

Rural Diversification and Planning

Keith Blackburn Essex County Council

Essex Rural Strategy

Planning raised as key issue
in consultation

Recommendation 12 of ERS

Rural not just farm diversification- importance of
Ensuring access to services – multi use centres

EPOA

What is EPOA?

Policy/Development Control

Presentations made to EPOA's Planning Policy and
Development Control Fora in 2006

EPOA agreed that a Task Group should be established to
report back to Planning Policy Forum within short period.

Rural Diversification Task Group

- ◆ First met March 2007 – most Districts with large rural areas involved statement of position/issues
- ◆ ‘Task and Finish’ Group
- ◆ ERP representatives RCCE CLA NFU FSB
- ◆ Non planner chair
- ◆ 7 meetings to date – most recent on January 8th
- ◆ Possibly one or more to come

Draft report

- ◆ Most recent meetings – in December and January have examined Highways policies
- ◆ Will be producing a draft report based on the discussions to date –will appear soon. Currently 16 main recommendations on reducing multiplicity of planning guidance, reducing potential conflicts between policies, affordable rural housing, pre application advice, work on listed buildings

Holding conference particularly with Development Control officers in February

- ◆ Will amend report if required after that

Conference

Haven Gateway Partnership have funded as part of wider programme of work on farm/rural diversification

To be held on February 21st at Marks Tey Hotel – mainly but not exclusively for Development Control Officers

Aim to begin creative engagement – generalise best practice, break down barriers,

Next steps

After the conference a further opportunity to revise the report and conclusions if required

Report will then be considered by EPOA and if adopted will be published

Response to new PPS 4/Taylor review.