

Community Action Hampshire

Rural Community Development Officer Post (Giv Thornton)

There have been changes in the remit of my post as it is now funded by DEFRA under their Rural and Social Communities Programme.

"Focus on working with communities and other agencies to encourage socially inclusive community planning, help young people address their own issues and encourage more people to become involved in their communities through the community planning process and in volunteering to take forward projects and actions. This may include building the capability of individuals so they can support others. The particular tasks and processes will depend to some extent on the themes emerging from community-led planning and other participatory initiatives to identify needs and aspirations."

I am keen to be able to set some targets for the above work, and also to continue to work in close partnership with Test Valley Borough Council and TVCS in much the same way as I have done in the past. Under the Rural Excellence Mentoring Programme I would hope that I could help in delivering the actions that relate to parish Plans which will be the main area of focus for my work.

Discussion with east Hants and Winchester City Council has resulted in the following plans/targets being put forward:

- Introductory events in association with LA where Parish Plans are promoted
- Workshops and training sessions around community consultation, prioritisation, funding etc.
- Between 5 – 10 new Parish Plans per district between now and March 2007 (To be agreed with individual LA)
- Between 2 - 5 completed Plans per district between now and March 2007 (To be agreed with individual LA)
- Establishing some form of networking (web based?) between parishes on Parish Plans to promote best practice
- Working with Parishes already doing or who have completed a parish Plan to facilitate successful Action Planning and project realisation

- Working with local CVS to establish relationships in order for projects coming out of an Action Plan to be realised through appropriate support
- Working with HATPC to support Parishes in undertaking Parish Plans

This is a very brief summary. At the end of August a letter is going out with Action News Update to all Parishes to inform them of the help that is on offer from us and to ask them to let us know what areas they would be most interested in getting more information/training on.