

A REMINDER THAT THE DRAFT STRATEGY IS OUT FOR CONSULTATION



The latest draft of the Essex Rural Strategy document is available, this draft text is being circulated for consultation and we are seeking your views. Included is a feedback form which we invite you to give your views and comments.

- A full public consultation was undertaken at the end of 2015 and the views expressed have shaped the priorities of this Strategy
- The final version of the Strategy will also include some case studies to demonstrate successful projects within our county, and these will be added at the final stage
- The Strategy will be accompanied by an evidence document, which will provide more detailed evidence and statistics, and which can be updated more frequently than the strategy itself.

The refreshed Strategy is due to be launched on Wednesday 6th July and details of the launch event will be sent to all Partnership members in due course.

To view the draft consultation and complete the feedback form please click [here](#)

We look forward to hearing from you with your views on the draft document.

ESSEX YOUNG FARMERS SHOW – SUNDAY 22ND MAY 2016



It's that time again for the Essex Young Farmers Country Show, a great day out for all!

One of the top agricultural shows in the county, and an exceptional event that is professionally organised by 16 -26 year olds. So why not join the YFC for a fun packed day out. There is plenty to do, watch and learn about with large displays, demonstrations, farm animals, and trade stands.



New! This year is a free land train to transport visitors around the showground in style and comfort.

For further information about YFC and/or book your entrance ticket in advance please click [here](#)

*YFC (Young Farmers Club)



Essex Challenge Prizes

Essex County Council (ECC) want every child in Essex to get the best start in life. A strong, resilient and supportive family is an important part of making this happen.

Essex families have told us that they experience a range of pressures and challenges relating to raising a young child. These pressures can leave them feeling lonely or socially isolated and feeling less able or willing to access the support available to them. We recognise that traditional council services might not be the most effective way of addressing this.

'The Families Included Prize' is the first in a series of Challenge Prizes. Challenge Prizes are a tried and tested method of generating a broader range of original ideas to solve difficult problems. Over the next few years we intend to run a series of prizes to address the diverse issues facing Essex.

Along the way we will offer a range of support to nurture and develop the ideas of individuals, communities and organisations, as well as awarding a prize for the winning solution. We are looking for great ideas, projects and solutions from Essex that involve local families with young children in opportunities that enrich their lives. Ideas can relate to any aspect of life including personal and social experiences. They can look to address the problem across Essex or focus on a local community. All we ask is that solutions come from people or organisations in Essex and will make a positive difference to Essex families.



Entry will be open between 12 May and 14 July 2016

Website please click [here](#)

RURAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 'HIDDEN'

Violence against women is a "hidden issue" particularly in rural areas, taken from a report published June 2009.

A report for the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) found that women in rural and urban areas were equally likely to be victims of violence, but rural residents were less likely to think it was happening.

The NFWI called for a Government campaign to raise awareness of the problem and for GPs in rural areas to be trained to spot victims of violence.

More than 5,000 women were surveyed and more than half of the respondents had experience of some form of violence or abuse. Of those, 20 were interviewed in depth by the researchers about their experiences.

One victim said she did not think she could get help for emotional abuse because "there are no scars, fractures or broken bones to prove that this went on. All you are left with is mental anguish."

Ms Mansell said: "We want people in all communities to acknowledge that violence is there and takes many forms."

Source: Express - June 3rd 2009

ISOLATED PROPERTIES, ISOLATED PEOPLE - In 2013, 26 per cent of women using specialist domestic violence services had come from rural areas, while only 19 per cent of the UK population lives in rural areas.

The difficulties faced by rural abuse victims - For many women in rural areas, their nearest specialist can be up to two bus-rides away from their home. If her partner controls access to a car, denies her petrol money, checks her mileage, or demands an explanation every time she leaves home, that distance can mean a woman is simply unable to get to a specialist support worker. Similarly, in a small community where a new vehicle would be noticed, a woman cannot be safely visited by a support worker on a regular basis, in case word gets back to the perpetrator

that a strange car has been seen at their home. Domestic violence often relies on isolating the victim: the perpetrator works to weaken her connections with family and friends, making it extremely difficult to seek support from outside. Perpetrators will often try and reduce a woman's contact with the outside world to ensure that she sees things the way he wants her to, preventing her from recognising that his behaviour is abusive and wrong. Perpetrators are often well respected or liked in their communities because they are charming and manipulative. This prevents people recognising the abuse and isolates the woman still further.

For further reading please click [here](#)

GOOD NEWS...

The Crown Prosecution Service has been given new powers to bring charges if evidence is found of repeated offences within intimate or family relationships this new legislation helps to raise awareness of the reality of emotional abuse within relationships and the long-lasting, damaging impact that it can have upon individuals and their families. Controlling or coercive behaviour is defined under section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 as causing someone to fear that violence will be used against them on at least two occasions, or generating serious alarm or distress that has a substantial effect on their usual day-to-day activities. For help and advice please: [Click](#)

WARNING OVER RURAL ROAD SAFETY



RURAL drivers are being urged to take extra care after figures showing most fatalities occur on country roads.

Although traffic levels are generally lighter, rural roads accounted for 982 deaths – nearly 60% of all fatalities in 2014, said breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist.

GEM chief executive David Williams said: "Driving in the countryside is usually a great pleasure, with good views, quiet roads and a variety of interesting terrain.

"But a narrow, twisting road offers very little clue as to what might be round the next bend. That's why we're urging drivers to expect the unexpected and to make sure they have time and space to stop safely if necessary."

Motorists should ask themselves what might be around the corner on a rural road with restricted visibility.

"It could be another car or a motorcycle coming towards you too fast, a group of cyclists on a ride out, sheep or cattle crossing the road, a horse and rider, a wild animal, or a slow-moving farm tractor."

Drivers should be ready to anticipate what could be there until they had had perfect sight of what's ahead, said Mr Williams.

For the full report please click [here](#)



FLY-TIPPING FINES PROMISE SOME RELIEF FOR RURAL AREAS

Following new Government regulations on the unauthorised deposit of waste, fines for fly-tipping will be introduced on Monday (May 9). Local authorities will be able to issue fines of up to £400 for small scale fly-tipping.

New fixed penalty fines for fly tipping which come into force next week are welcome, but there are concerns they may not be enough to curb the rising issue of refuse dumped in rural areas, says the CLA. As of Monday May 9, local authorities will be able to issue fines for small scale fly-tipping of up to £400 as an alternative to prosecution. This follows the introduction of new Government regulations on the unauthorised deposit of waste.

According to figures from Defra, 900,000 fly-tipping incidents were dealt with by local authorities in England during 2014/15. The CLA, says these figures do not include much of the waste left on farm land and over private land.

Here it poses risks to local wildlife, farm animals and the environment.

Landowners are liable for any waste that is fly-tipped on their land and can be prosecuted if they do not clear it away, often at considerable cost to their business.

Robin Edwards, CLA South East regional director said that with Government figures revealing there were less than 2,000 prosecutions for fly-tipping in 2014/15, more effective action is urgently needed.

He said: "We have regular reports from our members across the South East of multiple fly tipping incidents, particularly when their land is located on the fringes of urban areas. The waste involved is not just the odd bin bag, but large household items, from unwanted sofas to broken washing machines and building materials. The problem seems to have worsened recently in some areas, possibly as a result of local authorities making changes to their household recycling operations.

Fixed penalty notices will not solve the problem, but they are a positive step in tackling an issue which costs rural businesses up to £150 million in clean up costs every year and is a continuing and damaging blight on our countryside."

RURAL BROADBAND 'BY REQUEST ONLY'

FASTER broadband connections will not be automatically rolled out to isolated rural areas, the government has confirmed. Instead, rural homes and businesses will have to request connections – a process which could involve a four-year wait. Confirmation that broadband would be supplied on a request-only basis came as telecoms giant BT said it was investing £6bn on Superfast Broadband Roll-out and 4G.

BT has reported that at least 10m homes and businesses are to get ultrafast broadband through a combination of fibre and copper technology called G.fast. The company is to invest £6bn in improving its services, including extending superfast broadband and 4G coverage to more than 95% of the UK by 2020. But the Countryside Alliance warned that more must be done in rural areas to ensure the "final 5%" were not disadvantaged.

Alliance head of policy Sarah Lee said:

"We welcome the announcement but must still point out that the improvement figure will only extend to 95% of areas.

"While this is good news, we cannot have a 95% service for 100% need.

"There must also be a clear commitment and delivery of broadband to those households and businesses in rural areas who are in the "final 5%" that won't be covered by this investment.

"If we want the countryside to compete economically and socially then we need assurances and urgent action so that hard working rural businesses and families are not disadvantaged." Please click [here](#) for the full article

MEET OUR NEW POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX



Congratulations to Roger Hirst who was declared the successful candidate on Friday May 7 2016, and then officially sworn in by Adrian Pritchard, the Chief Executive at Colchester Borough Council who acted as the Essex Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for the PCC Election. The ceremony took place at Colchester's Charter Hall and was also attended by Essex Police's Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh.

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