



'Maximising Regeneration through RDPE: Local Action'
16th March 2010, Birmingham

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Clare Leverton

Clare Leverton is currently managing Clay Country and West Cornwall Local Action Groups in Cornwall UK. The post is answerable to the stakeholder Local Action Groups and based at Cornwall Development Company.

Previously managing the EU Objective One Fisheries Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly involved focussing the strategic views of the fishing industry and delivering projects to meet its aims. This role involved delivering more than 250 projects ranging from £600 to >£1million and ensuring the investment of over £10 million in total. It also meant total immersion in the minutiae of community and economic development in extremely rural and isolated areas.

A varied career includes previous roles in project development and grant funding within the local authority to Managing Director of the small private company responsible for the Fisheries Programme.

David Melling

Dave Melling is the rural Economic Programmes Coordinator for Bradford Council and is a member of the South Pennines Local Action Group. He is particularly interested in the development of the RDPE local authority network as he represents the Local Government Association on the RDPE national Programme Monitoring Committee.

Helen Wright

Helen graduated in Geography from Nottingham University and has a Diploma in Town and Country Planning. She has spent her career working in Local Government and has many years experience in strategic planning and rural development. Helen works for East Riding of Yorkshire Council, where she currently undertakes two roles - Rural Policy & Partnerships Manager for the Council and Executive Manager for Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Affairs Forum. As well as providing professional support for the Rural Affairs Forum, she oversees



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work for the Council on a range of initiatives including the Hull and Humber Ports City-Region Rural Strategy.

Helen was instrumental in drawing-up the East Riding of Yorkshire Rural Strategy and in the formation of the East Riding of Yorkshire Rural Partnership. She oversaw the successful development and delivery of the European LEADER+ Programme in the East Riding of Yorkshire and the successful bid for the LEADER 2007-13 Programme. She led work to secure Beacon Council Status for the Council under the theme of *Supporting the Rural Economy* and oversaw delivery of the Humber Rural Pathfinder.

Helen is involved with initiatives at national and regional levels and is a member of the Local Government Association's Rural Advisory Group, the Regional Rural Affairs Forum and the Rural Business Start-Up Programme Panel. She is also a Governor at Bishop Burton College. Helen is committed to sustainable rural communities and the well-being of the countryside.

Ivan Annibal

Ivan Annibal is the Managing Director of Rose Regeneration, Rural Services Director for the RSN and has a job share at Lincolnshire County Council leading economic development and tourism. Ivan is also Chair of the Educational Trust of the Institution of Economic Development (IED), a national LGA Advisor, a Senior Visiting Fellow at the University of Lincoln Business School and a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal 'Local Economy'.

Outside of his work life he is a long term Trustee and current Chair of Landmarks a charity supporting people with learning difficulties on two working farms in North Derbyshire.

Justin Brown

Justin is Head of Economic Regeneration Policy at Lincolnshire County Council and a member of the Chief Economic Development Officers Society. Justin leads LCC's strategic work on economic lobbying/policy, research, and external funding/regeneration programmes. He also leads major delivery schemes in tourism, food sector, and business productivity.

Prior to his role at LCC, Justin has held managerial positions in district councils and a Training and Enterprise Council. Justin has a degree in European Community Studies from Cardiff University and lives in rural Lincolnshire with his wife and two young daughters.

Rebecca Frost

Working within the Commission for Rural Communities, Rebecca is responsible for the development and co-ordination of the RDPE Network and UK National Rural Network. Rebecca has worked in the rural and community development field for the past ten years, including roles at local, regional and national levels within the voluntary/community and public sectors.

Over the past two years, Rebecca has focused on European rural development and the opportunities and potential for building understanding and sharing solutions within different



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national and local contexts. Rebecca is currently completing an MSc in European Rural Development, on a part-time basis at the Countryside and Community Research Institute at the University of Gloucestershire.

Richard Tulloch

Richard is the Head of Rural & Communities at the East Midlands Development Agency, emda. 'Rural' has been a theme writ large throughout his career. He spent twenty years in local government in rural Yorkshire, first with the North Riding County Council and then at the Skipton-based Craven District Council, during which time he qualified as a town planner. The first of two spells as a rural community council (RCC) chief officer followed - in Durham. He then began an eight year period at the Rural Development Commission (RDC) as its first Regional Manager (North) when it regionalised in 1990.

Head office RDC appointments in Salisbury and London followed before a move for two years to English Heritage as their Regional Director (North West) when it too restructured with a regional emphasis. A return to an RCC came with a move to Community Action Hampshire in 2000 where he spent five years. After a short time in the Highlands, administering the traditional sport of shinty, Richard came to *emda* in 2007.

Away from work Richard enjoys music (he directs his village church choir), sport (shinty - of course! - and rugby league) and walking his improbably scruffy dog. Richard is married with two grown up children. He is originally from Aberdeen: his wife, son and daughter all hail from Yorkshire; so does the dog!

Stuart Evans

Stuart Evans heads the financial, personnel, planning policy, development control and performance management functions of the Authority. His role includes leading information technology, committee and corporate support services. Stuart is the Authority's Monitoring Officer and is currently leading on supporting the development of a community and business led approach to rural development in the Northumberland Uplands area of the region and in transforming the 400 square mile national park into a low carbon area.

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/climatechange

Stuart has worked for Northumberland National Park Authority since it was created a stand-alone local authority in 1997, his other work experience includes working for the Audit Commission, Northumberland County Council and London Borough of Haringey. Stuart is an economic graduate from the London School of Economics and a post graduate in Business Administration.



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