

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
RURAL ADVISORY GROUP**

NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 28 OCTOBER 2004

Present: Trevor Cherrett (Chair)
Steve Arnett
Mark Chessell
Nick Claxton **Alternate for Paul Treadgold**
Bob Connell
Phil Eadie **Alternate for Lynnette Leeson**
Angela Parkes
Rosalind Rutt
Rebecca Simms
Jacinta Thornley
Alison Tingley **Alternate for Colin White**
Mark Wilson
Nick Woolfenden

1. Introduction and Apologies.

Apologies for Absence:

Paula Amorelli	John Archer
Alan Betts	Valerie Carter
Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Crispin Davies
Jo Ellis	Steve Gilbert
Belinda Knight	Lynnette Leeson
Iain Lynch	Susie Ohlenschlager
David Pryce-Jones	Paul Treadgold
Colin White	Maddy Winter
Ray Bowers	

2. Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 30 September 2004 and matters arising.

The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

3. RAG input to development of the South East Plan and related issues

a) Update on Draft Plan

Nick Woolfenden gave an update on how rural matters were being dealt with in the South East Plan. The group discussed a number of the issues and agreed to monitor the development of the South East Plan as it progresses to RPC and Plenary meetings of the Assembly, and would focus their efforts responding during the consultation period in Spring 2005.

The group agreed that they hoped that the Plan would reflect the positive and creative policy approach RAG was promoting.

NW would circulate a link to the website with the RPC papers once they were available. RAG would meet after the Plenary to discuss progress.

b) Implementation Mechanisms

The group discussed a draft table showing possible implementation mechanisms for the Plan's rural policies. There was agreement that more should be done to consider approaches, including funding, and measures including lobbying and advocacy to ensure effective delivery. Members were encouraged to forward further information to the Assembly officers.

c) Monitoring

Further work was needed to identify key monitoring targets/measures, and it was agreed these should relate as far as possible to the IRF.

d) Countryside Agency Rural Vision; SERAF and South East Rural Partnership; Rural Pathfinder

Vision - feedback to the CA on the draft had been generally positive, and the issues of rural crime, youth and natural resources were identified as needing greater coverage in it. A final version would be issued by the end of the year.

SERAF and SERP – a new rural partnership was being established in the region in response to the national Rural Strategy 2004. GOSE were leading work on this, as well as developing a rural priority framework in conjunction with stakeholders, and RAG would be kept informed of progress. A number of RAG members are involved the steering group for this work.

Pathfinder - Rosalind Rutt informed the group that Hampshire had been identified as the rural Pathfinder in the South East and the County Council would be leading the work with other partners/stakeholders over the coming months. RAG would be kept informed of progress.

4. **Strategic Landscape Sensitivity – presentation on applying the approach**

Mark Wilson of Hampshire County Council gave a presentation on Strategic Landscape Sensitivity – STAG had previously discussed the issue and had asked for a more detailed presentation to be made to RAG to gain their views (David Carman was due to present but was unfortunately unwell). A hard copy of the presentation will be made available to all members at the next meeting. The Chairman thanked David and Mark for all their efforts and RAG would consider the issue in future discussions.

5. **Sustainability Appraisal and Rural Proofing of the South East Plan**

Preetie Bindra and Melissa Bocks have been involved in the Assembly's Sustainability Appraisal Sounding Board and the issue would be discussed more fully at the next meeting of RAG.

6. Taking the Bartlett rural evidence base forward

David Pryce-Jones (GOSE) had previously volunteered to coordinate further work on this. It was agreed to discuss the issue more fully at the next meeting.

The group was also informed that Countryside Agency and GOSE are currently tendering for work on the rural evidence base.

7. Recent Rural Policy/Strategy Developments

The meeting was advised that there was a European Consultation on Revised Rural Development Regulations. It was generally felt that at the present time members were heavily committed with the South East Plan and other commitments and the group would not respond.

8. The Way Ahead – Next Steps/Actions

Members to keep NW and RS informed of any changes/updates to the implementation table that was discussed. The group would meet again after the Plenary to discuss next steps and prepare for the consultation in the Spring.

9. Notice Board/Updates/Any Other Business

A stand-in Chair will be required for the next meeting as Trevor will be working overseas until early 2005.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

16 December 2004 10am
10 February 2005 2pm

The meeting closed at 12.30