

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM YHRAF FORUM MEETING ON 16/6/09

Robert Ling – Yorkshire Forward – Digital Infrastructure

Shelagh Marshall Vice Chair

Q. Where there are existing trenches or when planning applications go in can developers put funding aside to put cabling in.

A. We are looking at planning issues. It may come up in the Digital Britain report later today. 70% of the cost is digging the hole.

Jenny Haynes – CPRE

Q. Cables were put in several years ago for television. The cable is still there could this be used for broadband?

A. RL said he wasn't aware of this. There needs to be better awareness but it is unlikely that telecom companies will use them.

Janet Thornton – Rural Action Yorkshire

Q. In areas where BT has more that 10,000 users can resources be shared out to other areas.

A. BT has an obligation to provide a telephone service but not broadband. The pace of technology is outstripping the wider view, the public sector want a good service.

Ann Hindley

Q. In the part of Lincolnshire where I live the network keeps failing which makes it difficult when you are working from home.

A. Quality is more important than speed we need a system that works 100% of the time

Q. What happens if you loose power?

A. The lack of power is a challenging issue

Janet Thornton – Rural Action Yorkshire

It is essential to have a mechanism that keeps rural communities in touch. There are key areas which will drive the issue for rural areas, they need good connections to make things happen.

Tim Ashleford – GOYH – The Rural Barometer

The report on rural England is produced annually as will the Rural Barometer. Yorkshire & The Humber is the only region to produce its own report. The main areas of concern are fuel poverty, low income and housing affordability. Rural areas are a very sought after place to live with a high quality of life. The region comes out better than England as a whole.

John Davis – Yorkshire & Humber Faith Forum

Q. You mentioned 10.00 people had moved from urban to rural areas. What impact does this have on local services?

A. I didn't want to portray a bleak picture. Inward migration is driving a lot of issues, it is not always a good news story.

Carol Renahan – NYCC

Q. Is there any evidence that people in rural areas are less likely to sign on because of transport difficulties?

A. There is evidence they are less likely to.

Abdul Ravat – HCA

Q. Affordable housing is a key issue. Is there any data that shows land availability?

A. There is data to show brownfield sights. It is an avenue we need to explore GW. This is something that is ongoing and we will revisit.

Shelagh Marshall – Vice Chair

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority have expressed that all new build developments must be affordable. There is a lack of sites, I express concerns that that large growth into the area will increase large scale development.

TA. This is an issue of finding more data and area that needs more work.

Shelagh Marshall – Vice Chair

Q. How do you measure fuel poverty?

A. The Government commissioned Bristol University to come up with the estimate. They took the English housing survey and measured how thermally efficient homes were against the level of income and what proportion of income would be needed to keep the house warm.

David Shaw – Natural England – State of the Natural Environment Report

Caroline James – Big Lottery Fund

Q. How are you going to measure the challenges you have set?

A. The report sets out baseline data, specialists will hold further data.

Q. Are you getting information about funding?

A. Probably about 80%

Tim Ashleford

Q. Do this regions priorities differ from national?

A. Not necessarily about 75% are common to all regions

Graham Ward - Chair

Q. As access to the countryside is limited to some should more trees/parks be put in urban areas to encourage people to visit more traditional areas of Yorkshire?

A. It is about highlighting what is out there in the countryside and making sure there is access to green space in urban areas. Developers should be encouraged to put green spaces in new developments

Howard Petch – CRC

There are interesting challenges for land managers

DS – Land Managers will be picked up through Agri-Environment schemes.

GW – Land Managers don't necessary cover an area just a specific farm. We need to get farmers and communities to talk.

Shelagh Marshall – Vice Chair

Buildings will become heat islands we need to push for trees in urban environments

DS. We are pushing forward with this, trees and green space can reduce temperature.

Barbara Scholefield

50 years ago houses were built with large gardens now they are packed together.

A. Issue is around land take, there is greater pressure because of cost to take smaller amounts of land and maximise return by building lots of properties.

Ben Scotting – Yorwoods

You shouldn't underestimate the public's ability to complain about trees.

The Rural Offer

GW discussed The Rural Offer and where the RAFs will fit into the new structure.

The Steering Group will probably increase in size to 15-20 members.

The Regional Practitioners Group will be run as a task and finish group.

There will be a new Chair nominated in the autumn.

Helen Wright - East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Helen presented Hull & Humber Ports City Region Strategy. The report will be available on the website in due course.

Caroline James – Big Lottery Fund

Caroline outlined the details for The Village SOS in collaboration with the BBC.

Villages with a population of up to 3000 can apply with ideas e.g. shop, attraction, festival

Expressions of interest need to be registered by 14th August. By the end of October communities will find out if they have got through the first stage.

In November 20-30 villages will be chosen to go forward to stage 2, they will need to complete a further application form and appoint a village champion will be appointed. This will be a business person who has time to help the communities develop a business plan

Only 3 grants are available for England and the money will be available from May 2010 for 1 year.

Tips are to read the guidance and make sure you understand the outcomes.

Ben Scotting – Yorwoods

Ben explained that Yorwoods was set up in 1998. They have a number of regional projects in the wood & timber sector including a green infrastructure programme, council and private woodlands, wood fuel and training

opportunities. They secure money from a number of organisations including Yorkshire Forward, but they do not have funding for promotion.

Ann Hindley – Community Anchors

Ann outlined the work of community anchors. They ran a series of successful workshops last year and are trying to develop a rural perspective. Ann asked members if there were any organisations they could work with.