

**Sustainable Farming and Food Action Group**  
**Minutes of meeting**  
**25<sup>th</sup> May 2005, 10.00 County Hall, Exeter**

Present:

Dominic Acland ~ Chair

Mary Rosevear

Carol Trant

Lynne Kenderdine

Jim Skelton

Sarah Colquhoun

Polly Goodwin

Kate Harris

Lisa Henry (DRN)

**1. Apologies:**

Layland Branfield

Mark Hodgson

Mel Hall

Jonathan Smye

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Mel Hall and Layland Branfield will both be representing the NFU on the action group although it is likely that there will only be one rep at meetings

School meals review – that was insufficient time to update on this, KH will send an update via e mail shortly

Fresh Start Programme – a meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April to discuss possible roll out of this programme across Devon – still awaiting feedback from this meeting.

**3. Rural Renaissance**

Mary Talbot-Rosevear introduced this item as the SFFAG representative on the Rural Renaissance/ Funding Reference Action Group. Mary tabled a paper relating to the last meeting of the Group at which it was reported that the POP had been submitted but no response had been made by the RDA (paper attached).

Since that meeting Heather Hillman, Michael Winter and Tom Langdon-Davies have met with the RDA and some verbal feedback has been given, most notably on the structure and process with which the SERC proposal will be delivered. The SWRDA have indicated a preference for a rolling grants programme and a deliver mechanism similar to that for Devon Renaissance. They have also raised concern over Devon County Council acting as the Accountable Body.

It was proposed that lessons could be learnt from the Woodland Renaissance programme, they have recently gone through a similar process with regard to the RDA, the accountable body, and project appraisal process.

The SFF group discussed the potential impacts of these concerns and changes to the proposal as put forward to the RDA and made the following recommendations to the DRN Steering Group/ Rural Renaissance Action Group:

- If the RDA are supportive of the POP to organise the Summer Event around a project development theme
- Launch and publicise the mechanism for bringing project partnerships together – the aims of each project, the funding that will be available from the SERC fund and how much match is required, to ensure project partners fully understand the opportunities and commitment levels involved
- Prepare an appraisal mechanism that utilises member's expertise within the Action Groups, to support the overall appraisal by the RRAG, however need clarity on the expected input from the Action Groups in this process to manage time effectively
- Requirement to have a facilitators role to bring together and assist partnerships for project delivery
- Need to reassert the role of the DRN, achievements so far, and stress the fact that the SERC is an opportunity, but not the role of the DRN.

The SFF action group have asked on a number of occasions for a meeting to be held between the action groups in order that we can work up an effective delivery plan together rather than duplicating efforts.

Action: Lisa to feed back comments from group to Heather

#### **4. Action Plan review**

The group began breaking down the priority projects into manageable actions taking account of recent activity and resources available. This review will continue in the next meeting. In the meantime it was suggested that action group members take some time to look through the

action programme and note their thoughts on short term activities for the group prior to the next meeting.

Details of review so far are attached.

Action: KH to write up actions in form of work plan for the remainder of the year.

Action group members to prepare for next meeting.

## **5. AOB**

Devon Rural Network has a new officer, Lisa Henry who will be working with Heather to take the network forward. The DRN website will be launched in June.

Due to the cost of hiring rooms at Larkebeare and the difficulties of getting into and out of Exeter it has been suggested that venues for SFF meetings are rotated amongst group member's offices, lunch is not compulsory!

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> June 2005, Ockment Centre, Okehampton.