

**CRAG meeting Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007**  
**Ockment Centre, Okehampton 10am – 12pm**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Jen Anderton (secretary)	DRN
Phil Wagstaff	Churches together
Heather Hillman	DCC
Graham Walker	Teignbridge DC
Yve Tyrell	SWRDA
Denise Ramsey	Natural England

**Apologies:**

Ian Mercer (chair)	SW Forest
Paul Sadler	Environment Agency
Steve Pitcher	NDDC
Pauline Warner	DCC
Dennis Brewer	NFU
Lynne Del Greco	SWRDA
Martyn Warren	Rural Futures Unit, Plymouth University

**1. Chairmanship and membership of CRAG and Rural Proofing Criteria**

It was decided by all to look at the rural proofing criteria and the end of the meeting.

Ian Mercer has requested to stand down as chair of CRAG and it has been suggested that Phil Wagstaff becomes the new chair, all were in agreement and if all the members are happy then this stands.

Membership of CRAG has undergone some changes recently with Martin Weiler standing down and Paul Sadler stepping in to represent the Environment Agency. It was felt that there needed to be a better presence from the voluntary and community sector and there was a representative from CCD but had not attended past meetings.

***Action: JA to approach Jay Talbot at CCD with regards to representation from CCD and the VCS Action Group***

Graham Walker will be retiring from Teignbridge on March 30<sup>th</sup> and a new representative from the 'southern' authorities would be needed

***Action: GW to liaise with JA in suggesting a replacement***

JA suggested that perhaps the list of specialities and interests of members should be refreshed to ensure the appropriate people are contacted with regards to specific consultations.

***Action: JA to produce a Pro-forma for the group to fill in on interests and specialisms***

**2. SW Regional Spatial Strategy – Examination in Public (views invited on Preliminary List of Matters and Participants)**

JA updated the group on a message received from Pauline Warner with regards to the RSS EiP – comments for this section were closed on 15/12/06. Participants will be submitting their statements – and it maybe an idea to keep an eye on Rural Issues progress.

HH mentioned that the Strategic Rural Issues Group meetings that she attends were due to be updated by Pauline Warner at the next meeting.

**Action: JA to arrange meeting with PW for update**

Denise Ramsey highlighted that she is due to talk to the EiP group on 'polycentric Devon and Cornwall' on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

**Action: JA to investigate other statements submitted to the EiP website**

**Action: DR to find out what the statement was from Natural England – results to JA**

### **3. SWRDA Draft Operational Programme for Competitiveness programme 2007-13**

GW advised that West Devon, Teignbridge, South Hams and Torridge have joined together to recruit some consultants to give a united view from the rural districts

Sue Smith from DCC feels that the rural element of the programme has effectively been lost.

**Action: GW to correspond with Sue Smith and Jamie Evans (DCC) to get DCC view**

HH highlighted at this point that the following officers had a responsibility for future funding programmes:

Jamie Evans – Competitiveness Programme

Steve Smith – ESF

Ian Hutchcroft – Co-operative Programme

Heather Hillman – RDPE

**Action: JA to ask Jamie Evans (DCC) about workshop attended on Competitiveness in Bristol – this will give an indication of the timetable to work to**

### **4. Calendar of forthcoming rural proofing exercises**

i). RIP and Investment theme papers

JA updated the group with regards to a meeting that HH/JA at the request of Andrew Lightfoot. This meeting was to see the links between the LAA and Rural Funding, timescales, next steps and the link between DRN/DR. Paul Clark from SWRDA and Jenny O'Loughlin from GOSW attended. There was no new information shared, the RDA do not know about timescales.

There is no official consultation on the RIP and papers however there are specific questions asked on website. <http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafrd/papers.shtm>

The RIP has been submitted to DEFRA.

HH felt strongly that there was no real regeneration featured in the investment theme papers which are very short. GW felt that the papers were more about Social Enterprise. It will be difficult to be constructive and concise as so much is missing.

**Action: HH will read through the RIP then liaise with JA with regards to responses from DCC/DRN**

GW is getting together with colleagues and will share their thoughts with DRN.

**Action: DR to find out who in Natural England will be/has made a response**

ii). JA suggested the following may want to be proofed: *DCLG in the Local Government White Paper strong and prosperous communities, sets out the Governments commitment to invite councils in shire areas to come forward with proposals for unitary Local Government or to come forward to pioneer as pathfinders new models of 2 tier working.*

The group felt that it was not appropriate to proof this consultation but better to proof the plan that DCC comes up with for the future which will impact on Rural Devon.

iii). *ONS consultation to define long term geography policy for the next census and beyond. The opportunity to say what you think about the geography currently used for small area statistics: Output Areas and Super Output Areas. To enable the measurement of change over time, a policy of stability with this nationally consistent geography is proposed – closing date 16.02.07*

The group felt this would be relevant to make a response to as often issues in rural areas are clouded by statistics from neighbouring towns or boundary lines.

**Action: JA to talk to Jamie Evans about statistics and a contact with the statistics team at DCC (suggestion Mark Painter)**

**5. AOB and date of next meeting**

Rural Proofing Criteria

JA explained that the DRN had been approached by DCC to run some rural proofing workshops for DCC staff (project managers etc.) to enable them to proof their work. The issue with using the criteria as they currently stand is that they are very onerous and time consuming and this may result in under use or avoidance of the process.

The group decided that the 13 priorities still stood as well as the strategic priorities but to just use keywords from the criteria (which currently stand at 40) for example:

**1.1 Supporting increased business productivity and competitiveness and diversifying the rural economy.**

Instead of using the 4 criteria that go with this priority, just use keywords to consider such as diversification, development, infrastructure etc.

HH offered to complete this task as she was the original author of the criteria

**Action: HH to revise rural proofing table and send to JA for distribution for members**

HH did feel that the full proofing process and criteria did stand for the DRN to use on specific Regional/Devon based consultations. The group agreed.

PW suggested booking some meeting dates in the future and if they needed to be changed they could and additional meetings could be arranged as and when consultations come up.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 12pm, Okehampton (venue TBC)**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 10am – 12pm, Okehampton (venue TBC)**

Meeting closed at 11.50am

