



Rural Research and Strategy Partnership

'A Breath of Fresh Air'

- the launch of the Rural Research Strategy Partnership

Event Programme

24 April, Woburn House Conference Centre

The Rural Research & Strategic Partnership is a new initiative aiming to address rural issues in the South East by bringing the rural research community closer to policy makers and delivery organisations.

The purpose of the launch event is two-fold:

- 1) To inform a wide range of stakeholders about the RRSP and set out for them how they might interact with it and the researchers involved.
- 2) To gather information from the stakeholders on what the rural research priorities are.

TIME	ACTIVITY
09.30	Delegates arrive – Tea/Coffee
10.00	Welcome Address by Mike King– Chief Executive, Environment Council. Mike is Chairing and Facilitating the event
10.10	Session 1 The current status of the rural sector Key note speaker: 'A national demand for local solutions?' Dr Stuart Burgess – Chairman of the Commission for Rural Communities and the Government's Rural Advocate 'The Rural South East: a recent snapshot'. Philip Eadie, Head of the South East England Intelligence Network (SEE-iN) 'Challenges facing the South East and developing solutions' – Valerie Carter, Rural Director, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) Q & A with a speakers panel. Chaired by Mike King Panel members: Stuart Burgess, Philip Eadie, Valerie Carter
11.25	Coffee
11.45	Session 2 – Introducing the new Rural Research and Strategy Partnership 'The RRSP – Leveraging the South East's knowledge base for rural purposes' – Dr Ed Metcalfe (SEEDA) 'Introducing the work of the RRSP' – Dr Anja Ueberjahn-Tritta (RRSP Partnership Co-ordinator) Q & A with a panel from RRSP partners; Sharon Phillips, Professor Peter Bunyan, Professor Stephen Nortcliff, Uwe Derksen, Alison Melvin – Chaired by Mike King
12.45	Lunch
13.45	Research Café discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most important rural issues that you are currently dealing with? • Reflecting on these issues, what don't we know that we really need to know to make progress? • What role should the RRSP play in helping to address these needs?
15.30	Summing Up – Future development for the Partnership in the light of today's proceedings – Professor Peter Bunyan – Speaking on behalf of the RRSP Partnership [Peter is Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey on Local and Regional Affairs]
15.45	Tea & Close
16.00	Depart