

Devon Rural Network

A voice for rural Devon

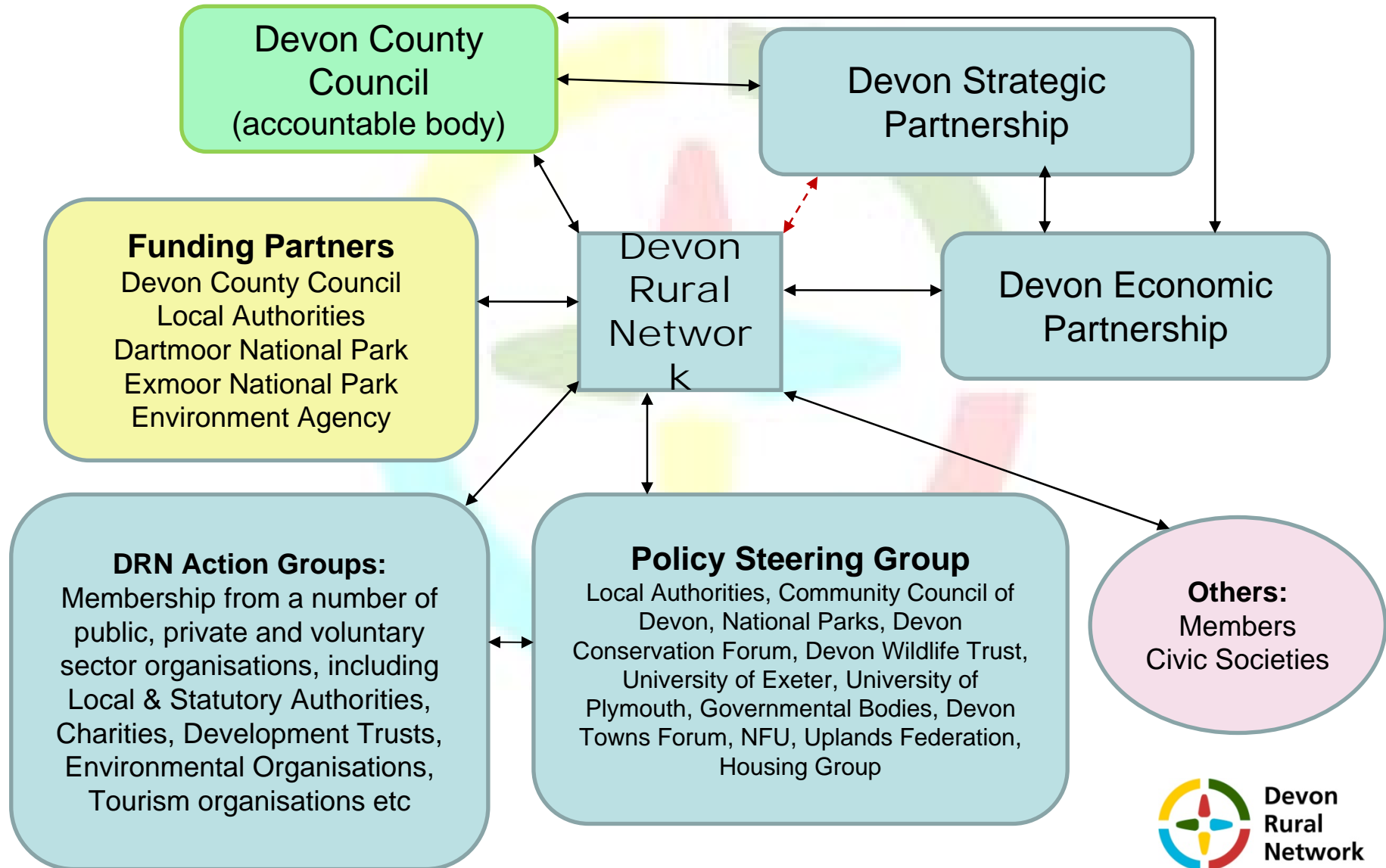
Rev Philip Wagstaff
Chair

www.drn.org.uk

What is the Devon Rural Network?

- Devon's response to the Haskin's enquiry
- A forum for rural practitioners
- Promotes joined up thinking in rural areas

Who is involved with DRN?



Management & Sub Groups

The policy steering group has developed a number of sub groups that have looked at specific areas of rural policy in Devon.

These Include:

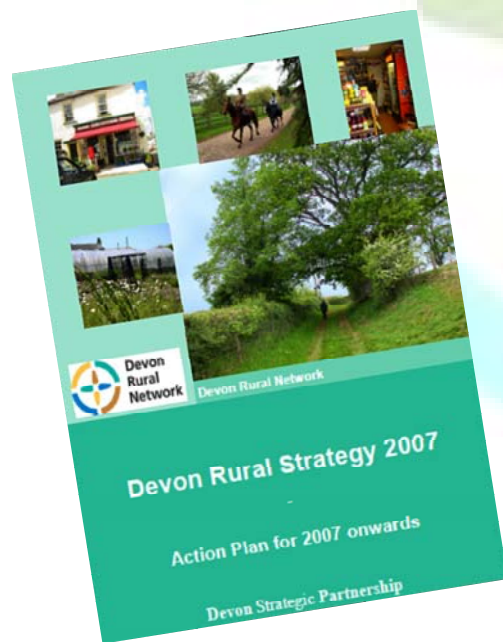
- Farming and Food Board
- Community and Voluntary Sector
- Sustainable Tourism
- Rural Proofing
- Environment
- Business (including development of Devon Renaissance)

Shaping Policy and Communication

The Network has also been in the lead in Developing the:

Devon Rural Profile

and the Devon Rural Strategy.....



....and developing the newsletter 'Devon Rural Voice'



Devon Rural Network is a.....

- Network of rural practitioners and policy makers
- Forum to explore ways of engaging rural communities in rural strategy across the County
- Forum to learn from each others experience and to share skills and ideas
- Group actively involved in supporting developments in rural life and work
- Forum to share good practice

Rural Proofing

Looking at Rural Proofing

May 2009 – CRC Rural Proofing Conference, Central Hall, London

Relaunch of CRC Toolkit for Rural Proofing

Exploration of the way that Policy can take into account the needs and opportunities of rural areas

Explores ways of approach so that policy decisions do not disadvantage rural communities

“It is best to put rural proofing in to policy formation in at the discussion stage”

Devon Rural Network response to Rural Proofing

Using a national model and developing it
for the variety of communities which
make up rural Devon

Developing strategy for rural proofing
policies in different sectors across Devon
using the same criteria

Devon Rural Network Criteria

For the rural proofing process to be effective it should be integrated into policy planning and development from the start

Retrospective rural proofing has been shown to be highly ineffective

There are many benefits that can be gained from rural proofing

As well as making policy development more transparent, it can also insure:

- more informed decision making
- improved communication
- improved partnership working
- engagement and capacity building
- greater understanding of rural communities

Five Key Themes for Rural Proofing

- Environment
- Health
- Resources and Services
- Rural Economy
- Social Inclusion

How will the process work?

The Devon Rural Network Rural Proofing Group have prepared a self assessment questionnaire which will give an opportunity for those drafting policy to self reflect on the impact the policy may have on rural communities

Self Assessment

Each Key Theme invites reflection on some of the issues that the Policy addresses

A brief overview of how the policy tackles these issues can be made and an assessment of what impact a policy may have on rural communities is made

Completing the process

Once completed, the self assessment would be submitted to the Rural Proofing Group for assessment and comment and the logo added.

A star rating is being developed which will reflect the effectiveness and quality of the policy in terms of rural need and opportunity

In conclusion.....

.....the Network works with partners in rural development in Devon

.....provides a Network of rural practitioners with information and opportunity for debate and discussion which informs action

.....is offering, developing, supporting, and implementing a Rural Proofing Strategy across Devon

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Or visit

www.drn.org.uk