

External Witness Biographies - 29th January 2014

Action With Communities in Rural Kent

Action with Communities in Rural Kent is a rural development charity, formed as the Kent rural Community Council in 1923, which provides information, training, guidance and networking opportunities for around 600 community-led regeneration projects each year. Key bodies worked with include Parish Councils, community groups, formal charities, social enterprises, small and micro-enterprises.

The ethos of the charity is that nobody should be disadvantaged because they live or work in a rural area. Key current agendas worked on include management of community owned assets, provision of affordable housing, community-led planning, access to basic services and rural economic growth (including helping people return to work.) The charity is co-financed by over 40 organisations from public, private and civil society sectors, with KCC accounting for around 6% of turnover.

Attending the Select Committee today is Keith Harrison, Chief Executive.