

## **EERF Steering Group: Minutes**

**16 November 2011 at 13.45pm  
NFU Offices, Newmarket**

### **Present**

Pat Holtom (Chairman & Norfolk)  
Suzanne Harris (Vice Chairman & Essex)  
Laura Beardsell-Moore (Suffolk)  
Anne-Marie Hamilton (Health)  
Mags Lambert (Secretariat)  
Daisy Martlew (RCCE)

### **Apologies**

Martin Collison (Vice Chairman & L&S Subgroup)  
Kirsten Bennett (Cambridgeshire)  
Kate Belinis (Hertfordshire)

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2011 were **agreed**.

### **2. Defra Rural and Farming Network**

Although we haven't heard from Defra as yet, the signs appear to be good for a favourable outcome. Suzanne told the Steering Group that Essex was supporting both our bid and that of their LEP. Each county did individual bids so Essex Rural Partnership did one with the caveat that they will work with Kent.

### **3. EERF Events and Meetings**

The joint meeting to be held with Essex Rural Partnership will be held on 18 January at Hylands House. Daisy and Mags will co-ordinate closely with attendee lists as Daisy will manage the ERP members while Mags will manage the EERF members.

### **Speakers**

Through discussion of the format of the day it was felt that we would like a DCLG speaker to give an introduction to the Localism Bill and Eric Pickles was suggested. **Mags** said she would contact him and if he was unable to attend she would ask for an alternative from DCLG.

**Suzanne** said she would organise a speaker to discuss Community Led Planning and the relevance to the Localism Bill.

**Laura** was going to see whether she could get Shona Bendix, SALC, to talk about how the Localism Bill will be implemented locally.

**Suzanne** was to speak to Jan Cole of RCCE to see if she knew of a policy planner who was a good speaker to attend to discuss how CIL came into being.

The format of the day would be as per the EERF meetings and the charring would be shared between John Jowers and Pat Holtom (who would do the welcome). **Daisy** would minute the event. There would be NO Steering Group meeting after the main meeting as Essex Rural Partnership would be holding their Steering Group. If we win the Rural Network bid however we will call an adhoc Steering Group meeting and **Mags** will book the NFU as a venue.

#### **4. EERF Development**

As the sub-groups appear to have all but vanished due to all the changes, it was decided that some invitations should be sent out for membership.

**Anne-Marie** would attempt to find a representative to become the Learning and Skills member, a representative from Peterborough Development Corporation with a rural interest and also would see if she could get a replacement for herself as Health representative when she retires in January.

**Mags** would compile names from the Housing sub-group who may be interested in joining and would also see if she could get a representative from Visit East Anglia and would look at district councils.

**Pat** would drop Kirsten an email regarding Cambridgeshire's representation.

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

Mags would book the NFU offices for 25 April for the next EERF meeting which would be followed by a Steering Group meeting and would circulate the Steering Group when she had a date. It was decided that, should the Forum still be in existence in the next financial year, that three meetings a year would be sufficient in the future.

#### **Close of Meeting**

