

EDITION 5

December 2007



EAST OF ENGLAND RURAL FORUM (EERF)

Newsletter

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Rural Forum Newsletter

At the EERF meeting held on 12th December 2007 in Swaffham, EERF Members took part in in-depth discussions to agree the priorities for the forthcoming year.

To give you and the county Rural Affairs Forums the opportunity to prepare, plan and consult accordingly, agenda topics for 2008/09 will be as follows:

- 12th March 2008: AGM; How do we Influence Strategies?
- 12th June 2008: The Growth Agenda in the East of England.
- 18th September 2008: Inward Investment.
- 12th December 2008: Social Inclusion.
- March 2009 (Date TBC): AGM; Land Use; Local Food.

Please put these dates in your diaries.

The EERF also agreed to continue to meet at community venues such as that in Swaffham. In doing so, the EERF is putting some of its funding back into the communities we wish to support and at the same time frees up more of the budget to spend on projects. If you have ideas for potential community venues that the EERF could use, please forward details to the Secretariat.

We have freed up approximately £8000 from the 2007/08 budget which has to be spent before the end of March 2008. If you have any projects or ideas please fill in the form that was circulated prior to the last meeting.

The recommendations put forward following the review of the Forum were accepted and these will now be implemented.

We continue to work more closely with the Commission for Rural Communities. The Rural Advocate visited Cambridgeshire earlier this month to look at rural health issues and as part of this I attended a dinner with him.

You may wish to view a paper regarding Rural Proofing Local Area Agreements on the CRC website.

Rural Proofing Local Area Agreements:

<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/publications/notesforlocalregionaldiscussionsontheruralproofingoflocalareaagreements>

Meeting with the Rural Affairs Minister—February 2008

At the request of the Rural Affairs Minister, Jonathan Shaw, the next meeting will include a discussion around migrant worker issues. With the assistance of EEDA it is intended to circulate a paper immediately in the New Year. Your comments will be appreciated and if you have any points that you would like me to make please email them to the Secretariat at the following email address by 14th February 2008: ruralforum@goeast.gsi.gov.uk.

Annual Conference

The EERF Annual Conference will be held on 5th March 2008 in Peterborough. The topic will be 'Affordable and Zero Carbon Homes in Rural Areas—Can they be delivered?'. The conference will be opened up to the other Regional Rural Fora and it is hoped that the subject matter will attract a large number of delegates. An invitation and further details will be circulated in the New Year.

With Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Yates — EERF Chair

EERF

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Rural Forum