



HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITIES

Hear from the Experts

At a packed Cider Museum in Hereford local MP Jesse Norman hosted the first Living Villages summit for Councillors and Community Leaders from right across Herefordshire.

The summit looked at how to make villages and rural services more sustainable and resilient.

The speakers included John Coleman of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on localism; local architect Jonathan Hines and businessman Lars Carlsson, on sustainable

housing; Cllr Michael Chater of the National Association of Local Councils, on parish and town councils; Peter Cleasby, Chair of the Plunkett Foundation, on saving pubs and shops; and Cllr Graham Powell, on protecting rural services. Cllr John Jarvis, the leader of Herefordshire Council, was in the chair.

Speaking afterwards, Jesse said: "Our villages are the lifeblood of Herefordshire's rural communities, and we must do everything that we can to support them.

"I am thrilled that there has been so much interest in our first Living Villages summit, and I am very grateful to my

team, to Anthony Bush at the Council, and to our excellent speakers for their contributions. We will take forward this energy in future summits and follow up work."



NEXT SUMMIT: 28 OCT 2011

The next living Villages Summit will be held on Friday 28 October 2011 from 9am to 2pm, venue to be announced.

Email gill.rivers@parliament.uk now to reserve a place!

TAKING CONTROL OF *Community Assets*



It is vital that our local communities act to protect assets like pubs and shops.

Peter Cleasby, Chair of the Plunkett Foundation, explained the tools and support that are available to local communities to do just that. The new Localism Bill offers a real

opportunity. The right to buy means that any asset registered with the county council cannot be disposed of without the local community having the option to put in a bid.

He gave examples of shops, pubs, farms, broadband networks, and power stations that are owned and run by local groups. So far there are 250 community owned shops in Britain, but only 5 pubs.

The Plunkett Foundation will provide support and advice to any local groups that are considering taking on a community ownership project.

BUILDING THE FIRST *Hereford Eco Village*

Plans are underway to build new homes to the *Passivhaus* standard in Herefordshire.

Jonathan Hines and Lars Carlsson, the founders of Hereford Eco Villages Ltd, laid out their plans to produce high quality, low environmental impact houses in Herefordshire. They are currently looking for communities which are keen to add new homes whilst protecting the environment and preserving local identity.

A key part of the plan is to develop a modern building style local to Herefordshire - using local materials where possible. The first houses will be built by existing local firms but eventually the Eco Villages team



plan to construct a locally based state of the art factory of their own to export houses around the UK and abroad. All the homes will be built to the *Passivhaus* - the most rigorous energy standard in Europe.

If your community might be interested in building homes that are environmentally sensitive, Jonathan and Lars will be keen to hear from you.

USEFUL *Contacts*

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