

Planning Aid in Action: Community Led Planning Network Essex

Background

Tendring District is a target area of Planning Aid England activity in the South Central/East. It was felt there was not sufficient interest in the district to support an event solely in the Tendring area. The session therefore aimed to involve participants from the Tendring area but was open to the entire Community Led Planning Network.

Participants were invited from a selection of rural communities across Essex. Most had experience of community led planning. Some represented local Parish Councils with an interest in Neighbourhood Planning.

The session was run in partnership with the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) who are the lead organisation providing support to communities in Essex in the production of Community Led Plans. Part of the support the RCCE offers is the Community Led Planning Network. Local Community Led Planning groups join the network to receive a newsletter, invitation to network events and office based support for their projects.

Planning Aid's support included:-

- Devising and delivering a half day session on Neighbourhood Planning. Presentations and workshops were produced by the PAE team of Outreach Co-ordinators.
- Two Planning Aid volunteers attending, providing support to participants at the event, and facilitating workshop groups.



“Sharing experiences with professional person on hand to answer queries and the opportunity to listen expertise and experiences gave me a better understanding of where we are in the process”

Participant



What was the outcome of the project?

Participants left the event with a greater understanding of Neighbourhood Planning. This session is likely to now be followed up by a longer “Are you fit for Neighbourhood Planning” workshop session.

“Really interesting and current community event which gets to the heart of how communities feel they can embrace neighbourhood planning” *Participant*