



The Chairman's role

The role of the Chair has a number of functions:

- To chair the meetings of the Forum
- To represent the Forum at various events and working parties within the region
- To represent the Forum at the national Chairs' Group in quarterly meetings with the Minister for Rural Affairs at defra

None of these are particularly onerous, and all are worthwhile. Over the last three years we have created the post of two Vice Chairs, and other members of the Forum represent our interests on specialist working groups etc.

What is an issue is the time involved since attending a regional or national meeting is a day's commitment (with travel) and the paperwork that lies behind a meeting also requires attention. The danger is that the Chair becomes a bottleneck and hinders progress rather than enhances it as e-mails etc await an answer.

The proposal is that we begin to differentiate the functions, and especially that the Forum nominates a representative, who will sit on the Management Committee, to be the national liaison with the Chairs' group and the Ministerial team at defra.

Personally, I am willing to be reconsidered as Chair but probably not for a full three-year term. If a member of the Forum would like to take over as Chair and wants to talk about the time-load, commitment etc please feel free to contact me.

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