

Rural Board Activity

The Rural Board last met 11th December 09.
It was well attended

3 interesting points

- 1. Rural Affordable Housing – Cllr Pam Doodes**
- 2. Rural Narrative – Jeremy Leggett**
- 3. Rural Access to Broadband**

1. Rural Affordable Housing

Cllr Pam Doodes, Wealdon DC, presented a paper which outlined the wide range of work and policy initiatives currently underway to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing in rural areas. The HCA, Cate Ison, was also present at the Rural Board meeting. The Board were asked to note:

- i) The volume of work already undertaken to assess the issues around rural affordable housing – 48 recommendations in Matthew Taylor Report – which previous forum consulted on.
- ii) Recent report from the HOA on its current priorities, and the creation of Regional Rural Housing Champions.
- iii) The Rural Affordable Housing Project outcomes; encouraging LAs to sign up to 'Best practice knowledge hub' – launch April 2010.
- iv) Have regard to the SE Regional Housing & Planning Boards 1st Dec Report.

There is still some work to do and Cllr Pam Doodes will report back at the Feb meeting.

(Elizabeth Cartright, Chair of the Regional Housing Board, invited to next Board meeting)

REQUEST: The SE Partnership Board is planning a feature on rural housing delivery next month on their website. They would like to include some examples of good practice where homes are being delivered in the region, but perhaps lesser know examples. It would also be quite good to have examples of where it has added value to a village through provision of home/ work units, shops etc.

Please can anyone who has a good example/ or can point me in the direction of one/ some let (Hannah)/ me know at some point today – thanks.

2. Rural Narrative

Jeremy Leggett will be telling us all about the rural narrative this afternoon - some really good work being done and robust evidence gathering.....

3. Rural Access to Broadband

The final report with recommendations is being worked up as we speak – but the subject – as we know, is very complex. Through the writing of the report and researching the subject, several examples of best practice have been found and it is important that these are captured in some way (Examples of rural communities doing it for themselves and solving problems innovatively etc.....).

There is a slight complexity around the RDPE support for BB rational - should be discussed today at the RDA RDPE Board meeting. Will track progress and report in to the working group.