



STEERING GROUP
20th July 2011
Minutes of the Meeting
Writtle College, Rural Business Centre Room 1, 2:00pm

Present	Representing	Orgn	Initials
Cllr John Jowers	Chairman	ECC	JJ
Canon John Brown	Vice Chair	RCCE	JB
Nick Shuttleworth	Facilitator	RCCE	NS
Suzanne Harris	CAG & EERF	RCCE	SH
Daisy Martlew	Minutes	RCCE	DM
Philip Wilson	EcAG	ECC	PhW
Dominic Petre	EcAG	EET	DP
Cllr Peter Baggott	EnvAG	EALC	PB
Cllr John Buchanan	EERF	EALC	JBu
Julie Nelson	EERF	Church of England	JN
Cllr Mick Page	EERF	ECC	MP
 Apologies			
Joy Darby	CAG	EALC	JD
Peter Chillingworth	ELG rep	Colchester BC	PC
Richard Woolley	EERF	RCCE	RW
Wendy Scattergood	ELG rep	Braintree DC	WS

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Cllr. John Jowers welcomed all to the meeting.

1.1 Apologies

Apologies were taken as read (see above for details).

2. Minutes of the ERP Steering Group Meeting held on 24th November 2010

2.1 Accuracy

PB declared his belief that he was not present at the last Steering Group meeting (27th May), as recorded by the minutes, and therefore could not have raised the point made on page five regarding a suggestion that the EnvAG merge with the EcAG. It was agreed that DP in fact made this point. DM and SH will check attendance records for the meeting on 27th May.

DM/SH

2.2 Matters Arising

JBu highlighted that although he had mentioned the County Broadband conference

at the last Steering Group meeting, as recorded in the minutes, it was not included in the full ERP agenda in the morning. JBu was able to report back on the meeting (held on 18th July) under item 10 (Soapbox), however.

3. ERP (full) Meetings

3.1 Review of full ERP meeting held on morning of 20th July

The meeting was generally very well received and people appreciated the varied presentation topics that sparked interesting debate.

PB felt that the lighting was inadequate for reading the screen – there was too much natural light, which made the contrast on PowerPoint slides hard to see. He would also have preferred to receive hard copies of all the presentations in the delegate pack or prior to the meeting.

SH added that other people had also had trouble reading the screen, as noted in the evaluation forms. The main difficulty with providing hard copies of presentations is that presenters will sometimes send their slides very late in the day, which makes it difficult to circulate prior to the meeting and print out hard copies also. All presentations will be made available on the website or emailed to members.

NS felt it was shame that nobody informed him, SH or DM of the lighting problems before or during the meeting.

3.2 Items and format for next full ERP meetings – October and January

JJ welcomed JN to the Steering Group.

Jon Regan has agreed to present at the next full ERP meeting (20th October) and it was decided that the Steering Group should prepare some questions for him, the outcome of which can be fed into the LEP board. SH suggested that the Steering Group meet before the next full ERP meeting to discuss this.

JJ suggested that the Steering Group consider inviting George Keiffer to a future meeting. PhW added that the Steering Group might also consider inviting Ian Gregory from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

JJ suspected that the full ERP meeting in January will be heavily focussed on the outcome of the localism bill.

SH explained that four full ERP meetings will be held this year (instead of the usual three) as the January meeting will be a joint meeting with the EERF. SH will present our ideas on what the meeting focus should be at the EERF Steering Group meeting tomorrow (21st July) and report back on what the EERF might like to include.

SH

JJ proposed that agenda items include:

- Presentation from Jon Regan (expected to take up a large part of the agenda)
- Rural broadband
- Community transfer and Right to Buy

All those present were in favour of the proposed joint meeting. It was agreed that if the format did not work, it would not be attempted again. It was also agreed to invite MEPs – JJ recommended Vicky Ford.

4. Strategic Developments

4.1 Local Enterprise Partnerships

Nothing further to report.

4.2 Essex Partnership

JBu asked when the results of the consultation might be ready. JJ explained that it is an important task and could gain high level support; therefore those involved are taking their time over it to make sure they get it right.

5. Items to Report

Covered in the morning meeting.

6. AOB

JB suggested that we go through the list of suggestions for agenda items made at the last full ERP meeting on 5th April (recorded in the minutes). It was agreed that the list would be revised, to remove those already covered, and re-circulated to members of the Steering Group.

DM/SH

8.1 Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged before the next full ERP meeting (20th October). DM will circulate dates.

DM

The meeting concluded at 3:00pm