

**TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS RURAL AFFAIRS FORUM FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2006  
PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS**

Meeting	Agenda Item	Actions/Decisions	Progress
<b>14 September 2006</b>	<b>1. The Chairman.</b> <u>Specialist Seminar on Alternative Energy Sources</u> Update provided by Malcolm Kimber - Richard Davies from Marches Energy Agency has agreed to support the Forum with its request to make future meetings more sustainable and carbon neutral. Each member was asked to complete a proforma giving details of their journey to the Forum along with their mode of transport. Results to be calculated and the total carbon offset by the provision of low energy bulbs in a community building nominated by members.	Richard Davies to calculate total carbon output from Forum meeting and install low energy bulbs in a community building.	Actioned
	<b>3. Progress against Actions WMF19/3 WMF 18/8</b>  <u>Regional Health Strategy</u> A draft to be forwarded to Forum Members in advance of next Forum.  <u>Health Information Paper</u> PCT appointments to be announced later in October 2006.  i. <u>Report from the Management Committee WMF 19/3i</u>  ii. <u>Election of Vice Chair</u> Deadline for receipt of nominations extended to 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2006.  v. <u>Annual Report WMF19/3v</u> Members to forward details of suitable stakeholders to the secretariat so that the Annual Report may be distributed more widely.	Rowena Clayton to forward with Paper.  Rowena Clayton to forward a mapping document to members of PCT appointments showing names and roles when they are all available.  All outstanding actions completed  Secretariat to e-mail members extending the date for Vice Chair nominations to 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2006 and David Collier was formally nominated to become Vice Chair and welcomed at the Management Committee.  Members to forward names and contact details to the secretariat by 13 October 2006 for inclusion in a distribution mailing list.	To be Actioned by Forum meeting on 8.12.06  To be Actioned by Forum meeting on 8.12.06 Actioned  Actioned  Secretariat to remind Forum Members to send contacts by 21st December 06.

Meeting	Agenda Item	Actions/Decisions	Progress
	<p><b>4. Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>iii. Sustainable Development Report and Future Forum Plans WMF 19/4iii</u>            Steve Holliday informed members that the report reflected Forum engagement in sustainable development. Recommendations were made for members to consider how to further improve the Forums contribution to sustainability during the coming year:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Produce a briefing report from the Forum's 'Alternative Energy Sources' seminar identifying priorities for Action and promoting good practice/case studies.</li> <li>▪ Build on the awareness raising and seminar outputs of the RAF annual conference on "Environment and Climate Change" to identify priorities, especially translating these into practical action and identifying good practice.</li> <li>▪ Refer to the Forum's RDF/RSDf scoping work on sustainability issues in ongoing engagement with the RSS review and other policy engagements.</li> <li>▪ Build on the issues raised in the Levett/Thrievell sustainability Appraisal of the West Midlands Rural Delivery Framework especially in relation to access to services.</li> </ul> <p><u>iv. Forum Briefing Report on Alternative Energy Sources</u>            Malcolm Kimber to meet Richard Davies from Marches Energy Agency to put together the final briefing report in time for the next Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006.</p> <p><u>v. Rural Proofing the Regional Economic Strategy (WMES) and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (Phase 2)</u>            Alison arranged a meeting with Roger Sumpton (AWM) to discuss the principles of rural proofing and embedding rural concepts onto the RES. Roger agreed to draw up a short paper spelling out the principles and processes internally and externally to ensure that assessment of rural areas was included within all aspects of the RES.</p>	<p>Members endorsed the recommendations for action and these were reviewed by the Management Committee who recommended that a Discussion Paper be produced on Sustainable Communities by Ian Baker after consultation with Steve Holliday and Sharon Palmer following consultation with the Regional Assembly partners regarding the RSS.</p> <p>Malcolm Kimber produced a Final Briefing Report for the Forum on 'Alternative Energy Sources' – this was included in Delegate Packs at Forum Conference on 17 November 06.</p> <p>Roger Sumpton prepared a paper regarding the principles and processes of the RES to ensure assessment of rural areas is included within WMES at item 4ii(a) on Forum Agenda.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Actioned</p> <p>Actioned</p>

Meeting	Agenda Item	Actions/Decisions	Progress
	<p><u>Rural Proofing the RSS</u> Rose Poulter (Regional Assembly) explained that she had explored the possibility of linking rural proofing of the RES with the RSS and Sara Roberts had agreed to take this work forward.</p>	<p>Sara Roberts to contact WMES/RSS Virtual Group volunteers to take rural proofing the RSS forward – See Item 4 on Forum Agenda.</p>	<p>Actioned</p>
	<p><b>5. Regional Spatial Strategy WMF19/6</b> Tanya Rountree set out the key stages of the partial revision of the RSS to support and develop the underlying strategy of the region:</p> <p>Phase 1: Revision was submitted at the end of May 2006. The Regional Assembly accepted the Black Country Study as the supporting document.</p> <p>Phase 2: Launched in November 2005, issues include housing figures, employment land, regional centres, transport and waste. An eight-week public consultation on the 'Spatial Options' for future development across the region would begin in early January 2007 to formulate options for the future identifying contentious and challenging issues for Government. In particular the levels of housing growth, which were expected to have significant impact on the future of the West Midlands Region up to 2026.</p> <p>Phase 3: Due to begin in 2007 to look at critical rural services, recreational provision, regionally significant environmental issues and the development of a Framework for provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites.</p> <p>The Forum invited to comment on the consultation and members were informed that the RAF was currently represented on the Urban/Rural Linkages Reference Group chaired by Rev'd Nick Read, (Forum Chairman). This would meet on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006 to input their views and comments into the drafting of the 'Spatial Options' document. The Forum's next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006 would offer an opportunity for members to familiarise themselves with a 'word' version of the Spatial Options in preparation for the consultation launch in January 2007.</p>	<p>Tanya Rountree to forward Links to the RSS Phase Two Spatial Options document to members via the Secretariat in mid November 2006 for discussion at the Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The Final Consultation Document is available in January 2007. Forum to consider the most appropriate method of response on behalf of the Forum following this discussion.</p>	<p>Actioned</p>

Meeting	Agenda Item	Actions/Decisions	Progress
	<p><b>8. Annual Conference WMF19/8</b></p> <p>The Chairman asked for comments on the contents of the draft programme and members endorsed the approach. There was concern that there was little time for the Forum to comment on the results of the Local Government White Paper and the final recommendations contained in the Lyons report. The Chairman stated that the Forum will be considering the implications of the White Paper at a Specialist Seminar following the next Forum.</p>	<p>The Chairman agreed to raise these issues at the next Management Committee Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 where it was agreed to include a Specialist Seminar following the 8<sup>th</sup> December 06 Forum.</p>	<p>Actioned</p>