



Welcome to the Sustainable and Resilient Rural Communities Conference

We hope you will enjoy the day which takes a fresh look at the present and future issues faced by rural communities and to celebrate the strengths of our different communities and the statutory and non-statutory organisations that seek to support Sustainability and Resilience.

Partly as a demonstration of what can be achieved by working co-operatively and to make the best use of our resources the Devon Rural Network, Devon Towns Forum and the Carnegie UK Trust came together to co-produced this conference. We are delighted therefore to offer such a range of influential speakers, presentations and workshops. We hope that the day will offer an insight into some of the latest activity aimed at addressing the needs and acknowledging the strengths of Rural Communities.

We hope you will enjoy the day.

Our Key Speakers:



Cllr. Bob Buxton: Bob is the Chairman of the **Devon Towns Forum** and a Councillor on East Devon District Council. Bob is also Chairman of Honiton MCTi, Chairman of Honiton Development Trust and Vice President of Honiton Chamber of Commerce and was voted Honiton Citizen of the Year 2007. Bob has been a supporter of Community Engagement and a staunch community champion throughout the Market and Coastal Initiative Programme. Bob has been on the board of the Devon Towns Forum and the previous Devon Chairs Forum from its inception in 2001. Bob has a strong background in the business and tourism sector with extensive retail experience and local knowledge. Bob is a keen sportsman and recognises the importance of good communication between the community, business and the agencies. Bob is

keen to see the Forum fulfils it potential to foster sound economic principles and good community relationships.



Rev. Philip Wagstaff has worked as a Methodist Church Minister since 1986 and has worked in three different rural areas, West Norfolk, North East Essex and West Devon. He is currently superintendent minister of the West Devon Methodist Circuit, the Rural Officer for the Plymouth and Exeter District of the Methodist Church and a member of the National Free Churches Education Committee. He joined Devon Rural Network (DRN) following the initial meeting at the Two Bridges hotel and is currently chair of DRN, chair of the consultation response action group (CRAG), a member of the South West

Rural Affairs Forum and a board member of Devon Renaissance. In Okehampton he is chair of Devon Heartlands Community forum, chair of Okehampton St John Ambulance, a member of the West Devon

Local Strategic Partnership and of COPSE which is working with the County in the provision for the second primary school in the town.



Dr Kate Braithwaite MBE Kate is the Director of the Carnegie Rural Programme which operates across the UK and Ireland. As the recently published Manifesto for Rural Communities indicates, Carnegie is a strong supporter of community innovation. Kate led the Rural Action Research Programme, working with 44 pioneering rural organisations, including Devon Heartlands. Kate was previously Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Cumbria – the Rural Community Council for the County. With a staff of over 60, she was responsible for the delivery of innovative rural development programmes including Rural Women’s Network, Enterprising Communities (social enterprise support), hosting a LEADER+ programme and work with hill farming communities. Kate chaired Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership and

the Voluntary Sector North West – the regional voluntary and community sector network. She was also a member of Rural Regeneration Cumbria Board with responsibility for socio-economic programmes. Kate has achieved a PhD at Newcastle University – Centre for Rural Economy. She was awarded a MBE in Millennium Honours for services to rural communities.



Trevor Cherrett is an Expert Advisor with the Commission for Rural Communities with extensive experience of the Community and Voluntary Sector including a background working with Rural Community Councils. Also, Trevor recently acted as a consultant advisor to the Carnegie UK Trust’s Rural Programme in particular looking at methods and approaches of ongoing Community led Planning for Rural Communities. This included work in Devon with the Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust as one of eleven Carnegie Rural Action Research Partners. Trevor is currently helping to develop a national rural prospectus with a coalition of organisations sharing a consensus view on the need for stronger delivery of policies aimed at achieving a "living, working countryside. Trevor is also keen that community-led planning fits into future arrangements and to champion case studies of good practice.

Ciaran Lynch is head of the Rural Development Programme and Director of rural development at the Tipperary Institute, and was Director of the Irish LEADER Support Unit until 2006. Has a background in social studies and physical planning, having worked for over 20 years as a town planner with a number of local authorities. He was Chief Planner with Clare County Council and involved in Community Planning and Development as well as Strategic Planning. Ciaran also works with a variety of public and community based organisations on collaborative planning and development issues and has a personal commitment to sustainable rural development and collaborative decision making processes. He was Project manager for the preparation of the Mid-West Regional Authority’s Planning Guidelines and has been involved in the National Spatial Strategy implementation.

Dr Tony Kendle joined the Eden Project full time in September 2000 (although he was part of the development team from 1996) and was appointed Foundation Director in October 2001. As Foundation Director his responsibilities include strategic development of the meaning of the project overseeing the

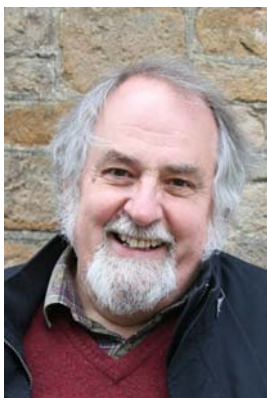
education programme (schools and public), science, outreach and horticulture. Tony has worked as a researcher and consultant both in the UK and overseas specialising in nature conservation, horticulture and restoration of degraded lands.

Dr Juliet Rose has worked for the Eden Project since before its opening in March 2001, on a variety of projects from overseas conservation to post- mining regeneration. Most recently Juliet has worked on projects developed through the Eden Project-Carnegie Trust UK partnership looking at rural community development, regeneration and creative community engagement.

Gill Westcott initially studied economics, and undertook research on agricultural development in India and in South Africa in relation to health and nutrition. She trained third world health economists at the University of Leeds. Family, smallholding and marketing vegetables then took over, along with practicing as a psychotherapist and training counsellors. Lately she has returned to economic issues as a contributor to the Transition Exeter economics group and to the Quaker Living Witness programme, supporting Meetings in their work towards sustainability. She is also engaged in research towards a PhD, currently at Exeter University Politics Department.



Karen Bridgford Based within Devon County Council's Economy Team, Karen Bridgford has managed the Devon Reinvestment Service from its inception in 2003. The Devon Reinvestment Service brings together a partnership of Wessex Reinvestment Trust, Business in the Community and DCC to provide innovative approaches and technical support for Community Asset Development. The Service has supported a wide range of projects across the County including the award-winning Watermark Centre at Ivybridge, Duchy Square – Centre for Creativity at Princetown, numerous community resource centres, community land trust schemes & has just launched the 'DRS Toolkit' as a guide to Community Asset Development.



Bob Paterson is Visiting Social Enterprise Fellow, Community Finance Solutions at the University of Salford. He was the driving force behind the creation of the first Community Reinvestment Trusts in Britain. Following research work the CRT model has been extended to include land and property and a report Capturing Value for Rural Communities examined ways of making housing and workspace permanently affordable by separating the cost of land from the cost of housing, using Community Land Trusts (CLTs) or similar structures. This work has continued and he is leading the CLT National Demonstration Programme supporting rural and urban CLTs. Bob was elected as an Ashoka Fellow in March 2008.

Ally Rood is a planner with particular interest in rural planning. She joined the Commission for Rural Communities in 2007 where she leads on spatial planning.

Ally joined the Commission from the South West office of Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency) where she worked on planning and transport issues. During this time she contributed to Landscape Character Assessment Topic Papers, liaised with the South West Regional Assembly on the rural content of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy and worked closely with a variety of AONBs establishing design guidance, management plans and developing relationships between AONB teams and local planning authorities.

Prior to working for the Countryside Agency, Ally worked in both development control and forward planning departments of a local planning authority.



About the Devon Towns Forum in brief:

The Devon Towns Forum is supported by the Market and Coastal Towns Network, the South West Regional Development Agency and Devon County Council to provide all of Devon's Market Town level Community Partnerships with a range of free complimentary support and networking services designed to support Devon's economy and environment. This includes county and regional representation, networking, free partnership training, marketing and communication support, sharing experiences and the promotion of good practice and joined-up working. The Forum is well known for its excellent value for money approach and its specialist-subject seminars and conferences all carefully designed to help communities engage directly with the experts and the supporting agencies. Find out more by visiting www.devontownsforum.org.uk or contact us by telephone on 01805 624874 or send an e-mail to info@devontownsforum.org.uk



About the Devon Rural Network In brief:

The Devon Rural Network (DRN) was launched in 2003 by Lord Haskins. The Network was set up in the wake of the Foot & Mouth outbreak in 2001, which had a huge economic and social cost in Devon. The outbreak highlighted the underlying rural crisis that preceded it and the dependence of all rural sectors upon each other. The Rural Strategy was developed to address both the problems and the opportunities of rurality by proposing projects and providing a delivery framework. The Network is responsible for implementing the Devon Rural Strategy, produced by the Devon Strategic Partnership's Rural Task Group, which was launched in parallel with the network. The DRN is a partnership of voluntary, statutory and private sector organisations, from grass roots level through to regional level, that have joined forces because they all have a stake in rural Devon. A single voice is often louder. The network is presided by Professor Michael Winter OBE of the University of Exeter and chaired by Rev Philip Wagstaff. For more information visit www.drn.org.uk.