

**Alde and Ore Futures 2nd Community Conference
Workshop 1 – Delegate feedback on Shared Objectives
Draft raw data 27/4/10**

Objective 1: Decisions about the area incorporate the issues and aspirations of the local community as well as the requirements of those with statutory obligations.

Sharing of info between local community and those who have statutory obligations

How much more local decision making is possible?????

Identification of the local aspiration a key role

Planners - perceived to be more interested in targets etc. than local views

Local governance may be challenging to manage on who 'judges' local decision - FAIRNESS

Communication - needs improving

Statutory constraints are recognised

Parish Councils should be in the frontline of the decision making process

Need to create an environment that identifies community aspirations in order to influence the decision-making process (e.g. Parish Plan)

Need to communicate good practice

Local communities pay wages for statutory authorities - so lead should come from the local people wherever possible. Statutory rules can impede creative thinking by communities

East Lane - Better use of existing resources (joint objectives between agencies and communities); Look at innovative approaches (use of soil for defences - clay from excavation associated with the expansion of Sizewell?)

Agree - BUT concern about extent of current community involvement. Statutory agencies do not have whole view. Agree science!

Objective 2: Policies are in place to support the shared objectives. Where mis-matches occur actions are put in place where they can be resolved locally. If it is not possible to solve it locally details are identified and highlighted to the relevant national body.

Working together on estuary defences

Need action - not more talking! (as need to do delivery) Need people to 'stay on the table' & talk about disputes - co-operation is key. What we've got doesn't work - need change. Currently top down, needs to be bottom up, outcome-led approach. To pull funding together (e.g. Sustainable Communities Act). We need to sort out the sea defences.

The national policies are often difficult to tie into local policies as there is often no view of rural priorities at central level; There are gaps in the shared objectives which need filling - policies need to come up from the community, not imposed from above; it is patchy with a few good schemes and hopefully community-led planning may help; What are the implications of SS9 (Coastal Management) policy in the revised regional spatial strategy on Alde & Ore Futures?

Objective 3. The full importance of all heritage, natural environment, economic and social interests of the local community are acknowledged together with the direct and indirect consequences arising from the decision-making process.

Project to consider how much more local decision-making is possible plus improve top-down and bottom-up communications (incorporate local community views and those with statutory obligations)

Add in spiritual as a value

Do we engage with ALL of the community - Parish Magazine?

Objective 4. The process of decision making is clearly explained and if possible simplified.

Of course, if they are not at the moment, the democratic process isn't working; The desires and aspirations of the local community should be paramount; They don't at the moment - hopefully this project WILL; No - they do not reflect local sentiment otherwise we would not be here; Definitely not.....this conference would not be necessary if this statement is true.

Objective 5. Communities around the Alde and Ore are functioning, viable and prosperous in the long term.
Need to develop 'Community Leadership'; good communication - between communities and between sectoral interests to have a collective voice; how to measure community viability - what indicators of success; need to develop shared actions.
Same as No 17 - need to join them together
Objective 6. Communities, local organisations, local authorities and agencies work together to resolve the particular challenges of the Alde and Ore Futures area.
General Point - There are too many objectives - absurd other adjacent shared objectives to make fewer. Nothing wrong.
Concern that groups are not really talking to each other - if really interested they would come to the conference. We are representative of the wider community; a problem brings people together - the press helps to get the message out. Have learnt from the Blyth Strategy Group. Influence change. Parishes - message doesn't get back to the community. Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group. Heritage Market Towns Initiative.
Food production one of the most valuable assets of the area - nationally, regionally, locally
Objective 7. A conversation is developed within the local community about the future of the area in a language that everyone understands.
Language is often right for only one sector - those who drive a study
Knowledgeable authorities who can communicate and present information to the local community in a simple way
Language can be changed to meet the need; Language must not stall action; develop communication in local community; need to understand the language - keep it simple and understandable; Government language is often not understood; Those above and below must understand each other
Agree
Objective 8. The young people have a voice in the future of the area
Agree - critical as Parish Councils not representative of communities such as children and schools
Vitality important - they are the future and as we are talking about 50 - 100 years hence, they must be involved
Why no youth here today? What attempt has been made to involve schools in planning the future?
I am very keen to see parishes set up youth councils to involve young people in the issues that matter to them
Young people have different and radical ideas. We need to ensure they have challenging job opportunities not simply see them as potential waiters and waitresses
Young people must have a voice & there must be affordable housing for the next generation to balance with second homes
Should be a given but still concern over whether this is representative of wider community (also impact on 5)
Add local people; we agree!; Problem with asking everyone as delays progress; Young people v. important
Objective 9. New ways are found of securing funding from multiple sources for important local projects, building on existing case studies to inspire new approaches.
EA 'Shared funding' - 'Contribution Policy' - funding river wall (maintenance)
Objective 10. The multiple benefits of an agreed action plan are identified to support the sourcing of funding.
Demonstrate multiple benefits to attract multiple sources of funding e.g. managed re-alignment)
Need to know what funding is available and criteria. Need to tap into private sector and they will fund
Yes, I agree; who will be involved in drawing up an action plan? - need to avoid simple amalgamation of existing strategies; Yes, but responsibility lies with the public sector, private sector is happy to get involved as a last resort; Funds are important but in the current climate funds for new projects are unlikely to be available; We have wasted SO MUCH funding in the past on endless wasted consultation, money that could so much better be used on repairing/strengthening river walls - that could have been achieved by now; Agree with the above - good plan - good co-operation.

Objective 11. A minimum standard of service delivery is available throughout the area so that businesses and residents are not hindered by of poor quality of information technology locally.
Minimum standard is needed
Potentially a quick win; commonality of agreement objective; need to identify solutions/improvements and take forward
Objective 12. Infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of a rapidly changing technological environment.
Integrates with 11 - fewer, clearer objectives could be distilled down - we need MORE TIME. Does this stage count as consultation?
Impact on landscape is a concern
Objective 13. Awareness is raised of flood issues to ensure that everybody in the flood plain understands the risks, how to respond and what to do afterwards.
All agree with this - need to include contingency plan/resource to deal with breaches in defence if this happens
Yes, with urgency - awareness through parish magazines, local papers. Planning applicants should be made fully aware of flood issues - floodline info comes automatically. Provide sandbags.
Objective 14. Plans are co-ordinated with the 'Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit'
Objective 15. Individuals, communities and businesses are encouraged and enabled to reduce any impacts of a flood and support others who are affected.
Support those less able e.g. elderly/disabled. Emergency planning within local community.
Not joined up at local level; need more emergency planning
Agree
Objective 16. The science, opportunities and impacts of options are understood in respect of both short term and long term viability and are widely communicated.
Important point; I believe that a great deal hangs on the possibility of a breach at Slaughden, which could result in the loss of sailing on the river, and thus a substantial decrease in the visitor attraction; Absolutely NOT - a relationship needs to be built up with the local press, a proper interactive website and ways found to engage the whole of the community which INCLUDES second home owners; widely communicated in accessible language using a range of methods; danger of complicating things too much - anything that is communicated must be clear if it is to avoid creating confusion; if this was true we would not be the worst county in the UK for Broadband
Fundamental and key; establish evidence base for decisions and actions
Objective 17. Decisions on the future of the coast and estuary need to take account of the wider implications for the locality (see Better Decisions)
(& 18) Evaluate the economic, social and emotional value of vulnerable locations, taking into account the very local perspectives
Same as No 5 - need to join together
Objective 18. Undertake research into understanding the direct and indirect 'value' of vulnerable locations from a range of perspectives (including those of fishing, recreation and tourism) using methods developed locally and regionally.
Says same as 10?
Objective 19. For partners, land owners and others to work together to make estuary defences more resilient to large scale flooding.
Agreed. Need to have land-owners fully involved. Need to consider wider context of whole area. Need to have easier process, less bureaucratic for land-owners to be involved.
Objective 20. There is agreement between asset / infrastructure / land owners and the EA on how best flood defences can be managed through existing EA programmes funded either jointly or privately including measures to protect aquifers and surface water from the effect of possible salt

water intrusion.
Aspirational but essential learning lessons from previous issues
Blanket authority for landowners to maintain walls to post 1953 levels
Objective 21. Plans are in place with the local infrastructure providers to ensure the continuing delivery of vital services in the event of a major event.
Agree - but concentrate on delivery - good start
Prioritise the importance of services - water, shops, emergency services, road network, communication
Objective 22. The importance of navigation and fishing need to be included in any decisions on the future of the estuary.
Fishing is small. Yes - recreational fishing/navigation brings in money
Objective 23. A strategic approach to managing access and recreation in the area is developed in the context of a sensitive environment.
Objective 24. The existing recreational infrastructure of the area is reviewed and improvements made to ferry links, the management of hotspots and the promotion of other areas to take pressure off these hotspots.
Ferry improvements - particularly between Aldeburgh and Orford, then residents can shop between towns and reduce road traffic, increase road safety for cyclists - these forms of transport encourage 'quiet' appreciation of the landscape and wildlife; There appears to be no plan and nothing links up; Good idea but must be part of a bigger plan to manage/develop tourism without affecting local residents' enjoyment; We will need more green areas to counter the huge building envisaged for Ipswich and Felixstowe; Yes, particularly bridleways which lead to nowhere or onto footpaths with stiles.
Objective 25. Local people and visitors have opportunities to proactively look after the area.
Yes, but would apply throughout the AONB
Objective 26. A co-ordinated education and awareness programme on the special nature of the area is developed and implemented esp for local young people and schools so they know about and value the area and understand the challenges it faces in future.
Co-ordinate residents and communities; Communicate information in understandable ways; do a press release about the conference
Objective 27. A network of quiet lanes/routes based on requirements of local communities for cycling / walking / horse-riding is developed.
Quiet lanes (links to 23)
Lovely idea
Objective 28. Better networks of access (cycle / footpaths / bridleways / ferries) are developed, through the provisions of Coastal Access and the implementation of ACES.
Objective 29. Tourism businesses utilise and support the development of the high quality assets of the area and put in place mechanisms to manage any adverse events.
Agree
Should include arts and culture as well
Objective 30. Skill shortages are filled through an active programme with local employers and education providers
Not enough encouragement given to apprenticeships/trades; less concentration on getting pieces of paper - more on relevant skills for employment; support/advice given to employers on effective management of trainees to ensure both parties see the benefit; lack of ambition has been identified as a major factor within Suffolk - our young people apparently some of the least ambitious in the country, a vibrant thriving community/business is founded on ambition and breadth of vision
Yes - are of most important (alongside affordable housing); businesses could be approached for money;

develop an offer
Objective 31. The housing needs of each parish are identified and plans are in place with local agencies to address then needs
Objective 32. The issues generated by a high proportion of second homes within a community are identified
Perceived to be a problem but also important to the local economy - raising house prices for local people. Increase the supply of affordable homes. 2nd homes perceived to attract economic benefits so it is accepted that they are needed. Impacts on the demographic of the area and functioning of the community
Objective 33. Public transport network provision meets the needs of those who live and work in the area and is a viable alternative to using a car
Applies throughout the AONB
Objective 34. Public transport support the delivery of business green travel plans