

Aim

To provide assistance to the communities of rural Rother and Bexhill in the development and implementation of local level Action Plans.

What is an Action Plan?

An Action Plan is a means by which the whole community voices its opinions on what actions it wishes to see taken in its local area in the future.

Proposal summary

This project draws together a number of options available to continue and extend the detail and extent of Action Plans work to meet the needs of communities in rural Rother and Bexhill. These link closely with the development of local Action Plans, the development of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the emerging Quality Council agenda. They also link with the work of the partner organisations in this project: Rother Voluntary Action (RVA), Rother Homes, Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC), Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) and Action in rural Sussex (AirS). This project has been developed based on the views of a consortium of these organisations and will supplement the baseline services provided by these organisations in agreement with the funders of those baseline services.

The project develops a support programme that will substantially increase the support and resources available for individuals and communities in developing the Action Plan process as a whole and integrating the views of their communities into the development of the LSP.

The project will comprise 3 strands of delivery:

- 1. Grassroots Community Development support**
- 2. The development of a bridging framework and processes between local level Action Plans and the LSP**
- 3. A direct 'community planning fund' to fund the development and implementation of the Action Plan process- to be matched by local funding (including in kind)**

AirS will be the lead organisation and the programme will be steered by the consortium of relevant partner organisations as well as incorporating a grant decision-making panel.

This project will work towards:

- Obtaining the evidence needed to bring about change in response to the needs of the communities
- Assisting the development, implementation and review of the Community Plan.
- Creating a means of actively engaging all sections of the community and increasing community engagement with the Local Strategic Partnership
- Providing support to every Parish Council in the preparation of an Action Plan or supplementing and implementing existing plans

- Building on and adding value to the existing baseline services being provided by Action in rural Sussex, Rother Voluntary Action, Sussex Association of Local Councils, Rother Association of Local Councils and Rother Homes.

The need

Undertaking an Action Plan enables communities to identify shared and individual concerns and actions within and between parishes. When the plan is completed it may highlight actions that can be taken by community members and Parish Councils, be used by Parish Councils to influence Local Authorities and service providers, act as justification of need when applying for funding and link into the District Community Plan and Local Strategic Partnership.

The objectives

- To provide Parish Councils and Action Plan Groups with information, detailed support, grant funding and training to enable them to undertake and deliver Action Plans.
- To raise awareness with local Action Plan Groups about the District, County and Regional Strategies into which their Action Plan will fit with an emphasis on the Local Strategic Partnership.
- To highlight and promote networking and joint project development where appropriate.
- To promote inclusiveness throughout the Action Plan processes used within each community
- To link directly to existing projects underway in the area.

Outcomes

- To have assisted in developing the capacity of individuals and communities to ensure sustainable future action.
- To have increased the number of completed Action Plans.
- To have facilitated opportunities for communities to emphasise their individual and collective voices.
- To have developed positive communication, exchange and learning within and between communities, local organisations and the Rother LSP.
- To have raised public awareness regarding the programme and the possibilities for future positive interaction and development between communities and with the LSP.
- To have provided grant monies to enable groups to develop and implement their Action Plans.