

## SURREY COUNTRYSIDE AND RURAL ENTERPRISE FORUM

### NOTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2014

(Chair: Simon Whalley)

**Attendees:** Simon Whalley, Mike Goodman, Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Graham Butler, Alison Field, Helen Cocker, Stewart Cocker, Ron Pritchard, Karen Guest, Belinda Purcell, Gordon Jackson, Chris Howard, Ken Bare, David Munro, Isobel Shayle, Nigel Davenport, Paul Stacey, Bronwen Chinien, Edward Cowley, Alison Sheard, David Harmer, Aimee Clarke, CPRE, David Kennington, Simon Mathews, Jason Gaskell, Paul Wickham, Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Jane Bowden, Paul Anderson, Mark Pearson, David Greenwood, Rachael Felberg.

**Apologies:** Ian Boast, Malcolm Brabon, Rob Fairbanks, Sean Harrison, Jonathan Hodrien, Claire Kerr, Sandra Nichols, Alison Peacham, Anna Tomkins, James Turner, Sir Graham Wilkinson, Matthew Woodcock, David Wright, Deborah Wyatt, Ian Gayton, Lesley Harding.

		Action
1	<b>Welcome</b>  Cllr David Munro welcomed everyone to the Forum and to Surrey County Council.	
2	<b>Agree Minutes from Last Meeting</b>  Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2014 agreed.  <u>Matters arising:</u>  Lisa Creaye Griffin agreed to approach the Rural Farming Network to see if they wished to join the Group.  It was agreed that minutes should be publicly available and a page on the SCC can be developed for these.	       <b>LCG</b>       <b>DG</b>
3	<b>Agree Terms of Reference for SCREF Forum</b>  David Greenwood outlined SCREF Forum Draft Terms of Reference for discussion. It was agreed that there should be 2 meetings per year of the main Forum. It was agreed that all groups should elect their own Chairman and this would be for a term of 3 years.  It was suggested that recognition of the relationship with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) be incorporated into the	

	<p>Terms of Reference.</p> <p>It was suggested that the wording under Membership of the SCREF forum be changed to 'Membership is open to organisations supporting the objectives of improving Surrey's countryside'</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Membership of SCREF Forum</b></p> <p>The meeting was asked to identify if there are any other organisations who should be involved in the Forum. Suggestions to <a href="mailto:david.greenwood@surreycc.gov.uk">david.greenwood@surreycc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Each Borough and district in the Parks and Countryside Forum have been invited to send a representative to the SCREF Forum. Mike Goodman and Simon Whalley are also visiting Districts and Boroughs to meet with Leaders and Chief Executives.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Update on Task Groups and Priority Projects</b></p> <p><u>Visitor Economy:</u> Gordon Jackson introduced the priorities of the Task group and Karen Guest provided an update on visitor improvement proposals at Newlands Corner. A visitor questionnaire can be found at: <a href="http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/visitor-services/visitor-facility-improvements-survey">http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/visitor-services/visitor-facility-improvements-survey</a></p> <p><u>Woodland Group:</u> Simon Whalley reported on behalf of Matthew Woodcock. Access, skills and woodfuel are the 3 priority themes that the Task Group are taking forward.</p> <p><u>Food and Drink:</u> Mark Pearson reported that the Group had met a couple of times they had been working with Surrey Hills Enterprises and developing a concept for a 'kitchen hub' at Gosden House School. Food and Drink Festivals and links to the County Show will be developed.</p> <p><u>Education:</u> Aimee Clarke reported on work to broaden the representation on the group and projects to help share information and skills.</p> <p><u>Landscape and Habitat Management:</u> Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira updated the meeting regarding the Capital Downs bid which is being led by the London Wildlife Trust. A joint event on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 will be held to develop a Habitat Creation Register for Surrey.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Proposals for a Mountain Bike Strategy</b>	

	<p>Lisa Creaye-Griffin stated that although a trail had been developed on Leith Hill some issues were still being raised. Particular concerns in the Surrey Hills are infrastructure, the effect on communities and economic return. Along with the Surrey Countryside Access Forum (SCAF), it is felt there is need for a strategic plan to cover issues, and ways of tackling those issues and developing the beneficial sides of Rural Cycling.</p> <p>The next steps are to gather evidence, ensure mapping is done and develop an engagement plan. It was noted that when new trails are formed or constructed some form of guidance or strategy is needed.</p> <p>It was agreed to set up a Task Group. Lisa Creaye-Griffin to organise an initial meeting of the Task Group</p>	<b>LCG</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Communication Task Group</b></p> <p>Simon Whalley outlined the proposal that a SCREF Communications Task Group is established to help facilitate both internal and external communication. It was agreed that there is a need for clarity about communication objectives.</p> <p>Mike Goodman suggested that the Communications Task Group released a summary/update every quarter of what each Task Group was doing.</p> <p>The Communications Group should help serve the communication needs of the SCREF Task Groups.</p> <p>Isobel Shayle agreed to be Lead for the Communications Task Group. Those interested in participation were asked to contact David Greenwood at <a href="mailto:david.greenwood@surreycc.gov.uk">david.greenwood@surreycc.gov.uk</a></p>	<b>IS</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>A Rural Strategy for Surrey</b></p> <p>David Greenwood outlined a proposal to develop a Rural Strategy for Surrey. The Forum agreed that this would be valuable and that a sub-group of SCREF be formed to help produce this. Jason Gaskell offered to chair the task group. Potential participants were asked to contact David Greenwood at <a href="mailto:david.greenwood@surreycc.gov.uk">david.greenwood@surreycc.gov.uk</a></p>	<b>DG</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Feedback from Meetings with Districts and Boroughs</b></p> <p>Mike Goodman outlined that 5 Districts and Boroughs have been visited with 7 more left to be visited. From the 5 visited very</p>	

	<p>positive feedback was received, they all really want to work with SCREF and have projects they want to take forward.</p>	
<b>10/11</b>	<p><b>Cross Border Communication with Hampshire, Kent and West Sussex/Feedback from meetings with Local Enterprise Partnerships</b></p> <p>The potential to develop links with neighbouring Counties was highlighted eg for food initiatives.</p> <p>Alison Field reported that the Forestry Commission has engaged with LEPs to develop opportunities for business growth in both woodfuel and local wood in construction. £800k has been secured from Coast to Capital and Enterprise M3 are potentially keen to support in future funding periods. The Forestry Commission need to submit a Business Plan by the end of November.</p> <p>The issue of broadband in rural Surrey was raised. Surrey is considered to be one of the best counties for delivering the improvements and gaining coverage in rural areas. Mike Goodman will check the position of the broadband improvement work.</p>	<b>Mike Goodman</b>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>SCREF Spring Conference</b></p> <p>A SCREF conference is planned for March 2015. Possible venues considered include County Hall, HG Wells, WWF, Denbies. Jason Gaskell suggested that a village hall could be a good venue.</p> <p>Breakout workshops at the Conference were suggested so that people could focus on things that were of more interest to them. This could include workshops to help develop a Rural Strategy for Surrey.</p> <p>A charge of between £25 to £30 for the event was suggested. The SCREF Executive will develop a programme and circulate details of the conference to the Forum in due course.</p>	<b>SCREF Executive</b>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira informed the Forum that there is a Surrey Nature Partnership/Health and Wellbeing Board event on 5/12/2014 exploring the links between the natural environment and health. Email <a href="mailto:alex.learmont@surreywt.org.uk">alex.learmont@surreywt.org.uk</a> to book a place.</p> <p>A meeting with Surrey Heath Borough identified a wish to</p>	

	develop Heathland work in the borough. It was suggested that this could link to the Surrey Heathland Project, Surrey Wildlife Trust or Landscape and Habitat Task Group as appropriate.	
<b>14</b>	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b> June and November 2015 – dates to be confirmed.	