



**Good Practice - Event**

**Objective**

<p><b>Workshops for Parish / Town Councillors - Sept to Dec 2009</b></p>	<p>To increase knowledge needed to meet the changes that are being led by the Growth Agenda</p>
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**Detail**

Broadland DC sees the role of Parish and Town Councils as being vital to creating and maintaining sustainable communities in the rural areas of the district and made a commitment to provide additional information, skills and tools to work with their communities in delivering the proposed growth.

The lead officer within Broadland DC was the Housing Development Officer with support from other members of the Housing and Social Policy Team. The workshops were delivered by Spirals Ltd with input from partners, stakeholders and agencies. There was a mixture of presentations and inter-active exercises.

The programme was delivered in ten evening workshops covering the following topics:

1. What makes a Community?;
2. What is the Growth Agenda?;
3. Introduction to the Planning System;
4. Introduction to Housing;
5. Involving our Communities;
6. The Environment;
7. Transport and Getting Around;
8. Dealing with Conflict in the Community;
9. Social and Cultural Issues;
10. Sustainable Communities – bringing it all together

## Outcomes

Feedback from the workshops confirmed that those attending felt that they had improved their understanding of the Growth Agenda and felt better equipped to discuss the issues with parishioners. There were benefits for Parish Councillors in networking with other councillors / clerks and this could be expanded.

There was a suggestion of creating 'mentors' for councillors and clerks from within the network. The need for developing leadership within Parish Councils was identified. Broadland District Council is looking at ways that they can support this.

Feedback also suggested that Parish Councils need to do something that is fun to bring local people together.

**Update 2012** - Workshops for Parish and Town Councillors have not been repeated in the current year as there have been a lot of public consultation events that have made demands on councillors' time. However we will continue to identify training needs and deliver training as and when required through our new Community Engagement team.

The workshops complimented the publication 'The Future of Broadland – Planning for Growth' available via following the link: [Planning for Growth](#)

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Rural Affordable Housing  
Project

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