

DRAFT MINUTES
DRN Steering Group Meeting
2.00pm on Thursday 11th November, Exminster House, Exeter

Present:	Mel Hall Tom Langdon-Davis Lynne Del Greco David Incoll Gordon Cleaver Michael Winter (Chair) Steve Pitcher Phil Collins Ian Mercer (Vice Chair) Jay Talbot Sue Smith Chris Woodruff Philip Wagstaff Heather Hillman	National Farmers Union Devon Market Towns Forum South West RDA West Devon Borough Council Mid Devon District Council Exeter University North Devon District Council English Nature South West Forest Community Council of Devon Devon County Council East Devon AONB Churches and Okehampton MCTI DRN Co-ordinator
Apologies:	David Whiteley Dominic Acland Geoff Bateman Ian Tearle	North West Devon Economic Partnership Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust The Environment Agency South West NHS Partnership

1. **Introductions.** Introductions were made for the benefit of new members. Gary Ensor has resigned from the Steering Group and a vote of thanks was recorded. **Action MW to write thanking Gary.** The issue of sending deputies to the steering group was raised and it was agreed that while it would not be encouraged for the sake of continuity, as long as it is agreed in advance with the Chair, deputies would be allowed.
2. **Minutes of Last meeting.** There were a couple of amendments to the minutes which can then be agreed. **Action HH to amend.**
3. **DRN Publicity/ Marketing.** The leaflets were passed around and it was requested that the final version of the text be circulated via email to the group before the leaflets are produced for the winter event. **Action HH to amend leaflets and circulate.** HH also updated the group on the progress with the website and plans for the newsletter. It was suggested that DRN acquire a copy of PDF software or use someone else's (e.g. University of Exeter) for producing the newsletter and converting from Word. **Action HH to look into purchasing PDF software.**
4. **Re-drafted Action Programme.** There were a number of amendments to the action programme in the light of the consultation comments, mainly concerned with clearer wording for the community planning and rural proofing sections which HH recorded on a copy of the document. There are also amendments to make to section 4d in the light of later discussion regarding Rural Renaissance. It was agreed that as the document will remain a working document, there is no need to have a glossy version produced. **Action HH to amend and produce for the Winter Event.** It was also suggested that once the website is up and running then progress on the action programme can be updated regularly.
5. **Winter Event.** After much discussion it was agreed that the programme should be amended to incorporate more presentations in the morning (offers from Phil Collins, Jay and suggestion the Ruby Country be involved). Also it was felt that the three existing Action Groups would like less time. But the opportunity to talk to all the delegates so the programme should be amended to allow for this. **Action HH to amend the programme to reflect the changes which have been recorded on a copy of that document and circulate new programme with these minutes.** It was agreed that due to time scales and getting the invites sent out there is not need to agree the revised programme before it is sent out.

6. **Rural Renaissance.** MW gave an overview of the background and how the compromise proposal was reached. It is important not to slow down Devon Renaissance (some confusion over this name and the fact that it only relates to Objective 2 area rural Devon but suggests wider area). Devon Renaissance were supportive of the proposal but have taken the decision to concentrate on getting their delivery plan in and agreed as soon as possible before thinking about other options.

There was much discussion around these issues and it was felt imperative that Devon Renaissance get their delivery plan agreed and the programme up and running. East Devon District Council had a number of questions about the proposal which MW has answered but have heard nothing since. They have a meeting on the 25th November to discuss the way forward at which MW will attend to explain the DRN situation. **Action Michael to attend EHOD meeting on 25th November.**

An alternative approach was discussed for DRN to submit an RR bid with a number of Devon wide themes such as SFF and Sustainable Tourism, but perhaps some economic ones to cover the non-objective 2 area as well. It was agreed that DRN will liaise with Devon Renaissance and the non-objective 2 area and other partners to produce a working group which will take forward a bid for an RR programme which will ideally cover the non objective 2 area with some wider themes (not covered by existing Devon Renaissance) which cover the whole of Devon. This would include the possibility of merging this proposal with the Devon Renaissance programme in the future. **Action MW & HH to discuss with partners.**

LDG was asked how the RDA would view this altered proposal and she indicated that the RDA will leave it up to partners to propose how they work together to submit bids for RR programmes. GC said that there was an issue for the non-objective 2 districts about how much match funding they would be able to afford to contribute to such a bid. All agreed that the working group needed to be very inclusive! The proposal diagram needs to be amend to reflect the new proposal. **Action HH to amend the diagram and circulate with these minutes.**

Some of these issues where relevant can be discussed at the funding reference group meeting at the DRN Winter event on 7th December. **Action HH and MW to produce a format for this meeting.**

It was agreed that MW should be the DRN representative on the Devon Renaissance Board and that HH should be the DRN officer representative on the Devon Renaissance Project Working Group. **Action MW and HH to attend relevant meetings.**

7. **DRN Terms of Reference.** There were many comments on this paper and much discussion so it was agreed that members would send their comments to HH by Tuesday 17th November. **Action HH to redraft the Terms of Reference and agree with MW for circulation with these minutes.**

8. **AOB.**

- **Devon Area Environment Group annual event invite to DRN.** Was agreed to ask Geoff Bateman to feedback as he is going anyway. **Action Geoff.**
 - **Regional Spatial Strategy.** SS asked if DRN could use the steering group and the delegates at the Winter Event in a consultation produced by the DCC Spatial planning team to advise the Regional Assembly on rural areas for the regional spatial strategy. **Action HH to circulate a consultation paper to the steering group and put in the delegate pack at the Winter event.**
 - **New Integrated Agency.** Phil Collins offered to update the group on the new Integrated Agency at the next meeting. All agreed that would be very useful. **Action PC.**
9. **DATE and time of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on 25th January 2005 in the Fortescue Room at County Hall. Please report to reception for directions and signing in.