



## **“CREATING PROSPERITY FROM THE GROUND UP”**

The drive to devolve power directly to individuals and local communities is about putting people back in control of the decisions and services that matter most to them and encouraging communities to take greater control of their area. This offers challenging but exciting opportunities for our local communities, the public sector and local enterprise to provide new or essential local services and deliver localism by working together in our district.

However, there is no route map of what's involved so this event will investigate the risks, challenges and benefits and offer the opportunity to share ideas and experience of how we can make it happen successfully for our communities in Suffolk Coastal.

### **The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership ANNUAL FORUM**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011  
9.30 am - 1.00 pm**

**At the Trinity Park Conference Centre**

#### **Objectives and Outcomes**

Key speakers will update delegates on the latest achievements and future role for the Local Strategic Partnership and give a national insight into the way localism is being embedded across the UK as well as highlighting good practice in Suffolk Coastal.

Delegates will gain ideas and insights to take back to their organisations and roles.

The workshop sessions will explore the possibilities and implications of increased community participation as well as transition to different models of service delivery and ownership. This will include information about current examples and future models of community participation and local delivery.

Delegates will have a clearer view on the risks, challenges and benefits of new and existing approaches that support individuals and communities to develop their own solutions.

#### **Who should attend?**

Delegates will be drawn from voluntary organisations, the private sector, community groups, local authorities and other local public sector organisations, town and parish councils, young people, faith groups, healthcare professionals, older people's representatives and other local organisations as well as central government departments & bodies.

So if you represent a community, an organisation, a business or a group that is keen to make a difference in Suffolk Coastal book your place now to avoid disappointment.

To reserve your place please complete and return your booking form by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Alison Orford at Suffolk Coastal District Council:

Email: [Alison.orford@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.orford@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Address: Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.

There is no charge for this event

Why not book a stall in the 'market place'?  
You can bring along information about your organisation and let everyone know about what you have to offer!

## Programme

<b>9.00 - 9.30:</b>	<b>Arrive and Registration (tea/coffee available)</b>
<b>9.30 – 9.40:</b>	<b>“Update on the LSP and introduction to the day” Ray Herring, Chairman LSP Board</b>
<b>9.40 – 10.10:</b>	<b>Questions for the LSP Board</b>
<b>10.10-10.30</b>	<b>Keynote Speakers: “Living localism and delivering enterprise” Chris Wade, CEO Action for Market Towns</b>
<b>10.30 – 11.30:</b>	<b>First Workshop Session</b>
<b>11.30 – 12.00:</b>	<b>Break and a chance to visit the market place</b>
<b>12.00 – 1.00:</b>	<b>Second Workshop Session</b>
<b>1.00:</b>	<b>Break and another chance to visit the market place</b>
<b>1.00 – 2.00:</b>	<b>A chance to network over lunch</b>
<b>2.00:</b>	<b>End</b>

### Keynote Speaker

As chief executive of Action for Market Towns (AMT), Chris has re-shaped its work to provide support to maintain thriving small towns by working with communities across the UK, providing advice to local authorities and influencing decision-makers.

Chris has nearly twenty years' experience in environmental management and rural affairs as well as a strong background in running independent rural development organisations. He has a Masters degree in Community Enterprise from the University of Cambridge Business School and is currently embarking on a PhD with the University of London on community regeneration.

Until recently Chris was Chair of Locality's Policy Committee and Vice Chair of both the South East Rural Towns Partnership and the Yorkshire and Humber Market Towns Network. He is also an active member of the Rural Coalition.

## The Workshops

Workshop sessions will provide delegates with the opportunity to look at new ways of working together to make a difference in Suffolk Coastal. There is the opportunity to attend two workshops from a choice of six.

The workshops will cover the following issues:

### **How well do we know our communities?**

It is increasingly clear that solid evidence is the bedrock of successful community action and grant applications, so more than ever it is really important to look beyond the headline statistics to find the true picture of your area.

The Suffolk Foundation commissioned the Hidden Needs report researched by the University of Cambridge to understand the scale and nature of social deprivation in Suffolk to highlight why local giving is needed to strengthen our communities, to inform their grant-making, and to demonstrate to national funding bodies that some areas of Suffolk do experience high levels of social disadvantage.

The Suffolk Observatory is the one-stop-shop for data, statistics and reports about Suffolk and has been developed to provide the public with useful information about their area. Future development of the observatory will make local and neighbourhood information more freely available.

Delegates will gain an insight into the results of the Hidden Needs report and explore the opportunities for the Suffolk Observatory to work for and with local communities and voluntary and community groups in Suffolk Coastal to bring real improvement to people's lives.

### **How well do we identify and agree our community aspirations?**

The workshop will investigate how Community Led Planning is enabling the ideas and inspirations from our communities to be carried forward and how organisations are adapting to what comes up. Delegates will hear about progress made in Suffolk Coastal to provide a package of support that can help people bring ideas to life. There will be case studies showing the benefits and pitfalls encountered by communities who have undertaken a plan.

The Localism Bill will introduce a new right for communities to draw up a 'neighbourhood development plan' but how does this differ from other community led plans and how relevant will it be for communities in Suffolk Coastal? This workshop will also provide the opportunity to hear the latest thinking from those already in the process of preparing a neighbourhood development plan in Yardley Gabion Parish, Northamptonshire.

This workshop will explore various Community Engagement techniques to build community spirit, motivate people to get them involved, and will look at the effective use of resources.

## **How can we resource communities to help themselves?**

Many local people want to make a difference in their community by starting something new, making something better or putting something right but doing this alone is difficult. If individuals and groups are going to make a real difference to their area, it is important that the voluntary and community sector in Suffolk Coastal have access to skills, resources and support to be able to deliver local services and increase volunteering opportunities for everyone, including young people.

This workshop will highlight what resources and support are available to help voluntary and community groups get ready and deliver community led solutions. Delegates will hear from a range of projects and services that are currently supporting local groups and individuals and how this support has helped local communities to deliver highly successful outcomes; for example, through volunteer brokerage, funding advice and organisational / individual development and support. Delegates will have a chance to access these services themselves and identify areas of need they might have.

## **Are we getting the most out of local enterprise?**

If localism is about liberating the natural desire of local communities to work together to become more in charge of what matters to them; then are our local businesses being inspired to explore ways that they can improve their profitability themselves by working collaboratively? Delegates will learn about the development and successes of the Heritage Coast Market Towns Initiative and explore how strong business associations and collaborations can work in small market towns and rural areas to improve business profitability. The workshop will investigate the real benefits for our communities that businesses who work together can bring.

## **How can we sustain success - is social enterprise the solution?**

This workshop is for delegates who are either considering, starting or already operating a social enterprise. It will explore what's involved, how you can make it happen and key decisions that you'll need to make. Although there won't be time to cover all the specialist ground you will need to cover - there will be opportunity to learn more about where you can get help and support to achieve your ambitions. There will be case studies showing the benefits and pitfalls encountered by communities who are operating a community enterprise. Delegates are encouraged to bring along examples they are involved with to help promote discussion.

## **Who owns what? Transferring assets to communities.**

Our towns, village or neighbourhood are home to buildings, land or other assets that play a vital role in local life and if they are closed or sold into private use it can be a real loss to the community. In many places across the country, when local amenities have been threatened with sale or closure, community groups have taken them over. In some cases, however, community groups who have attempted to take assets over have faced significant challenges. Delegates will hear about some of the key barriers and business case issues and there will be case studies of where assets have been successfully transferred to community in Suffolk Coastal. Delegates will have the chance to explore the implications and gain a clearer view on the risks, challenges and benefits.

*The information given may be altered if circumstances change.*