Celebrating 10 years

2002 – 2012
Welcome
Cllr Peter Martin

Introduction
Suzanne Harris

Achievements of ERP over the past 10 years

Founded in 2002

Essex Rural Partnership was formed through a merger of the Essex Rural Renewal Forum and the Essex Rural Strategy Steering Group.
2003

Essex Rural Renaissance Fund

- £500,000 via EEDA, to County Rural Partnerships (managed by Essex Economic Partnership & ExDRA)

- Hub Small Grant Funds

- Community Hub (initially offered £25,000)
  - 2003-4: £55,000 for projects costing £143,000
  - 2004-5: £60,000 for projects costing £205,000
  - 2005-6: £50,000 for projects costing £450,000
EERF beneficiaries
2005

Re-launch of ERP

- New Strategy
  - John Craven at Barleylands

- New constitution
  - Steering Group
  - Hubs become Action Groups
2006

Rural Social and Community Programme

- Capacity Building for Parish Councils – Essex achieved Quality Status record
- Rural Housing Enabler – over 30 new units and over 30 housing needs surveys
- Community Led Planning Fund – 56 projects, £109,000
Writtle Parish Plan, the assistance we had from Essex Rural Partnership and the funding we received from the Community Planning Fund
• The RCCE Parish Plan information pack fully describes the process but briefly a Parish Plan encompasses social, economic and environmental issues and deals with transport, healthcare, housing needs, youth facilities, shops and businesses, personal likes and dislikes, addressing a whole range of problems and opportunities affecting the community.

• It culminates in an Action Plan to achieve the identified objectives and details Parishioners priorities based on questionnaires and Parish Workshops.
• Our Parish Plan began in 2007 with a grant of £500.00 from the Parish Council and with assistance of the RCCE and Essex Rural Partnership this was match funded by a grant of £500.00 from the Community Planning Fund, followed by a further grant of £2,500.00 from the Community Planning Fund the following year, making a significant contribution to our total cost.

• With that our Parish Plan became a reality.
• Having achieved this initial and essential funding an inaugural meeting was arranged by the Parish Council to elect a Parish Plan Committee.

• That was followed by a Parish Workshop to explain it to Parishioners; numerous further Parish workshops followed throughout the process to ensure full consultation.

• We then set up our Parish Plan web site at http://www.essexinfo.net which is a free website for community organisations.

• That enabled us to display all documents on line and communicate with Parishioners, who can become members by completing a simple registration process, enabling us to contact all members by way of single email.
• Household and Youth Questionnaires were prepared, printed, distributed and returned for analysis.

• It is important to keep Questionnaires user friendly; whilst remarks and comments are essential many back off from these preferring simple tick box answers. We had 163 tick box questions and 20 remarks boxes, however it must be said that those remarks boxes generated hundreds of useful suggestions.

• These were then all analysed for us by Writtle College, at a cost, and details were published on the web site.
2. Crime and Safety

14 I feel safe in Writtle
15 The level of crime in the Parish concerns me
16 Anti-social behaviour in the Parish concerns me
17 We need to see more police presence in the Parish
18 The Police Community Support Officers have made a difference in the village
19 The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is effective in my area
20 I am satisfied with the behaviour of the College students
21 The use of motorbikes on footpaths and cycle tracks needs to be stopped
22 What other behaviour issues concern you

3. Education and Learning

I regularly attend the following:

23 Day-time classes, clubs or societies in the Parish (X at agree or disagree circle #)
24 Evening classes, clubs or societies in the Parish (X at agree or disagree circle #)
25 Classes, clubs or societies outside the Parish (X at agree or disagree circle #)
26 There should be more adult education classes in Writtle

27 For example I would like to attend

28 There should be closer links between the Parish and the schools
29 There should be closer links between the Parish and Writtle College

4. Environment and Conservation

I am satisfied with the standard of the following services:

30 Street cleaning
31 Street drain gulley cleaning
32 Refuse collection
33 Recycling collection
34 Verge and hedge maintenance

3 Household
• Two committee members then met Students from Writtle College with their Tutor and the preparation of the Writtle Business Parish Plan was carried out as part of their course work at no cost to us.

• With some input from us, the College produced the Business questionnaire, the students then met a whole raft of Writtle businesses and assisted them in completing the forms, which were also published on the web site.

• The College analysed the responses and then produced our Business Parish Plan.
PARISH PLAN

Writtle Future

BUSINESS SURVEY
Overall, most of the areas identified were ranked as good to fair. There are a couple of areas such as parking which are deemed as poor, with 9 of the businesses commenting on this. Banking facilities were deemed to be poor by 11 of the businesses. Areas such as signage, healthcare and waste disposal all rank very well among the businesses.

Out of all the businesses asked there is no clear answer to whether there is a problem with crime or vandalism. The data shows that there is a clear 50/50 split. This could be due to the location of the business within the parish.
• Meanwhile a working draft Parish Plan was complete and published on the web site for online consultation.
• Priorities for the Parish Action Plan were drawn up showing priorities 1 to 4 and distributed to every household in the Writtle News, our Parish Magazine, and published on our web site for manual or online completion.
• The result of these priorities was then analysed and published on our web site.
WRITTLE PARISH PLAN
Visit our website at: - www.essexinfo.net/writtlefuture - then go to 'Our Files' and view 'Work in Progress'

WRITTLE PARISH PLAN – CONSULTATION - ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

We have listed all your questionnaire responses requiring action in order of percentage agree or disagree under their headings.

We now have to prioritise the separately numbered actions listed below that you consider the most urgent.

To respond by e-mail please insert your priorities alongside each action in the "Your Priority" column below. Insert 1, 2 or 3 in your order of priority, 1 being most urgent and 3 the least. If you think a particular issue is of no priority at all please enter 4 or leave blank.

Go to "File" at the top left hand of this window and "save as" to my documents and e-mail back to me.
at
ralph.bray@writtlefuture.org.uk

Finally we are holding an Annual General Meeting and Parish Plan Workshop in the Village Hall at 2.30 - 4.30pm Saturday 6th February 2010 when we are hoping to finalise the Priorities and Parish Plans – please put this date in your diary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action No</th>
<th>&quot;Your Priority&quot; 1, 2, 3 or 4</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>% Agree</th>
<th>% Disagree</th>
<th>Excess Agree over Disagree</th>
<th>Prime facilitator or responsibility (comment)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I use the Post Office and it must be retained</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>The Post Office (Parishioners use it or lose it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I use the Bank and it must be retained</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Barclays Bank (Parishioners use it or lose it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>There should be start-up facilities to encourage more small businesses in Writtle</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>The National Business Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ralph.bray@writtlefuture.org.uk
• At a Parish Plan Annual General Meeting a Priorities Workshop was held in the Village Hall in February 2010.

• The draft Parish Plan and Priorities were displayed, discussed and refined for publication on our web site.

• The completed Business Parish Plan was exhibited at that Workshop.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Priority</th>
<th>Average Priority</th>
<th>priority Table No</th>
<th>Parish Plan No</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Agree %</th>
<th>Disagree %</th>
<th>N/A %</th>
<th>Prime facilitator or responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>I use the Post Office and it must be retained</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>The Post Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Parking should be provided and/or improved at Doctor's surgery</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>ECC Highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>The 7 ton weight limit on lorries should be more strongly enforced</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>Pavements, footpaths and cycle paths need more maintenance</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>ECC Highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>The reliability of the buses should be improved</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Bus company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>We need to see more police presence in the Parish</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>The use of motorbikes on footpaths and cycle tracks needs to be stopped</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>I support the idea of converting the toilets at the Green car park to a central Parish Office incorporating new public toilets</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Parish Council with grant money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>Improve traffic management measures or priority at Blue Bridge junction</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>ECC Highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Introduce 20 mph speed limit outside the Primary Schools</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>ECC Highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Cars for sale on public land should be stopped</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>ECC &amp; CBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Committee then Consulted with Stakeholders on the Action Plan, including various departments of County and City Council, Police, Health, Transport etc. and their comments were added to the Plan.
• Our next significant cost was printing the Parish Plan, Business Plan and Action Plan, assisted by the RCCE that phase that was funded through Essex County Council - Making the Links, to which was added several donations from local Businesses.

• The Parish Plan and Action Plan with priorities were finalised, printed and distributed to all households in the Parish and published on our web site.

• The Business Plan was distributed to all Businesses in the Parish and published on the web site.

• The Parish Plan, Business Plan and Action Plan and Priorities were formerly endorsed by Writtle Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st March 2011.
1. Business and Employment (contd)

6. I use the Post Office and it must be retained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree or strongly agree</th>
<th>Disagree or strongly disagree</th>
<th>No view</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. I use the Bank and it must be retained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree or strongly agree</th>
<th>Disagree or strongly disagree</th>
<th>No view</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. The restaurants are a benefit to the village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree or strongly agree</th>
<th>Disagree or strongly disagree</th>
<th>No view</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. The pubs are a benefit to the village

Agree or strongly agree: 74.9%
Disagree or strongly disagree: 4.4%
No view: 20.7%

I do not think the restaurants are a source of noise and nuisance

Agree or strongly agree: 51.7%
Disagree or strongly disagree: 4.6%
No view: 41.5%

I do not think the pubs are a source of noise and nuisance

Agree or strongly agree: 46.2%
Disagree or strongly disagree: 16.0%
No view: 43.8%
• A Parish Plan Implementation Sub-Committee of the Parish Council has been established and is actively pursuing all Action Points, generally in order of priority.

• Progress reports on objectives and achievements are submitted at bi-monthly meetings of the Parish Council, which has to approve all significant actions; any noteworthy achievements are also reported in the Writtle News.

• An important thing to bear in mind is that whilst objectives should be optimistic it is essential that they are realistic and achievable.

• All our current documents and consultation history are available on our web site at http://www.essexinfo.net/writtlefuture/
• **Was it all worth it?**

• Most definitely yes!

• Some achievements as a direct result: - 
  - The long term future of our Post Office and Library - Priority 1.
  - The development of a Youth Council and closer links with local schools.
  - It has been invaluable in assisting the Parish Council in allocating S.106 money, passed down to us from Chelmsford City Council.
  - The Parish Council now knows where Parishioners want us to spend our money.
  - And that is all thanks to the funding we have received.
2007

Rural Retail Support Research
- 6 month research project
- Report published 2008

- Visit from Dr Stuart Burgess, Chair of Commission for Rural Communities – incorporating Langham Community Shop and Dedham ‘Health & Housing’ development
2007-8

Year of Food and Farming

- September 2007 – presentation on Year of Food and Farming – led to financial support
- 1st May 2008 – 3,000 pupils, aged 8-11
- 24th May 2012 – 5th Essex Schools Food and Farming Day
2007-8

Post Offices

- Working Group formed 2007
- Briefing paper to all Parish & Town Councils
- Public meeting arranged
- Liaison with Post Office Ltd & Postwatch
- Identification of communities most likely to suffer
- Essex County Council’s Post Office project
Chair of CRC, Stuart Burgess, meets Giancarlo Guglielmi, Sub postmaster at Honeycroft, Lawford
Sue Meyer

Little Hallingbury Post Office
2008

Rural Services Survey

- First in recent times
- Report available on website
- Local evidence base
- Used to secure funding for projects in rural areas
2008-11

Local Area Agreement

- Local Indicator Target for Access to Services (2008)
  - Funding in excess of £200,000 (half from LAA)
- 8 Rural Shopper Bus Services
- Campaign ‘10 Good Reasons’ to shop locally
- Real Ale Runabout
- Bus to Basics literature
- Pub is the Hub Research
- Wrabness Community Shop
- Dengie Dart (launched May 2011)
- Layer Fox Cash Machine
The Layer Fox
The Layer Fox
Layer De La Haye
At the beginning

• No beer in the pub during the week
• Very run down and dirty
• Bad food reputation
• Village Post office and very run down village shop
• Low Patronage
• Punch Taverns intending to close the pub
How we changed the pub

• 30 people turned out to help first day – cleaned and mended
• Improved exterior with hanging baskets and painted the windows
• Improved interior with real fire
• Started to sell local ales
• Improved menu
• Increased opening times (9:00 to 00:00)
• Free wi-fi
Additional Services Introduced

• We built a deli counter which has now expanded into a small shop
• Paypoint – the only one in a pub in the country
• ATM sponsored by Essex CC
• Fresh bread, cakes & pastries
• Dry Cleaning service
• Outside catering, weddings, outside bars, buffet trays etc
And more....... 

- We offer Beauty Therapy in one of the B & B Rooms one evening a week
- Take-out sandwiches, hot food, fish & chips
- Ready meal service for the elderly
- Collect Plus parcel service
- Photocopying service

Etc.......etc......etc......etc............etc.........etc.....!!
The Deli Counter & “Shopette”
We built a small barn with 4 ensuite wet rooms last year.

Built a web site and joined several national sites to advertise

Used by tourists, local people for relatives and workmen working in Colchester
The pub now

CAMRA accreditation – second in Rural Pub of the Year 2012

• Uniform shirts for the staff grant sponsored
• Centre of the community – used for village committee meetings
• Displayed kids pictures on the wall and decorated at Christmas by the Pre-School Playgroup
Events

• Beer festivals
• Village events – Bonfire events
• Halloween and other festivals
• Weddings and christenings
• Parties and live music
• Outside bars
Community Groups

• Play school moved out for the day and used the dining area to rehearse their Christmas play
• The local Good Companions use the pub for a bi-monthly meal and we provide a subsidised Xmas lunch
• Raise funding for The Layer Colts youth football team and now sponsor them
• Fundraising for Lymphoma Association and the RNLI
The impact

• Saved the pub
• Flexible response to situations
• Created local employment
• Compliment to a thriving village
2009

Essex Rural Commission

- Received evidence from ERP
- Report published September 2009
2009

New Essex Rural Strategy

- Launched at Ingatestone Hall
- Re-launch of Environment Action Group
John Gili-Ross and Lloyd Felton

Broadband
SUPER FAST
WIRELESS BROADBAND

Least Cost, Fastest to Deploy

www.countybroadband.co.uk  0845 686 5000
Why is Rural Broadband Important?

- 4th Utility
- Media & Entertainment (IPTV / Catch-up TV)
- Skype, Google+, Facebook, VoIP
- Local Business Competitiveness
- Professionals, homeworkers and Academics
- Students – study work and homework submission
- Farmers – Rural Payments Agency
- Healthcare – Access to services and Monitoring
- Property prices
- Community Metrics / Macro Economy
- Engaged citizens / Resilient communities / Social cohesion
Our Experience

• Successful installations
  – Community Projects (Complete parishes)
  – Domestic
  – Commercial Provision (SOHO, SME, Bluechip)

• Understanding technical requirements

• Full project, turn-key solution
  – Community project communications
  – Network planning (topographic & technical)
  – Network Build
  – End user installation service
  – In-house user support

www.countybroadband.co.uk  0845 686 5000
What it takes to provide Broadband?

- Ability to plan and build a network
  - Access to high-speed Backhaul
  - Mid-mile provision
  - Last-mile distribution

- Niche market attraction
- Viable business case

And what can be achieved…
What it takes to provide wireless Broadband?

- Tier 1 – Core Backhaul
- Tier 2 Digital Village Hub
- Tier 3 Community Access Point
- Tier 4 Subscriber
- Point of Presence (POP)
Essex Plan of New Network Reach
(supporting local network provision)

The majority will be within reach of the core network supporting Parish Level Distribution Network Builds for those parishes that would like service
Installation Examples
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Name</th>
<th>Data Plan</th>
<th>Download &amp; Upload Speed</th>
<th>Aggregated Service Speed</th>
<th>Monthly Subscription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Inclusion</td>
<td>500 MB</td>
<td>500 Kbps</td>
<td>1 Mbps</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGA Home Basic</td>
<td>1 GB</td>
<td>4 Mbps</td>
<td>8 Mbps</td>
<td>£ 9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGA Home Evolve</td>
<td>10 GB</td>
<td>8 Mbps</td>
<td>16 Mbps</td>
<td>£ 16.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGA Home Standard</td>
<td>20 GB</td>
<td>16 Mbps</td>
<td>32 Mbps</td>
<td>£ 19.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGA Home Prime</td>
<td>50 GB</td>
<td>24 Mbps</td>
<td>48 Mbps</td>
<td>£ 29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGA Home Elite</td>
<td>100 GB</td>
<td>32 Mbps</td>
<td>64 Mbps</td>
<td>£ 34.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Lloyd Felton
lloyd@countybroadband.co.uk
0845 686 5000
www.countybroadband.co.uk

Colchester Digital Partner
2011

Rural Services Survey

- ‘Services in Rural Essex’

- Report published, showing changes since 2008

- Copies available today
2011-12

New website for ERP
- Meetings – papers and presentations
- Documents
- News
- Twitter

New e-newsletter
2011-12

Defra Rural and Farming Network

- Expression of interest accepted
- One of first 14 groups to be approved
- Cllr Jowers attended first meeting in April
- Invitations for representation at other events
- Ministerial visit to be planned
ACTION GROUPS
Daisy Martlew

Environment
Cllr John Jowers

Question Time
LUNCH & NETWORKING

Please look at the stands and literature
Thriving Rural Communities

Essex Rural Partnership: 10th Anniversary 31 July 2012

Sarah Hendry, Director for Rural Development, Sustainable Communities and Crops, Defra

sarah.hendry@defra.gsi.gov.uk
“Government - from the Prime Minister down and as a Ministerial team in Defra - has really strong rural credentials at its heart. Through your local leadership, and our shared endeavours, we can create the opportunities for prosperous and thriving rural communities...”.

Minister Richard Benyon – September 2011
Background: A changing national rural policy picture....

- Defra Ministers will lead and champion rural policy across Government
- Rural Communities Policy Unit (RCPU) – Centre of rural expertise
- Forthcoming Rural Statement: underline the Government’s commitment to rural communities
Recent policy announcements

- **Rural Economic Growth Review**: package of measures announced as part of Autumn Budget Statement:
  - 5 Pilot Rural Growth Networks
  - £20m Rural Community Broadband Fund
  - £25m package to support rural tourism
  - £15m fund to provide loans to communities interested in renewable energy
  - Measures to support food and drink companies
• **Superfast Essex**, the Local Broadband Plan for Essex County Council, Southend on Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council

• **will ensure at least 90% of premises across Essex will** have access to Superfast Broadband (24Mbps), and all premises can get access to 2 Mbps by 2015

• **£6.46 million of BDUK investment** allocated, which has been matched by Essex County Council
Housing and Planning

- **National Planning Policy Framework**: simplified over 1000 pages of planning policy into a single streamlined document

- **Localism Act** introduced Neighbourhood Planning, the Community Right to Build and the Community Right to Buy

- Ministers intend the presumption in favour of sustainable development to move from a ‘we can’t’ to a ‘we can do’ culture
Rural and Farming Network: a new way of working

• 17 network groups have been set up around England

• Act as a direct link between rural areas and the Government

• Bringing together representatives of rural communities, businesses and the food and farming industries
A total RDPE commitment of £3.03m has been made to 68 projects in Essex. Projects supported include:

- **Feeding our future** - to supply locally grown produce, supporting schools with training for kitchen staff

- **5 irrigation reservoirs** supporting production of high value irrigated crops

- **The Eastern Plateau LAG** covering North Herts and Uttlesford in Essex, has awarded £185k to 7 projects in Essex, including a small irrigation reservoir, a number of rural micro-businesses, and a ‘Seedbed Centre’
RDPE National Socio-economic Investment Programme

**Rural Economy Grant – ‘game changing’ large projects**
- 1,162 applications requesting £224m against £60m budget.
- 18 water projects fast tracked (total value c.£3m)
- Dairy scheme (additional £5m) to be launched in autumn.

**Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme – Small Grants**
- Targeted at improving competitiveness (c.£20m)
- £8m approved. Over 2,800 applications (Rounds 1 & 2).

**Skills (c.£20m) – national offer with locally tailored delivery**
- Over 30 providers selected through procurement process.
- Extensive programme of skills activity to start in the autumn.
Negotiations at EU level on the successor to current RDPE - likely to continue into 2013

Working to prepare for a smooth transition as possible from the current to the new Programme (2014-20)

Formal consultation on next programme will be launched in spring 2013. Informal consultations starting in autumn

Plan to discuss with key stakeholders including the Rural and Farming Network

Hope to learn from your experiences of the current programme
Priorities for next RDPE?

**Food, farming & forestry business competitiveness**
Skills & knowledge transfer - eg marketing, business skills, animal health & welfare, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, forestry supply chain

Capital investment – eg water quality/resources, forestry, arm business development

Processing & marketing; co-operation among producers or processors

**Land management**
Protecting biodiversity/SSSIs/water quality/soils; woodland creation

**Rural economy**
Business creation & micro-enterprise development

Rural tourism

Broadband connectivity

Renewable energy

Community services- eg community buildings, social enterprises

Village renewal – eg access, amenity spaces

**Leader** – bottom-up, community developed initiatives
Dr Susan Priest

South East LEP
...creating the most enterprising economy in England
Background

- Established early 2011

- Simple governance
  - Private sector chair and three private sector vice chairs
  - Board of 45
  - Executive Group of 24

- Streamlined support
  - Small secretariat (3.5)
  - Senior Officer Group
The LEP area
About the LEP

- Largest non-metropolitan LEP in England
- Home to 156,000 businesses and 3.9 million people
- Employs over 1.5 million people
- Contributes £63bn p.a., 6% of Britain’s GVA, with £10bn from rural economies
- Critical gateway and strategic location between London, Europe and the global economy
Vision & Focus

- A simple mission: “to create the most enterprising economy in England”

- Focus:
  1. Exploring / creating opportunities for enterprise; while
  2. Addressing the barriers to growth.

- Aspects of work:
  a. Engaging businesses – setting an enterprise and growth agenda;
  b. Business critical infrastructure;
  c. Investment;
  d. Internationalization and commercialization of the knowledge base;
  e. Skills.

- Principle of subsidiarity: only intervene where we can add value to what happens locally whether in growth communities, coastal or rural areas.
Early successes

- Two Enterprise Zones
  - (Sandwich and Harlow)

- £49m Growing Places Fund to invest
  - 12 projects selected
  - A second round closing today

- Engaging businesses
  - Three county approach, plus dedicated sessions

- Strategic approach to transport infrastructure
  - Prioritisation report
  - Submission to Highways Agency Pinch Point Programme
  - Aviation capacity study

- Influence with Ministers

- Lobbying Government on key strategic issues e.g.
  - Dartford-Thurrock river crossing
  - Empty property rates
  - Considering growth over longer term than single CSR term
  - Highways Agency use of Holding Directions
  - Availability of innovative forms of finance
Rural Workstream

- Objective: strengthen our rural economy

- Chaired by Jon Regan (Hugh Lowe Farms) and largely private sector

- Initial focus:
  - Development of food sector
  - 200,000 businesses
  - Turnover of £6bn

- Identifying:
  - Common growth trends
  - Barriers to growth
    - Resource constraints
    - Infrastructure
    - Planning
    - Skills
  - Potential solutions
  - Lobbying opportunities

- Rural growth network
Intent...

In the short to medium term the LEP will:

- Achieve greater penetration, reach and engagement with the business community;
- Demonstrable impact in local and national decision-making;
- Fully invested GPF, bringing forward stalled activity in regeneration projects;
- Have a clear medium term strategy for re-investment of funds;
- Explore additional sources of private and public investment;
- Establish an effective Local Transport Board, making investment decisions;
- Two operational EZs, with agreed methodologies for re-investment of income streams (where applicable).
Input: views

- Opportunities for enterprise?
  - Strengths of the rural economy to champion?
  - Rural priorities in Essex?

- Barriers to growth?
  - Business critical infrastructure
    - High Speed Broadband
    - Mobile telephony
    - Loss of Post Offices
    - Poor public transport
    - Road congestion
  - Skilled labour
  - Cost of local housing
On-going dialogue - contact

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Question Time
Cllr John Jowers

Cutting the Cake
Thank you for coming