

Active Communities Coffee Morning

Thursday 26th February 2015, 10am to 12 noon
Manuden Village Community Centre

Find out what you can do
to shape the future of your town or village

Join us for a coffee and cake.

Meet with RCCE staff and discuss how to provide:

HOUSING to meet the needs of local people;

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS as a hub for
community activity and services;

Community run ENTERPRISE
like shops, pubs and much more;

Pro-active PLANS to ensure your village is
sustainable and resilient in the face of future challenges;

River Wardens to monitor watercourses
(through the Catchment Restoration Fund Project).

This Spring Coffee Morning is **FREE**

Not a member?

You are welcome to come along to this event, seek advice, and
find out how we can help your parish council or community group

To book a place contact hannah.brown@essexrcc.org.uk

Active Communities Coffee Morning

RCCE staff to answer your queries

Rural Housing Enabler – Moira Groborz

Small parishes can provide AFFORDABLE HOUSING for local people. Come along and speak to Moira about using the exception site policy to make this happen for your community. She can work with parish councils to identify local need and work through the process of developing housing to meet that need. A small scheme of 4 houses, such as the one recently completed in Arkesden, can help with sustainability of a village by allowing those with a strong local connection to remain a part of that community. Larger parishes have new powers enshrined in the Localism Act to help them provide housing for local people. The Community Right to Build allows local communities to undertake small-scale, site-specific, community-led developments.

Community Buildings Advisor – Sue Sheppard

Sue will be available to discuss the following:

- Renovations and new builds;
- Project planning for BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS;
- Energy efficiency;
- Funding sources and advice on applications;
- HALL MANAGEMENT; and
- GOVERNANCE

Community Engagement Team – Sarah Sapsford, Hannah Brown and Jan Cole

The Community Rights in the Localism Act provide the opportunity for communities to purchase and manage community assets for the benefit of local people. Why stop at shops and pubs? What about Farms, Care Homes, Energy Generation Plants? Jan can provide information on funding and assistance available for COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE projects.

The Localism Act also introduced Neighbourhood Planning. But Parish Plans and Design Statements still have a place and may actually be more useful. Speak to the team about the right type of COMMUNITY LED PLAN for your town or village and get advice on:

- Project planning and budgeting
- Questionnaire design
- Gathering evidence
- Analysing your findings
- Drafting an action plan
- Writing planning guidelines and policy

RCCE is working with Essex Biodiversity Project (EBP) and Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) on the Catchment Restoration Fund – Healthy Headwaters Project. RCCE has been successful in recruiting over 40 volunteer RIVER WARDENS, but if you are interested, there is still time to get involved. River Wardens will be monitoring short stretches of the River Pant and Upper Chelmer and will receive full training to record wildlife and river features, invasive species, fly tipping, pollution and localised flooding issues.

RCCE and EWT are also now moving into the next phases and are looking for parishes to get involved in the YELLOW FISH CAMPAIGN. Speak to Hannah to find out about information sessions for groups and individuals.

Local Access Forum (LAF) – Margaret Shaw

RCCE provides the secretariat to the county and regional LAFs. Speak to Margaret about parish and community group involvement in issues concerning rights of way, bridleways, coastal paths etc.