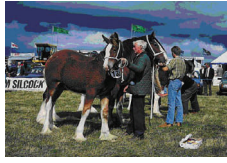


Rural Matters September 2006

Newsletter of the Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Affairs Forum



Welcome to the **September** 2006 issue of Rural Matters, which has evolved to be the newsletter of the Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Affairs Forum (Y&H RAF). The aim of the Y&H RAF, which comprises a wide and representative range of rural interests, is to provide an opportunity to influence policy-making and delivery affecting rural parts of the region and to further implementation of the Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Framework (see: [Rural Framework](#)).

NEWS

Triple Success for Community Rail Partnerships in The Humber

Community Rail Humber (managed by Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council), the Yorkshire Coast Community Rail Partnership (YCCRP) and the Barton Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership (BCCRP) are celebrating three awards at the National Association for Community Rail Partnerships Awards held on 22nd September at Shildon, County Durham.

First prize for Best Station Buffet went to the 'Under the Clock No 2 Bar' at Cleethorpes Station. The facility is encouraging more passengers to use the station and complements the work undertaken by First Trans Pennine Express to upgrade the station.

Community Rail Humber took the second place award for Best Marketing Programme. Through working very closely with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the YCCRP, this award acknowledges the huge efforts of the members to publicise activity outside the area.

The outstanding floral displays at Bridlington Station achieved third prize in the Best Station Garden category.



L to R: John Sadler (YCCRP Chair) David Walford, David Moir (BCCRP Chair) and Brian Witty (HWRCC Exec Member) celebrate their success at the event

David Walford, the sub-regional Rail Development Officer at Community Rail Humber, paid tribute to everyone who had worked to bring these awards to the region. "Community Rail is at an all time high in this region. We have two outstanding Community Rail Partnerships supported by Community Rail Humber and some very active local authorities. Working so well with all the train operators, the result is better facilities for passengers and more people using the trains."

David was particularly pleased that the relatively new Barton Cleethorpes CRP has been so successful and urged more people to sample the facilities. "It is another example of many different partners all working to one aim: improving the experience for passengers travelling by train, locally and inter city. All these improvements, large and small, do make a difference."

For further information, please contact David Walford on 01377 232132 or david.walford@hwrcc.org.uk

Make Fuel Poverty History

September 19th saw the launch of the 'Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan' led by the Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber with the support of National Energy Action. It provides a framework of actions for partners working at a regional level to "make fuel poverty history" in Yorkshire and The Humber.

A 'fuel poor household' is defined as one which needs to spend more than 10% of its income to heat the home to an adequate standard of warmth.

In North Yorkshire, the highest levels of fuel poverty are found in the coastal resorts of Scarborough (highest at 27%), Whitby and Bridlington (36% in one ward) plus inland urban areas around Goole, Selby and remote rural areas around the North Yorkshire Moors.

In West Yorkshire, Bradford, at nearly 18%, has the highest proportion of households in fuel poverty. Leeds has an estimated 15.4%, with Wakefield at 16.4% - equivalent to nearly 22,000 households - living in cold, damp conditions.

Among the plan's main priorities are:

- Finding those who fall outside fuel poverty schemes and ways to fill funding gaps
- Simplifying the processes involved for seeking assistance
- Identifying regional energy champions
- Lobbying Government for longer-term funding
- Mapping out in detail which parts of the region are most at risk
- Raising awareness and providing more training to all the front-line professionals involved - from healthcare and home visitors to the fuel and energy sector

The full Action Plan is soon to be posted on the home page of the GOYH website: <http://www.goyh.gov.uk>

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Affordable Rural Housing

Defra has released the Affordable Rural Housing Commission report that was presented to Government in May this year. The report includes a range of practical recommendations for the Government, and others, on ways to improve access to affordable housing for those who live and work in rural areas. The full report is available on Defra's Affordable Rural Housing webpage: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/arh/index.htm>

In Yorkshire and The Humber, a jointly organised event "Affordable Rural Housing - Lessons Learnt" is being held on 18th October, in Bingley. This is being organised by Bradford Council Beacon Authority, Yorkshire and Humberside Housing Forum and Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber with funding support from Defra.

The full programme is currently being prepared, and further information is available by contacting Margaret Carroll at Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber on 0113 2836335 or Margaret.Carroll@goyh.gsi.gov.uk

Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 (RDPE)

Further to the August edition of Rural Matters focussing on the RDPE implementation plan in Yorkshire and The Humber, the Defra RDPE website has now gone live. This includes a link to a detailed Q & A paper and various useful documents such as the Rural Development Regulations and the newly released summary consultation response. http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/rdp07_13/default.htm

An update on progress in Yorkshire and The Humber will be given at the next Rural Affairs Forum meeting, 7th November.

RSS Examination in Public

Further to an item at the last Y&H RAF meeting, The Regional Spatial Strategy's Examination in Public (EiP) is currently underway at the Metropole Hotel, central Leeds and is continuing until the end of October. The EiP has been called in to discuss and test the Yorkshire and Humber Plan in public before an independent Panel appointed by the Secretary of State.

Themes that have been discussed in **September** include:

- Overall Approaches and Key Priorities
- Visions for the Sub-Areas
- Economic Growth, including retail
- Housing (day 1)

Themes to be discussed in **October** include:

- Housing (continued)
- Environment, including waste management
- Transport

Attending the EiP

Although all the questions and issues to be discussed have already been put forward, interested parties may go to observe the proceedings. As observers, rather than pre-determined participants, they may not ask questions or make comments. Booking is not required, although space may be limited.

Further information is available from the following links:

[EiP Panel Secretariat Webpage](#) including contact details of the secretariat and supplementary questions addressed at the EiP. [RSS Examination in Public Programme](#) giving an overview of what issues are to be discussed by date and the participants.

The Metropole Hotel is less than a 5 minute walk from Leeds station on King Street, LS1 2HQ (just off Wellington Street) See link: [Metropole Hotel, Leeds](#)



Notice Board

The Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Affairs Forum will take place on Tuesday 7th November at the Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground from 9.30am for 10am. Lunch will be provided. Further information will be circulated to members in October, including terms of reference and the draft agenda.

Ministers Meeting with RAF Chairs

October 17th sees this quarter's meeting of RAF Chairs with the Defra Minister, Barry Gardiner, who has Rural Affairs in his remit. Members' views on 'hot topics' for discussion, if time permits, have been sought. Topics suggested nationally include the possibility of rural Post Office closure, losses of rural filling stations, affordable housing and the possible implications arising from the reconfiguration of Primary Care Trusts.

Members Events

- **Active Learning for Rural Development:** Bradford Metropolitan District Council, as a Rural Beacon Council, are taking a practical approach to tackling rural issues and their applicability elsewhere. They are putting on sessions entitled 'Joined up working for Parish Councils' and 'Responding to Community Needs' taking place in October, November and January. There will be three sessions for each, but places are limited with a tight application deadline of October 2nd. Contact Dave Melling on 01274 433880 for further information.
- **Seminars on EU Opportunities for Rural Cultural Initiatives - October 2006:** Would you like to know about new opportunities / funding for culture and creativity through the Common Agricultural Policy from 2007? If the answer is 'yes' and you work in arts and culture development, or you are a practitioner working in a rural context, or a policy maker concerned with rural regeneration, or you work for an economic development agency or trust interested in rural issues, then read on to find out about a new series of seminars from EUCLID at nine locations across the country. For further information see www.euclid.info
- **The Rural Housing Trust seminar:** An event aimed at rural landowners will be held on Tuesday 10 October at Sawley Village Hall, Sawley, Harrogate District and is being organised on behalf of Harrogate Borough Council and Nidderdale AONB with the support of the Country, Land and Business Association in Yorkshire (CLA Yorkshire). Although the event is invitation only, spare places may be available. For further information, including to request notes following the event, please contact Rebecca.Beaumont@ruralhousing.org.uk or phone 0207 7938114.
- **Y & H Regional Rural Health Development Network Meeting:** Tuesday 21st November 10-12.30. Location: St. John's House, NHS Yorkshire and the Humber, York Base, York University Science Park, York. For further information contact Graham Moore graham.moore@dh.gsi.gov.uk or on 0113 2835444.