

News from
Epping Forest's Local Strategic Partnership – One Epping Forest

It's been another busy period for our local strategic partnership here in Epping Forest. During the past few months partners across the district, together with their counterparts in Uttlesford and Harlow, have worked together to submit a bid to the **Future Jobs fund** totaling over one million pounds and providing up to 150 job placements for young unemployed people across West Essex. A central element of this bid has also been about channeling support to our colleagues in the voluntary and community sectors to provide them with resources to meet increased demand in these difficult economic times. Over twenty different organisations have come together and submitted proposals for job placements under the auspices of our strategic partnerships. Our bid has successfully passed through the initial review process and we wait hopefully for more good news over the next few weeks.

The Partnership has also launched its biggest consultation ever around renewing our Sustainable Community Strategy. Funds have been secured from Essex County Council to enable VAEF to initiate a wide ranging series of consultation events to find out what's good and bad about life in Epping Forest District and the local communities priorities for the future.

Questionnaires went out to over 50,000 homes through the Forester, the council's magazine, with more detailed surveys available for completion online. Staff from VAEF have attended numerous events to talk about the strategy and give people a chance to feedback their views, and also conducted surveys among commuters and shoppers. The results of all these activities will be presented to our Annual Stakeholder conference starting at 9.30 am on 11 December at Theydon Bois Village Hall. Places are still available for the conference which will also look at the new long term vision for the area in our draft Sustainable Community Strategy. Please contact Colin or Dave on 01992 564454 or email admin@oneeppingforest.org.uk.

The partnership has just completed a major review of the impact of the credit crunch on Epping Forest. After receiving submissions from many organisations providing frontline services to local communities, a nine point plan has been agreed to take work forward including support for credit unions. Copies of the final report are available on our website.

And finally as you can see we have changed our name to One Epping Forest. This was one of the new ideas adopted following a review of communications, which found poor public awareness of the role and activities of the partnership. Other ideas taken up include webcasting Board meetings, producing a briefing after every Board meeting, and development of a new website. Please visit www.oneeppingforest.org.uk to find out about the work of the partnership and give us your views about how we can improve.