whole across West Suffolk has made good progress and will have delivered energy saving measures to 400 homes and removed 40 households from fuel poverty, within budget.</p> <p>The majority of the events took place in the rural area and all have been very well received.</p> <p>Initially officers worked with parish councils and village hall groups to identify suitable venues to host events. Officers endeavoured to maintain an even geographic coverage across the WSLSP area.</p> <p>A variety of promotional activities were employed to promote the event to local residents. This included articles in local publications, direct letters to households, posters, flyers and press releases.</p>		complete
16	Offer rural communities a comprehensive pack to enable them to carry out litter picks	<p><b>Project completed as at 2011-12 monitoring report (details from report below).</b></p> <p>All villages in St Edmundsbury were given the opportunity to apply for a free litter pick package, which includes litter pickers (for adults and children), bag hoops, fluorescent waistcoats (for adults and children), black plastic sacks and blue plastic</p>	Green	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>sacks.</p> <p>Only one village was allowed to apply from each ward, and the applicant village must make the equipment available to loan to any parish, group or individuals who wish to undertake a litter pick within their ward area. The wards that are taking part are: Bardwell, Barrow, Chedburgh, Clare, Hundon, Ixworth, Pakenham, Risby and Stanton.</p>		
17	Deliver social enterprise awareness events and training	<p>An event entitled 'Is there a business in you' took place on 21 May 2012 at Great Barton Village Hall. The event was organised by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, with support from Menta (the Suffolk Enterprise Agency) and Suffolk ACRE. The event was jointly funded from the Rural Action Plan, sponsorship from Knights Lowe Accountants and Lottery Funding via Suffolk ACRE (as part of their social enterprise work).</p> <p>The event was fully booked, with over 60 attendees. Successful businesses gave inspiring and thought-provoking presentations and workshops to attendees, all of whom were thinking about starting up their own business, either a private or a social enterprise. The programme included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to be successful in difficult times;</li> <li>• Having it all: how being a social entrepreneur is good for you and for society;</li> <li>• Researching your market;</li> <li>• Legal structures for social enterprise and private enterprise;</li> <li>• Business planning and goal setting for social enterprise and private enterprise;</li> <li>• Marketing your business; and</li> <li>• Business finance and managing cash.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback forms confirmed that the event was a huge success, with all attendees saying the event was very useful.</p>	Green	Project now complete
18	Advice and support for	Following the success of last year's project, officers have again commissioned	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
	rural enterprise	<p>Menta, the Suffolk Enterprise Agency, to run free business advice sessions. The purpose of the advice sessions is to encourage people, including those who may have been made redundant or have had time out from work, to set up their own business.</p> <p>Bookings for appointments have been/are being made where possible for clients to see a business adviser at Menta in Bury St Edmunds. However, if on speaking with the client, there are transportation issues then the advisor is seeing the client in their village.</p> <p>To ensure that the client gets added value, every client seen by appointment under the Rural Action Plan Project has been/is being given a £15 voucher – this can be used to either pay for a Menta course in full (Marketing for Business; Book Keeping and Financial Control; or Can't Sell, Won't Sell) or to be put towards Menta's £25+ courses.</p> <p>To date, Menta have given one to one advice to 17 people from villages including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bardwell</li> <li>• Depden</li> <li>• Fornham St Martin</li> <li>• Great Barton</li> <li>• Great Whelnetham</li> <li>• Hepworth</li> <li>• Horringer</li> <li>• Ixworth</li> <li>• Stanningfield</li> <li>• Stanton</li> </ul> <p>So far a total of eleven £15 vouchers have been given out, totalling £165, and seven people have now attended a course as a result of this voucher.</p> <p>In order to promote the rural enterprise project, a range of locally focused articles were written.</p>		

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
19	Deliver a small grant for rural shops, post offices and public houses	<p>The owner of Depden Farm Shop, Café and Training Centre successfully applied for a grant of £2000 for their new venture. This funding was used towards the purchase of multi-deck chillers and a freezer for the shop. The shop was officially opened by Matthew Hancock MP in July 2012.</p> <p>Officers have been in discussions with three other businesses who are considering applying for a grant.</p>	Amber	
20	Support the employment of apprentices in rural businesses	<p>Officers will be working with West Suffolk College to deliver this project, although it will not officially start until April 2013 - the college manage various funds for local apprentice schemes and they were keen to use the funds that had a shorter time limit before they start offering the Rural Action Plan money. The Government 'AGE Grant' is another new grant, which is linked to national targets so it was prudent to use this funding as a priority.</p> <p>Once the project is up and running, it will enable an employer to apply to the college for a grant (up to £2,500) to support an apprentice and this will need to be match-funded by the employer.</p>	Red	
21	Support and promote rural tourism and heritage	<p>Guided walks in Clare took place during September 2012 as part of the Heritage Open Days programme. The walks highlighted the Ancient House Museum, Clare Country Park and the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. The walks also promoted the town centre, with town guides handed out.</p> <p>A new guided tour leaflet of Clare has been produced and distributed to businesses in Clare and to the Library.</p>	Amber	
22	Deliver a joint business event or activity in partnership with the Clare Business Association	Officers have been liaising with Clare Business Association, representatives from Clare Free School and West Suffolk College. During 2013-14 an event is due to take place, possibly at Clare Free School, to encourage entrepreneurship in younger people. The intention is for some members of the Clare Business Association to present to the young people, incorporated with some advice and	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		support from West Suffolk College.		
23	Create planning guidance on rural redundant buildings	<p>A joint Development Management Policies document has been prepared in partnership with Forest Heath District Council, which provides a policy specifically relating to the re-use or replacement of buildings in the countryside (Policy DM33). A further policy (DM29) provides guidance in respect of residential use of redundant buildings in the countryside. In the opinion of the local planning authority, both policies fully accord with the adopted National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>The document completed its final stage of consultation between October 2012 and December 2012 and is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State for adoption in March 2013.</p> <p>Prior to adoption, an independent inspector will be appointed by the Planning Inspectorate, to ensure that the document is both sound and legally compliant. A hearing should take place in the summer of 2013 with adoption later in the year.</p>	Amber	
24	Deliver a grant/s to support Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership's ' <i>Community Speed Watch</i> '	Several enquiries about the grant have been received throughout the year by village representatives, however to date no grant money has been awarded.	Amber	
25	Deliver a grant to help start-up costs for community cafés	Officers continue to receive interest in this grant, but due to the work involved in setting up a regular community café and the need for a supply of volunteers, the interested villages have not then gone on to start up a community café.	Amber	
26	Deliver an allotment/shared land guidance pack and grant	A guidance pack/toolkit has been produced. This will be available via the website shortly and distributed during the Spring/Summer 2013 Parish Conference. This toolkit complements the suite of toolkits that the Local Foods Team at Suffolk ACRE have produced.	Amber	Change title - Deliver an allotment/shared land guidance pack

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>A grant of up to £250 is currently available towards capital items such as signs, gates, fencing, water butts, and so on. This grant has been promoted through Rural News, the website, the Parish Conference, and so on. Officers have received interest from some villages, however setting up allotments/shared land can be a long, arduous process and so to date no villages have submitted a formal application. Officers will rename the grant and extend it to allow any local food initiatives to be supported (though the grant will still be for capital purchases).</p> <p>A workshop on local foods took place at the Parish Conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012, led by the Local Food Officer at Suffolk ACRE who covers West Suffolk.</p>		and grant for local food initiatives
27	Further develop the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project (RCCIP) in St Edmundsbury	<p>The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project works with all the major agencies that deliver services aimed at improving care, quality of life and independent living as well as smaller local agencies with relevant provision. A specific partner this year has been the Warmer Homes Healthy People Scheme.</p> <p>In 2012-13 visits have been made to the following villages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barningham x 3</li> <li>• Chedburgh x 1</li> <li>• Chevington x 1</li> <li>• Cowlinge x 3</li> <li>• Depden x 2</li> <li>• Euston x 1</li> <li>• Great Bradley x 3</li> <li>• Great Livermere x 2</li> <li>• Hepton x 1</li> <li>• Horringer x 1</li> <li>• Hundon x 1</li> <li>• Ousden x 7</li> <li>• Stansfield x 2</li> <li>• Stanton x 4</li> <li>• Stradishall x 7</li> </ul>	Amber	



No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>This is a total of 39 visits made (45 including some in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill).</p> <p>In addition to these visits, a 'Golden Age' Fair took place in Stanton Community Village Hall on 11 May 2012. This event was one of a series held across the county designed to raise awareness of services available to older people in the community. About 200 people attended and officers from St Edmundsbury attended, providing information about grants, forthcoming events and other council services.</p> <p>The project continues to go from strength to strength with regard to demand for the service. Funding is now harder to attain and this presents a challenge. So far the project manager is meeting this challenge successfully and she has now appointed a fundraising consultant to enable new sources to be reached.</p>		
28	Facilitate older people's wellbeing checks	For 2012-13, during community events, including the Golden Age Fair alluded to in the above project, officers gave out new slippers in exchange for old ones as part of the falls prevention initiative.	Amber	
29	Facilitate the delivery of housing needs surveys	<p>Suffolk Housing Society is in the process of developing ten new affordable homes in Hundon and five in Whepstead; these schemes will be completed during 2014. Hastoe are currently in the process of working up a new scheme of 12 new affordable homes in Clare, subject to a grant being available from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and a site has been identified with an options agreement with the land owner. 16 new affordable homes in Cavendish and Bardwell have been completed, benefitting those in housing need within those parishes</p> <p>The way affordable housing is funded has changed. The Government has allowed registered providers to charge rents of up to 80% market rent in order that they can borrow more private finance, and in return the level of financial support has been reduced. Registered providers are currently contracted with the HCA to deliver an agreed number of homes by March 2015, for which they receive grant funding. There is no certainty of funding beyond 2015 and registered providers</p>	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>are beginning to plan for further reductions in grant levels.</p> <p>A rural profiling pilot was approved in 2012, which was about looking at how we go beyond housing needs surveys, to build a more complete profile of rural communities and engage with communities to find and deliver solutions. In January 2013 the Rural Area Working Party received a presentation by Stephen Hill of C2O Future planners and a further report will presented to the Rural Area Working Party in March 2013 setting out proposals for taking the pilot forward.</p> <p>In January 2013 the Rural Area Working Party also received a report (D257) proposing that St Edmundsbury Borough Council cease to carry out housing needs surveys and use existing data (principally the Housing Register) to evidence the need for affordable housing. The report also proposed carrying out a borough-wide assessment of rural areas using this data. The recommendations in the report were agreed.</p>		
30	Host an event to promote Community Land Trusts	<p><b>Project completed as at 2011-12 monitoring report (details from report below).</b></p> <p>A workshop outlining what a community land trust is, and what its benefits are, took place at the Parish Conference in October 2011.</p> <p>A regional conference on Community Land Trusts took place in Cambridge and so those villages that showed an interest were given the details of this event, which negated the need for St Edmundsbury to arrange its own event.</p> <p>There is a possibility that a Community Land Trust may be developed in the future at Highpoint estate in Stradishall. Officers have supported the Community Land Trust Manager at Foundation East in running a consultation event in February 2012, at which the majority of people voted in favour of progressing the idea. There is lots more work to be carried out, including further consultation, and officers will assist with this as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Nb. 2012-13</b> - work is still progressing on the potential Community Land Trust in</p>	Green	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>Stradishall (this work extends beyond the remit of this project). For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local housing need survey was carried out, which evidenced a need for nine affordable homes;</li> <li>• a grant was received from the national CLT Fund to pay for legal advice, set-up of CLT, and so on;</li> <li>• A partnership has been entered into with Havebury Housing who will deliver the homes if planning permission is approved.</li> <li>• Discussions have been held with the Planning Department about the potential planning application.</li> <li>• Discussions are taking place with regards to securing the land.</li> </ul>		
31	Help St Edmundsbury communities to be better prepared and more self-sufficient in an emergency	<p>Fifteen Community Emergency Kits have been purchased with the funding provided through the Rural Action Plan.</p> <p>Four of these have been issued to those groups that have a Local Emergency Plan (Great Barton, Clare, Bardwell and Hawstead). An additional six groups have draft plans, whilst five more are just starting the process.</p> <p>Cllr Jim Thorndyke, as Vice-Chairman of the West Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Panel, handed over the kit to Great Barton on 5 December 2012.</p> <p>As part of the media strategy developed by the Communications team, this event was covered by the local press and complemented an interview with the District Emergency Planning Officer broadcast by BBC Radio Suffolk.</p> <p>The availability of the kits and the promotional opportunities they provide has helped to encourage interest in community resilience and attendance at the Community Resilience Support Network meetings.</p> <p>The meeting held in November 2012 was supported by Western Area Highways from Suffolk County Council, who gave a briefing on the arrangements in place for coping with winter weather and the local gritting arrangements on offer to parishes.</p>	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		<p>The upcoming meeting in March 2013 will be a joint meeting with the Community Emergency Groups in the Forest Heath area and will include a table-top exercise to aid the vetting of existing plans and to prompt discussion and the exchange of ideas between the groups. The exercise will be based on a flood scenario and will be supported by the Environment Agency.</p>		
32	<p>Deliver and support rural youth work</p>	<p>Officers provided a full update to the Rural Area Working Party on the rural youth work that took place during Summer 2012 (Report D258 refers).</p> <p>St Edmundsbury works with a number of organisations to develop projects which improve the quality of life for young people in the more rural areas. Projects are usually delivered with smaller groups of young people to tackle specific issues. Often projects can help to address community safety, antisocial behaviour, health improvement and skills development.</p> <p>Like 2011-12, following the procurement process IPSUM YP was commissioned to deliver the 'Wos Up' project - 'Wos Up' involves a 'Warrior' 4x4 vehicle that visits villages with sports equipment, a tuck shop, DJ equipment and a mobile media suite (which has proved popular with young people).</p> <p>In 2012-13 the project operated in the following nine villages: Barningham, Barrow, Great Whelnetham, Hopton, Hundon, Ixworth, Kedington, Stanton and Wickhambrook.</p> <p>All of the projects in the rural youth work programme have been developed through consultation with young people individually or as a group.</p>	Amber	
33	<p>Support initiatives that promote community self help and reduce isolation</p>	<p>Officers continue to support and promote any organisations that have a remit to prevent isolation. The main way we do this is through promoting their services regularly in Rural News.</p>	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
34	Investigate buying consortia in villages	Officers have continued to promote the benefits of group buying through the Parish Conference and Rural News. Since the project started, Suffolk ACRE has set up its own social enterprise on buying consortia (see <a href="http://www.communitybuying.org.uk/">http://www.communitybuying.org.uk/</a> ) which negates the need for more work on this project – however we will continue to promote this community buying scheme.	Green	Project now complete
35	Deliver an improved cycle network within the borough	<p>14 fingerpost signs have been purchased and erected at Nowton Park, and cycle route discs have been attached to existing posts, to define a new route around Nowton Park for cyclists which is an approximately 3km circular route. The new cycle route is now in place and defined on the landscape.</p> <p>The new route will encourage visitors to explore the south of the park that contains the arboretum and maze.</p> <p>Although the project has been completed as per the original plan, a second phase to the project is being considered in order to reinforce some areas where the ground gets very muddy.</p>	Green	
36	Produce the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Rural Vision 2031	<p>The draft Rural Vision document was published on 1 March 2012 for an eight week consultation period. This is a statutory document which will provide our holistic vision for services and for the rural areas to 2031. It will give people certainty as to where development will be located, infrastructure requirements and provision and how the Council plans to deliver its services, working with partner organisations, over the next 18 years.</p> <p>Two rounds of consultation have taken place - Issues and Options (2011) and Preferred Options (2012). There is one final round of consultation to take place later in 2013 before the document is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for a Public Examination.</p> <p>There has been a delay to the final round of consultation on the document due to the need for the completion of evidenced based transport work to support the Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document. This delay will not significantly impact on the</p>	Amber	

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Changes needed to the plan
		overall timetable for the adoption of the Vision 2031 document.		
37	Support the development of community websites	This project will be developed in 2013-14.	Red	

\* 'Red' indicates that a project has not yet started, 'Amber' indicates that the project is currently in progress, and 'Green' indicates that the project has been completed.