



Meeting on 9th November 2010

Results from Discussion Group 3 -

1. *How might a case be made for ongoing regional / sub-regional networking around rural development good practice in terms of the recession and new government agendas?*

Points raised -

- “Regional” is a no - however there is still a need at Yorkshire level for a strategic level of networking - “Yorkshire” brand.
- Redefinition of boundaries at which the “rural voice” can be best heard.
- Some rural communities may be disadvantaged due to “post-code lottery”.

2. *How might the collective knowledge / experience of rural practitioners be used at national / local level?*

Points raised -

- Importance of retaining a “Yorkshire Chapter / Co-ordinator” at a national and then local level role in the delivery of any money to support businesses.
- “Localism” - depends on an audience for promotional support as to what co-ordination structures work best.

3. *What examples of good practice in a rural context do you have of activity which reflects new government agendas?*

Points raised -

- LEADER is a good basic modal for planning and delivery at a local level (with reservations) - need to consider how it can deliver economic activity and infrastructural support.

Questions for the Ministers - Table 3

1. How and at what spatial level does Defra family engage with rural communities in your patch at the moment - what role does your forum play in this engagement and who pays?

RAF's currently have close and positive engagement with NE,EA,FC and farmers. RAF may lose contact through the abolition of GO and RDA's

2. How would rural communities hope to engage in the future with Defra and who would pay?

If Defra needs local level rural knowledge it will have to find a way to achieve this. The RAF provides a cost effective opportunity to communicate the "rural voice".

3. How might rural forums at any spatial scale support delivery of the Big Society approach?

The YHRAF gives Yorkshires' "strategic" view and then repeats this at a sub-regional level, allowing an exchange of good practise.

4. What does your forum consider are the opportunities and the blocks for green economic regeneration in your region?

There are opportunities for hydro power on the Moors and Dales, however planning regulations need stronger landscape character assessments – concerns that the presence of wind turbines can have a negative ascetic impact on areas of protected/scenic.

- a. We would like the Minister to **reconsider** the importance of Yorkshire (as a region) as a sensible scale for activity – What is required for "rural" is bigger than any individual LEP.
- b. Where are all these **new** volunteers coming from in rural areas?