



We invite you to join us for the

Action in rural Sussex (AirS) and
Sussex Associations of Local Councils (SALC)
Joint Conference and AGM 2013

on

Thursday 7 November 2013

at

The Amex Stadium, Village Way, Brighton, BN1 9BL

Title: Growth – for whose benefit?

AirS and SALC have combined to provide a stimulating Conference that will examine how the reliance on economic growth for public sector service provision will play out in the rural areas of East and West Sussex.

The levels of apparent economic growth that preceded 2008 have started to seem like a distant memory. Since then individuals, communities and businesses have come through a period of dramatic political and economic adjustment and achieved greater realism about where sources of genuine economic growth lie.

Whichever government is in power after the next election, one thing is certain: there will be further change driven by the need to ensure that public spending on essential services does not exceed the resources that the economy can supply, with or without growth. The recession of the last few years has also masked underlying changes in the population that yearly add to calls on the public purse. Further, the current government has signalled its intention to ensure that services provided by local government are funded by local taxation – Council Tax and Business Rates. Localism will have a very real local impact, especially on aspirations for growth.

Against this background, what services can we realistically expect local government to provide? What must communities do for themselves? What form of economic growth will sustain a high quality of life for all, not just for some? Our conference sets out to explore these questions and at least make some progress towards answers.

DRAFT AGENDA

9.30 Arrival

10.00 **Sussex Associations of Local Councils (SALC) AGM**

CONFERENCE

Morning Session Chaired by Lord John Lytton

11.00 **Keynote Speech: Department for Communities and Local Government**
Local Government, locally funded; the role of Town and Parish Councils

The District view: Gary Wall, Leader of Mid Sussex District Council
Economic pressure as a driver for change in local government.

12.45 Lunch and Market Place - including engagement and opinion gathering

14.00 **Afternoon Session Chaired by Barby Dashwood-Morris, Chair of Action in rural Sussex**

Jeremy Leggett, Action in rural Sussex
Hanging by a thread of growth – living and working rural communities.

Andrew Lee, South Downs National Park
Interdependence between economic growth and the environment.

Becky Shaw, CEO of East Sussex County Council
Can we fund local services from growth in the economy?

John Peel, Chairman of Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership
How will Local Enterprise Partnerships enable growth through their strategic economic plans?

15.30 Panel discussion

CONFERENCE ENDS

16.00 **Action in rural Sussex (AirS) AGM**

17.00 Close

The AGMs are open to Members at no cost.

Attendance at the Conference, between 11.00am – 16.00, including lunch and refreshments, will be £48.00 including VAT per person.

Further details on booking arrangements will be available in due course.

September 2013

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12. **Blagrove Trust Fund**
13. **Age UK Summer Campaign – Rural Raiser Events**

1. TIES (Transforming Infrastructure in East Sussex) Events:

Give and Gain Event – 11 September 2013

On 11 September, through the TIES project, AirS is running a Give and Gain Event in Uckfield with 'Business in the Community'. The event is being held at Uckfield Civic Centre and runs from 6.00pm – 8.30pm with light refreshments.

TIES aims to build links between businesses and voluntary groups. The project is being run by a partnership of organisations: Action in Rural Sussex, 3VA, Rother Voluntary Action and Hastings Voluntary Action.

The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity for businesses to meet with local voluntary and community organisations for mutual benefit. There could be services that businesses could be offering to Voluntary Organisations and also opportunities for those organisations to access expertise and services locally. The Uckfield event, one of three being organised, is going to concentrate on reaching as many rural businesses as possible.

In each of the previous 2 events, one in Hastings and the other in Eastbourne, over 50 businesses and voluntary organisations attending a lively evening and over 100 pledges were made of help and support between participants. As a result real progress is being made to develop good relationships between the two sectors in East Sussex.

The event on the 11 September will use the same successful format but it needs your help to spread the word and to sign up to attend. Please click on the link to the attached flyer that provides the essential information about the event.

<http://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/assets/assets/AirSGiveandGainFlyer110913.pdf>

For more information and to book a place please email Philippa Coomber, AirS Administrator, at philippa.coomber@ruralsussex.org.uk

2. AirS Autumn 2013 Village Hall Workshops

Saturday 21 September:

Barnham Community Hall, near Arundel, West Sussex, 10.00am - 12:30pm

Friday 11 October:

Horam Village Hall, near Heathfield East Sussex, 2.00pm - 4.30pm.

(Sandwich lunch available from 1:30pm)

These are opportunities to see two inspiring halls and hear about the management and funding of the new £1.3 million Barnham Community Hall and Community Park and how Horam Village Hall Committee has made their hall such a busy, strong community focus. There will be talks about community film shows and from halls which have invested in renewable energy, time to share experience with other halls and ask questions. For more details and to book a place please email harry.forster@ruralsussex.org.uk.

3. AirS - East Sussex Village Care Programme

AirS is interested in hearing from organisations and groups that have developed successful fitness and physical activities sessions for the over 50s in their village. We would like to spread good ideas and successes through our networks so if you are interested in providing a good case study please contact Claire Reynolds at AirS on claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org.uk

In addition if you have a **bowls club** (indoor or outdoor) and want to run an open day to attract more members or run some 'have a go' sessions then you may find that there is funding available for such an event from Active Sussex. For more information please contact Rob Hardy at playbowlssussex@activesussex.org

4. AirS Young Heritage Task Group Project

The idea for the Young Heritage Task Group project came partly from a previous project delivered by Action in rural Sussex, involving a group of young people who met regularly and worked on projects to promote practical and vocational learning. Their biggest success was around developing resources and delivering training to employers around improving work experience for young people. We wanted to combine this way of working with young people with developing new skills and improving young people's participation in heritage activities. Young people living in rural areas often have difficulty in accessing cultural and heritage activities, largely due to lack of transport and financial disadvantages. These same difficulties can also hamper their opportunities to volunteer and gain new experiences and skills, which can impact on their applications for work or further education.

The Young Heritage Task Group engaged with isolated and disadvantaged young people living in rural areas and focused on developing a wide range of skills with that group, through volunteering and participating in a range of activities across several heritage sites and services. These activities were developed by the project leader, participants and heritage partners to ensure that there were opportunities for the participants to develop new skills and knowledge, that:

i) enabled young participants to learn more about the varied roles within the heritage sector, such as education, technology, visitor services and audience development

ii) were transferable to other areas of life including work or further study

iii) promoted interest and engagement in natural and built heritage for life

If you would like a copy of the report please email tom.warder@ruralsussex.org.uk.

5. The John Muir Award

This was a joint venture between Sussex Downs College, South Downs National Park and Action in rural Sussex and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This was a group of young people aged 16+ who were members of the iProject Outdoor Construction course at Sussex Downs College. The course worked with participants giving them new skills and experience whilst they planned their next move, whether that was further education or employment. The theme of the project was to use skills and experiences gained from working in areas of the South Downs National Park to develop an outdoor classroom and wildlife area.

For more information please contact Tom Warder at AirS via email at tom.warder@ruralsussex.org.uk

6. What's happening in your Parish? - a snapshot of village life in 2013.

We are looking to create a 'snapshot' of what is happening in the villages across the County of Sussex and would be grateful if every Parish could let us have a current copy of their Parish Magazine / Monthly Newsletter in order for us to achieve this. We are especially interested to see the range of clubs and societies that are currently active in each Parish as well as the local businesses that operate out of them.

Please send information to: Claire Reynolds, Administrator, Action in rural Sussex, Sussex House, 212 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2NH or email it to claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org.uk by the end of September.

7. Apple Day – 22 September 2013



A seasonal celebration: apple fun for all the family!



This year's Apple Day, organised by Brighton Permaculture Trust is being held at Stanmer Park, Brighton, BN1 9QA on Sunday 22 September 2013 from 11.00am – 5.00pm.

There will be orchard, games, music, juices and cider, kids activities, trees for sale, cookery demos, talks on apples and much more.

For more information about the day please visit:

<http://www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk/courses-conferences-and-events/apple-day.html>

8. Transforming our communities together Event – 14 November 2013

Please see below an invitation to a special community engagement event that is working in partnership with Sussex Police. This free event is being held at Windlesham House on Thursday 14th November starting at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.

This event aims to highlight inspirational community initiatives that are making a significant difference locally. It offers a timely opportunity to explore ways to improve joined-up work with our authorities to provide vital social provision at this critical time. We have an excellent line-up of speakers who will help generate valuable discussion.

This event will help you find out how to apply for micro-grant seed-funding to start tailor-made initiatives to meet specific needs in your area. Through working together we can help reduce crime, make our communities safer and build on current partnerships to make an even greater difference across Sussex.

Places are limited for this event and will be provided on a first-come first-served basis.

Windlesham House School
www.windlesham.com



Windlesham

'Transforming Our Communities Together'

7.30pm Thursday 14th November 2013

You are warmly invited to attend this special event with:

Steve Chalke, UN Human Trafficking Special Advisor
Matt Bird, Chair of 10 Downing St Community Advisory Group
Chief Supt Martin Walker, Sussex Police Divisional Commander
Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

This is a community engagement event working in partnership with Sussex Police.
Places are limited. To register email Mr Justin Blake jblake@windlesham.com

9. High Weald Community Landscape Grant Fund 2013 / 2014

Grants are now available for local landscape action. Are you aware of a new community project that needs some funding to get it off the ground or to make it bigger? Would the project make the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) a better place to live, work or visit?

If so, you may be interested in the High Weald Community Landscape Fund 2013 / 2014. The Fund can provide small grants (up to £2000) for projects that result in:

- AONB Landscape features that are:
- better managed and in better condition
- better interpreted and explained
- better identified / recorded

More people and a wider range of people that have:

- developed heritage skills
- learnt about landscape
- access the area's landscape
- changed their attitudes and / or behaviour towards landscape
- used local products
- volunteered time

To find out if the Fund may be helpful to you please contact Samantha Nicholas at the High Weald AONB Unit for further information and advice. Tel: 01580 879500 or email s.nicholas@highweald

10. Countryside Alliance Awards

The ninth annual "Rural Oscars" are open to nominations

The 2013 Countryside Alliance Awards are now open to nominations, so please join us in celebrating the best of British produce and community-spirit - nominate now at www.countrysideallianceawards.org.uk. Nominations are open until 1st November and hard-copy forms can be ordered from awards@countryside-alliance.org.

The Awards, nicknamed "The Rural Oscars" are now in their ninth year. Set up to give a platform and a voice to rural businesses and communities, they have quickly become the gold standard of rural awards. Running across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales in four categories, they bring a diverse and passionate group of people to national attention.

We are keen for you to tell us your favourite rural businesses so that we can honour our unsung heroes and tell a positive story in the media about rural life.

The categories are:

1. Local Food
2. Village Shop/ Post Office
3. Butcher
4. Start-up (for businesses trading 24 months or fewer)

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson will once again be on the judging panel, joining our own Barney White-Spunner along with Philip Johnston of the Daily Telegraph, Master Butcher David Lidgate, Emma Penny of Farmers Guardian, Chris Dewbury of Hunter and the inimitable cook, author and countrywoman Clarissa Dickson Wright.

11. The Post Office Community Enterprise Fund

The Post Office Community Enterprise Fund has been set up to encourage post office branches in England to undertake new schemes or services that will benefit their communities and boost local enterprise. The Fund asks residents to suggest projects their post office could back to benefit the local area, including mentoring for business start-ups, digital access and training and display space for local producers. Branches will select suitable projects, which must be not-for-profit but provide a service, activity or support that are easily accessible and open to all.

The initiative is expected to support a maximum of 20 schemes across the country during 2013/14. Individual grants of up to £10,000 will be provided.

The funds are available for sub-postmasters in post office branches throughout England, working in consultation with residents from their local communities. The competition is not open to Crown branches.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 18 October 2013. For more information please go to: <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/community-enterprise-fund>

12. Blagrove Trust Fund

Sussex Community Foundation is managing a new fund by The Blagrove Trust. Funds are available to charities which support children and young people (aged 0-25) to reach their full potential, including those with special needs or who are disabled and their families. The fund is open to charities working in Sussex with an annual income of between £150,000 and £500,000 who are embedded in their communities and whose core work is with children and young people. **Deadline for applications is the 27 September 2013**

For an application form and guidelines please go to: www.sussexgiving.org.uk.

You can also ring the Sussex Community Foundation office on 01273 409 440 for them to email or send you a hard copy.

13. Age UK Summer Campaign – Rural Raiser Events

Can you help support the older people in Horsham District by holding a ‘**Rural Raiser**’ for Age UK Horsham District?

Did you know that **65%** of people in Horsham District live in rural areas? Much higher than the average for the rest of West Sussex (24%)

Living in the countryside has many benefits, but for lots of older people it can also be a large barrier for accessing services, transport and the infrastructure that many who live in an urban area take for granted.

What we can do

Age UK Horsham District has developed vital services that tackle the needs of older people and ensure they are available to all, regardless of location. Many of our services like Home Visiting or Information and Advice actually travel to visit older people in their own home to guarantee they can access the same support as everyone else.

Information & Advice deals with many relevant financial issues for older people such as Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance and Housing Benefit. Last year they unlocked nearly **£1 million** for the local older people. Money that can help heat homes, afford transport or go towards living costs.

'100% of I&A clients said that they found the advisor helpful, knowledgeable and that we had made a difference in their life.' – Information and Advice survey 2013

The above services **do not charge any money** for the work they do as we believe that it is crucial for the community. Because of this they have no regular income and so we are reliant on fundraising and donations to continue this service.

What you can do

We are calling on the communities of Horsham District to hold a fundraising activity to support these crucial charitable services. Can you hold a 'Rural Raiser' to generate funds that can help us reach as many isolated people as possible and expand our services to meet their needs. For details, ideas or a 'Rural Raiser' poster to advertise your activity, please contact Lawrie Mallyon on 01403 260 560 or 07910 385 926

Here are some ideas for your 'Rural Raiser' but make your activity as big or small as you like:

Village Town Hall – The staple of rural life. Get in touch to see if you can run an event at your town hall or if they'll hold one for you. Anything from a cake sale to a children's activity day can be a really fun way to raise funds.

Open Garden – If you've spent time tending your green patch, why not open it up for an afternoon and invite people to come and have a look round and make a donation for entry. Make sure to offer cups of tea to those attending!

Your Local Pub – The village local often plays a crucial role in rural areas providing a meeting spot for the residents. Approach the pubs near you and see if they will help hold a small event to raise money. A family fun day or a beer garden bbq make great fundraisers.

Outdoor Event – Anything from a sponsored walk, run, cycle can be a great way to get people to give to charity. For the less active, a simple picnic, cream tea or bbq can provide a donation to help those in need.

Feedback on the e-newsletter

If you have any comments or feedback on this e-newsletter that would be helpful to us in improving its content please write to info@ruralsussex.org.uk and title your email 'e-newsletter feedback'. Thank you.

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Company registered in England no. 2907172

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