

Essex Rural Partnership (ERP) News

Follow us on Twitter



Catch-up Café

Members of the Community Action Group went to see the difference a great idea and the support of local volunteers can make to the community in Highwood on 9th November. The brain child of local resident Sue Mitchell, the [Catch-Up Café](#) is a monthly event at the village hall run by volunteers that gives the community somewhere to meet up over a cup of tea and a slice of cake. It's also a good opportunity for local businesses to showcase and sell their products and for the community to meet the local Village Agent.

Economic

Visit Essex gets £114, 000 European funding to deliver rural tourism project

Visit Essex is to receive an estimated £114,000 after its successful application for European funding to deliver a [rural tourism project](#). The two-year project, which will commence in January 2013, is in collaboration with Pas de Calais, Norfolk, Kent, Somerset, Sedgemoore, Exmoor National Park Authority and Somme. The project aims to encourage economic growth of tourism and leisure businesses in rural areas through the promotion and development of active and cultural activities.

Government gets green light for broadband from Brussels

The Government's plans for roll-out of [superfast broadband](#) across the UK have been approved by the EU, meaning the £530 million programme can now get underway in earnest. The decision follows a direct intervention from the Culture Secretary in Brussels recently, after several months of delay in Europe.

How are rural interests being recognised by LEPs?

The [Commission for Rural Communities](#) (CRC) has published a report looking into how Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are recognising and addressing rural interests. The report covers three main themes – rural voice, policies and evidence, and funding and business support – includes case studies, and raises a number of issues for consideration for LEPs and Government.

Communities

Toolkit seeks to improve rural health

A new [toolkit](#) launched by the Institute of Rural Health aims to improve understanding of the issues surrounding commissioning and delivery of rural health services. The toolkit is intended to act as a reference

for health service commissioners, and encourages them to think about the impact of rurality and to assess the potential gains and pitfalls when commissioning healthcare provision.

Rural Health Network launched

A new network of health professionals to share best practice, innovation, learning and excellence in respect of rural health services and health commissioning countrywide has been launched. The [Rural Health Network](#) will also directly link rural health professionals with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services throughout the year, enabling Parliamentarians with rural interests to be kept informed of relevant issues, developments and concerns.

Young Farmers launch campaign to save lives on rural roads

Young Farmers supported by NFU Mutual have launched a national campaign to reduce the number of young driver deaths on rural roads. The [Drive it Home campaign](#) will help deliver road safety training courses, create champions that will become ambassadors in their local communities and peer groups for safer driving, and carry out further research to better understand the common causes of crashes involving rural young drivers, investigating regional trends.

Environment

Would you like to have your say on coastal and flood management?

The [Environment Agency](#) is looking for a new member for its Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) which covers Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and is keen to hear from people wanting to join. The RFCCs play an important role in deciding local priorities for flood and coastal work and support the Environment Agency and local authorities to work with communities and other partners to help bring in more funding. Closing date for applications is 14th December with interviews taking place in January 2013.

Help for Environmental Stewardship agreement holders and SSSI owners to deal with ash dieback

[Natural England](#) will be contacting Environmental Stewardship customers and owners of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with advice on how they can combat ash dieback disease this week. Natural England is also providing important advice on how to protect agri-environment payments should the disease be found in young trees planted as part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme.

Other News

First ever Police and Crime Commissioner elected in Essex

On the 15th November 2012 [Nicholas Alston](#) was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex. His main priorities for reducing crime are: policing that meets local needs and is prompt and professional; cooperation and partnership between Police, councils and the voluntary sector; and to be an influential voice in leading public engagements about crime and meeting local needs.

What are your views on or stories about farming?

A collaboration of organisations including the RSPB and Centre for Rural Policy Research have designed a survey to help the farming industry and policy makers better understand what the public think about farming and to look at priorities for practice and policy. To share your views and experiences of farming please complete the [online questionnaire](#) by 16th December.

Dates for your diary

- 12th December** **ERP Community Action Group meeting**, RCCE Offices, Feering, 10:00am
- 19th December** **ERP Steering Group meeting**, [RCCE Offices](#), [Feering](#), 10:00am (*Steering Group members only*)
- 30th January 2013** **EERF meeting**, NFU Office, Newmarket, 9:30am – 12:00pm (*EERF Members only*)
- 6th February 2013** **Full ERP Meeting**, Venue TBC, 10:00am (registration from 9:30am)
Steering Group meeting after lunch at 2:00pm (*Steering Group members only*)



This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please email info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

Compiled and edited by Daisy Martlew, Rural Community Council of Essex

Rural Community Council of Essex Registered Charity No. 1097009. Company registered in England and Wales No. 4609624