

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Rural West APB**

Held on: Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 @10.00am

Venue: Barbour Institute, Tattenhall

### **Present**

Lesley Bassett – CW&C Council

Carol Berry – Chester Voluntary Action

Debra Brown – CW&C Council (Rural West)

Rob Callow – CW&C (Rural West)

Chris Capes – CW&C Council

Paul Davies – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Assembly

Elaine Grant – CW&C (Rural West)

Pat Johnson – NHS Western Cheshire

Steve Kent – CW&C Council

Cllr. Kay Loch – CW&C Council

Alison Roylance- White – Cheshire Community Action (Chair)

Carol Weaver – Rural Parishes Representative

### **Apologies**

Phil Hodgson – Cheshire Police

Julia Nundy – Chester District Housing Trust

Cllr. Stuart Parker – CW&C Council

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

The chair, Alison Roylance – White welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.

## 2. Notes & Matters Arising from last meeting

The notes from the previous APB meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

The updates on the two actions from the last meeting were as follows:

**Rural Day Centres** – The three Day Centres in the Rural West area, Malpas, Tattenhall and Kelsall had each received £2000 from the Rural West APB budget to cover the initial start up expenses. The day centres were all now up and running and the transitional period had been relatively smooth from the clients' perspective.

### **New Wards and Area Working Opportunities**

**Action from previous meeting:** It had been agreed by Alison and Rob to leave this action until after the local elections. An informal meeting has taken place with Saughall & Shotwick Parish Council which led to a number of positive actions namely the development of a number of health projects in the parish.

## 3. Update Report

The latest Rural West APB Update Report highlighted the most recent community forums, rural issues, country markets, information about the elections and the changes to the ward boundaries.

It became apparent during the discussion that followed that the Update had not been as widely circulated as expected despite having been sent out electronically within the Rural West Area.

**Action:** Suggestion to include the Chair of Chalc in the email distribution of the Rural West Update Report and consider emailing parish councillors directly.

There was an agreed change of order to the Agenda.

## 4. Rural Regeneration and Housing Strategy

The Chair reported that as over the last year a number of key national and local changes have been influencing the partnership landscape and at local level with the development of the Rural Regeneration and Housing Strategies there was now a need to have a stronger and firmer focus on both strategy and direction of travel for the APB so that it would be able to respond to the challenges ahead.

Chris Capes and Lesley Bassett gave a joint presentation to the APB, Chris on the Rural Regeneration Consultation which closes on the 20<sup>th</sup> June culminating with the Rural Conference on 23rd June and Lesley on the Housing Strategy.

Chris highlighted various priorities within the strategy e.g. a Rural Metro Plan and reported that as the consultation period still had a couple of weeks to run, a formal response from the Rural West APB would be appreciated. Chris was now looking at how to manage delivery of this piece of work as it will be adopted by the authority.

Lesley reported on the challenges and opportunities in meeting future household demand. A discussion followed regarding under occupancy and Rent a Room schemes. It was also suggested that there may be more affordable housing in some areas of Rural West (e.g. Neston) than had been acknowledged within the consultation.

**Actions:**

- Rural West APB's strategic response to the Rural Regeneration Consultation. **RC/ARW/PJ/CW/KL**
- Information and evidence to be directed to the APB to give a more strategic and robust direction to the APB's future focus. **(All)**

## 5. Refresh of APB Priorities and Area Plan

It was agreed that the relevant points relating to the APB priorities and Plan had been discussed in the previous item.

In summary:

**Action:**

- To review the key points and priorities impacting in Rural West and develop a revised APB action plan
- Information and evidence to be directed to the APB to give a more strategic and robust direction to the APB's future focus. **(All)**

## 6. Draft Engagement Plan

It had been suggested that a shared APB Community Engagement Plan that mapped out and promoted engagement activity across all partners, would avoid duplication, reduce the number of meetings, rationalise structures and allow for more joined up consultation and communication.

Debra Brown had drawn up a draft community engagement plan which had been recently updated to capture activities that were being promoted by the PCT. The Plan was flexible and once the key priorities of the Rural West APB had been refreshed they would also be included in addition to contributions of delivery and engagement plans from the APB partners.

**Action:** To inform Debra Brown of planned community events so that they can be captured within the APB Engagement Plan. **(Partners)**

## **7. Community Forum Update**

A general discussion followed on the last three Rural West community forums that had taken place earlier in the year.

It had been established in an earlier discussion that Community Forums are currently under review as a Localism Scrutiny Committee had recently been set up to establish the success/improvement of Neighbourhood Planning, Area Partnership Boards and Community Forums over the past two years.

It was agreed that the Community Forums were useful vehicles for taking strategies out to public especially if they were made local or relevant to a particular area.

## **8. Dates of Future Meetings**

To be confirmed