



**Linking Communities:
Delivering rural transport
and access solutions.**

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Linking Communities

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, light gray lines that flow from the right side of the slide towards the left, positioned behind the text.

Contents

- Linking Communities
- Issues faced by our rural communities.
- Strategic Issues
- Good Practice
- The Future



Linking Communities

- Areas of work include:
- **Offering independent advice on transport and access options.**
- **Developing partnerships and facilitating projects**
- **Seek, explore and test innovative forms of transport and service delivery in rural areas**
- **Influencing Policy**

Rural transport has a direct impact on people's ability to access employment, education, shopping, health and leisure facilities.



Rural Issues

- **1/3 of adults in the countryside do not have access to a car and many of these are disabled people, older people or lone parents.** CTA 2007
- **Around 1/5 of households in Britain without a car in 2002/03 had some difficulty accessing supermarkets and doctors.**
Source: Department for Transport/National Statistics 2005
- **In rural Britain 11% of households in 2002/03 did not have access to a car, compared with 40% in London and 35% in metropolitan city areas.**
Source: Department for Transport/National Statistics 2005
- **The lowest levels of household car ownership in Britain in 2002/03 were in single pensioner households, where around 2/3 were without a car, and lone parent families, where 1/2 did not own a car.**
Source: Department for Transport/National Statistics 2005
- **30% of people in the countryside do not have access to a car during the day.**
Source: Cabinet Office



Strategic Priorities

- **Regional Rural Delivery Framework – Social inclusion (Promote social inclusion through improved access to services).**
- **Local Area Agreement (LAA)– Priority 14.3: Improve accessibility of a basket of services.**
- **LAA – Priority 6: Increase the number of young people who take a job or stay on in education or training.**
- **Essex Rural Strategy – Improving availability and accessibility of transport to and from rural areas.** To support innovative and sustainable transport solutions.
- **East of England Development Agency (EEDA) – Social inclusion and broad participation in regional economy.**

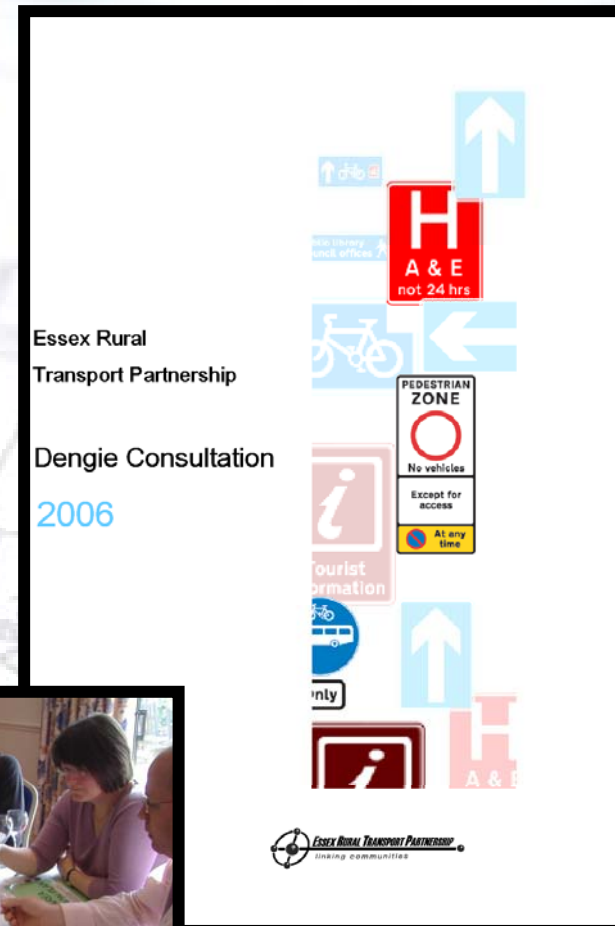
Linking Community Projects:

- Creation of a new, user friendly transport and access survey which is available to all community groups
- ICT hub – Developing IT training in rural areas using a mobile training centre
- Rural Bike and Ride Scheme
- Car Clubs
- Brightlingsea Foot ferry
- Community Transport Support across the county
- Dedham Cycle Path
- Heritage Bus route in Uttlesford
- Wheels to Work Schemes – Loaning mopeds to rurally isolated youngsters
- Working in partnership with the ERP on practical initiatives that might sustain the provision of Post Office services in rural communities.
- The Link



Consultation Work

- Linking Communities is widely recognised as an expert in undertaking rural transport and access surveys and consultations



Independent Advice



Partnership Working

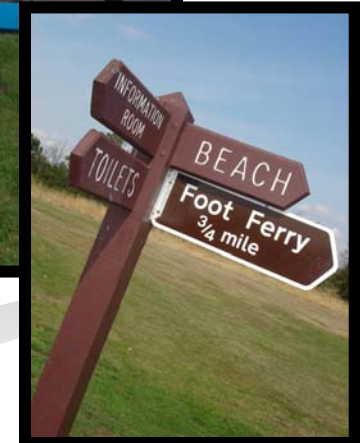
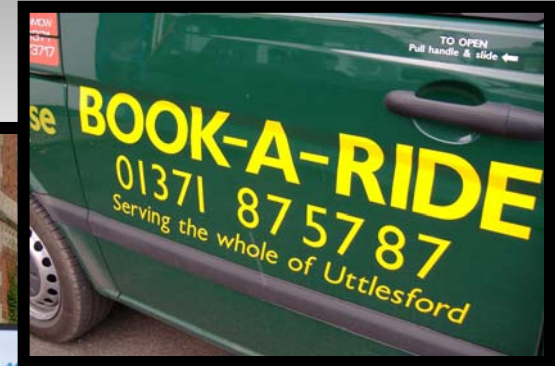
- Community Stations Programme – An innovative and exciting project which offers the lease of surplus railway properties to voluntary sector organisations, community groups and charities at a peppercorn rent.



The Fast-track Fund

Projects that have benefited from direct funding via the RCCE Fast Track Fund 2006/ 2007:

- Brightlingsea Foot Ferry – Signage
- Wyvern Community Transport – New livery for minibuses and update of IT systems
- Stebbing Scouts – New trailer and tow bar
- Uttlesford Community Transport – Meeting health and safety requirements
- Bright Ideas Scrap Scheme – Mobile Paint and Scrap Store
- East Hanningfield – Transport Needs Survey
- Voluntary Action Epping Forest – New volunteer drivers' uniforms.
- Zbikes – Protective clothing (inc Jackets, gloves, helmets etc)



The Future

Linking Communities will continue to:

- offer independent advice and support (available free of charge to all parish councils and community groups.)
- We will continue to assist with identifying and meeting transport need
- We will strive to meet the needs of disadvantaged and socially excluded groups
- We will work in partnership with ECC, Local Authorities and other agencies to help improve access to services.
- We will help shape policy

Linking Communities

- Thank You

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