

AirS Annual Conference - Heart of the Village

Friday 6 November - 12.30 – 16.00

at the Norfolk Pavilion, Ardingly Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TL

(Preceded at 10.00am by SALC AGM and 11.30am by AirS AGM)

- 12.30 **Welcome**
1) Review of activities undertaken as a result of 2008 conference 'Rural Services – Hard to reach or hard to find'
Jeremy Leggett – Chief Executive AirS.

2) Introduction and outline of Heart of the Village Conference
- 12.45 – 14.00 **Information Stands, small workshops, discussion tables.**

Foyer area – SALC stand, AirS Membership, AirS Helpline, AirS Parish Council Employers Handbook, Sussex Police

Main Conference Room – table discussions, consultations on specific rural issues, identification of next phase of Heart of the Village Campaign, Sign the Petition, Changing Estates project

Bar area – main information stands including (tbc)– AirS services, Rural Access to Services Project, Village of the Year exhibition, Rural Affordable Housing, Church and Countryside, Rural Stress Network, Plumpton Community, Community Shop.

Bernard Sunley Room – Sussex Village Halls Advisory Group, Village Halls Sussex Survey results – presentation at 13.00 and 13.30, Village Hall services stands.

- 13.00 – 14.00 **Buffet Lunch** available on the first floor for those who have pre booked.
- 14.00 **Setting the Scene** - Chaired by Jeremy Leggett
- Village Halls at heart of rural life (Rural Community Councils' Film)
- Heart of the Village Campaign – next phase
- 14.20 **Keynote speeches**
Nick Herbert MP, Shadow Secretary of State for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Serena Tierney, Liberal Democrat prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Mid Sussex
- 15.00 **Refreshment Break**
- 15.15 **Any Questions to the Panel from the floor**
- 15.50 **Next Steps and conclusions**