

DRAFT MINUTES

Devon Rural Network Steering Group Meeting

10.30 – 13.00 on Thursday 8th July 2004
At the WDBC Offices, Okehampton

Present:

MW	Michael Winter	University Of Exeter	DRN Chair
IM	Ian Mercer	South West Forest	DRN Vice Chair
HH	Heather Hillman	Devon County Council	DRN Co-ordinator
DW	David Whiteley	N Devon Economic Partnership & N Devon & Exmoor Regeneration Company	
LDG	Lynne Del Greco	SWRDA Devon Area Team	
JT	Jay Talbot	Community Council of Devon	
ME	Michael Ellingham	National Farmers Union	
GB	Geoff Bateman	Environment Agency	
DA	Dominic Acland	Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust	
PW	Philip Wagstaff	The Church & Okehampton MCTI	
SH	Stephen Hill	Mid Devon District Council	

Apologies:

Chris Woodruff	East Devon AONB
Ian Tearle	South West Health Forum
Phil Collins	English Nature
David Incoll	West Devon BC
Steve Pitcher	North Devon DC
Sue Smith	Devon CC
Sue Brownlow	SWRDA
Gary Ensor	Business Link Devon & Cornwall
Phil Collins	English Nature

1. Minutes of meeting held on 19.04.04.

Rural Renaissance: SWRDA are still considering whether or not to allocate the 1.5 million earmarked for a Devon wide SFF bid, to the other two area based bids so that they can cover elements of SFF in their bids. JT indicated that at present projects are coming forward to the Objective 2 area bid and being turned down as there are no funds allocated under this theme. There was concern that the programme is not advising applicants to try again at a later date when funding for SFF type projects may be available. JT agreed to pursue this on behalf of DRN as he is doing so on behalf of CCD anyway. LDG said that an internal decision from the SWRDA would be forthcoming soon regarding the re allocation of the 1.5 million SFF money.

Heart of Devon Area bid: LDG indicated that they have done more work on the strategy, however it was felt that the other prospective partners (such as Mid Devon DC, DCC, DRN) who want to be involved need to know what is happening. LDG to take this back to the next meeting of the Heart of Devon Office working group. MW said that getting all the partners involved is key to getting RR coverage across Devon – perhaps DRN could play a facilitation role in getting chief officers and councillors from all the relevant organisations together to help them understand how important it is to put time into getting the RR bids right. LDG and MW to discuss after the next HOD RR bid OWG meeting. DW suggested that perhaps the RDA should put a time limit on the preparation of bids for RR, otherwise the money could be allocated elsewhere, however the general feeling was that the important thing was to get Devon wide coverage of grants.

2. Update on DRN identity – HH

- Logo – see hard copy to be tabled at the meeting. All agreed this is now OK and in use.
- Information Board – see mock up to be tabled at the meeting. All agreed this is OK.
 - DSP conference – GB and Sue Smith agreed to act as points of contact for DRN at this event.
- Website. The steering group were happy with the suggestions and the way forward through a small working group.
- Terms of Reference and Leaflets. All were happy that these need to be developed and agreed the core advisory group should draft.
- Newsletter – developments. All agreed that the newsletter should be developed and distributed in PDF format with separate sections in future. Articles need to be shorter.

3. Funding

- HH reported that she has done some work critiquing the National Knowledge Management Project – Strengthening Communities in Rural areas – Local Information system toolkit consultation. This should bring in approximately £400 for 8 hours work.
- Countryside Agency – HH asked to contact them again to see if they can spare more than 2k to put towards extra staff resources. HH looking into it.

4. Update on Summer event - Heather

- Programme

Draft Programme: 10.00am until 4.00pm 28th July at the Clinton Hall at Merton

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee and Registration

10.30 – 10.45 Welcome and Introduction to the Day – **Michael Winter, Chair, DRN**

10.45 – 11.15 Presentation on the roll out of the successful SWARD rural regeneration project under the new name of South West Rural Enterprise Gateway by **Rebecca Binns, Contract Manager, Business Link Devon & Cornwall.**

11.15 – 11.45 DRN progress and introduction to the Action Plan and Group Work Aims – **John Wibberley, DRN Core Advisory Group**

11.45 – 12.00 Break

12.00 – 13.00 Group work session 1 – **individual groups facilitated by Core / Steering Group members**

13.00 – 14.00 Devon Lunch and Networking

14.00 – 15.00 Group work session 2 - **individual groups facilitated by Core / Steering Group members**

15.00 – 15.15 Break

15.15 – 16.00 Plenary discussion and next steps **John Wibberley / Michael Winter**

- Facilitator
- Costs - Venue £150, Lunch £5

5. SFF Action Group

Ian Mercer gave a progress report on the Sustainable Farming and Food Action Group. The SFF action plan for Devon will be launched at an event on 12th October 2004, venue as yet to be decided. Charlie is still co-ordinating the group from his new post at Devon Wildlife trust until the new DCC SFF co-ordinator comes into post in early September.

6. Response to Haskins Review.

- Paper – as there is so much else to discuss and further information is due to come out on 13th July it was decided that this would be better dealt with at with in more detail at the next meeting.
- The DRN needs to make a statement following the announcement.

7. Events diary:

28th July	DRN Summer event
End August ?	Potential for joint MCTI forum/DRN workshop on how projects can be delivered and who can help where – with partners who are supporting regeneration I rural areas e.g. DRS, DCC, Districts, Reg Co's, Dev Trusts, Other orgs etc
12th October	SFF Action Plan Launch
13th October	CCD Annual Conference
October Newsletter	
Late November	Rural Strategy Action Plan Launch

8. DRN Action Programme

Group discussion of DRN Draft Action Programme – notes were made on the plan and it has been amended accordingly. Th basic format and priorities were agreed by all. **HH to update.**

9. The date of the Next Meeting is 2nd September 2004 - venue to be confirmed but either WDBC at Okehampton or Exminster house (Environment Agency).