

Rural Action Derbyshire

Mission

RADs works to;

- Support rural community development
- Address rural disadvantage and counter the effects of isolation
- Improve access to services for people living in rural communities

It does this by;

- Providing direct services to help people and groups in rural communities
- Raising awareness of the issues faced by rural communities.

The Direct Services provided by RAD include;

Wheels to Work – moped loan plus other transport related support to people for whom transport is a barrier to either work or work related training. Wheels to Work helped 21 people in South Derbyshire in 2011/12.

Village Halls advice – help for volunteer committees managing village halls including funding advice, information, training and quality standards. RAD works with all the 34 Village Halls in South Derbyshire responding to routine queries about governing documents or hire agreements. In addition two South Derbyshire Village Halls (Findern and Willington Old School Trust) were among the first to achieve Hallmark, the national Quality Standard for Village Halls. RAD responded to 253 Village Halls queries in 2011/12 across the whole of Derbyshire. In 2011 RAD also put on health and safety training for Village halls delivered by a South Derbyshire Environmental Health officer which was well patronised by South Derbyshire Village halls.

Playing Fields - RAD sends out a quarterly newsletter to all community groups managing playing fields and in 2011 held Play Inspection Training at Hilton Village Hall which was well attended by South Derbyshire Village Halls.

Community Led Planning – RAD works with communities to enable them to develop local plans setting out their aspirations for their village. In 2011 Walton on Trent completed their Community Plan. The number of people supported to take part in CLP across Derbyshire in 2011/12 was 289.

The Agricultural Chaplain provides information to the rural deans across South Derbyshire about issues likely to be affecting the farming community so that the clergy are aware of any areas likely to cause problems and can deal with them appropriately. The Agricultural Chaplain worked with 50 individuals across Derbyshire in 2011/2012.

Suicide Awareness Training – this project trained 356 individuals across the whole of the county in 2011/2012 to give them the know-how to identify people at risk of suicide or self harm and the knowledge of how to provide appropriate help. The seminar held in February 2012 in Swadlincote attracted 25 participants.

The most recent of RAD's projects – the Oil Buying scheme has signed up residents from South Derbyshire who are off-gas grid in Chellaston, Foston, Melbourne, Twyford and Smisby. This scheme uses the power of collective purchasing to achieve savings for the scheme members and reduce fuel poverty. The scheme currently has 221 members.

Raising Awareness

RAD seeks to do this through partnership working for example;

Financial Inclusion Derbyshire – RAD is the lead agency for this multi-agency partnership which includes agencies from the public, private and voluntary sector. The partnership is currently refreshing the Financial Inclusion Strategy for the County and held two conferences in 2012 to consult with a wide range of agencies.

Strategic Partnerships and other multi – agency networks, RAD participates in Derbyshire Partnership Forum, District Local Strategic Partnerships and the Rural Forum.

3D – RAD is the lead agency for Third Sector Support for Derbyshire (3D) – which brings the VCS infrastructure agencies together to work collectively to improve support to front line voluntary and community sector groups. A recent success was the TLI (Transforming Local Infrastructure) bid which secured £374K to improve the sustainability of the sector to be delivered by 10 local agencies including South Derbyshire CVS.

Fit with the SDDC Corporate Plan.

Sustainable Growth and Opportunity – Wheels to Work enables people to become and remain economically active.

Safe and Secure – both the Suicide Awareness Training and the Agricultural Chaplaincy work to help people improve their health and stay safe.

Fit with the Sustainable Community Strategy

Healthier Communities – see the RAD work on Suicide Awareness and Agricultural Chaplaincy. The Oil Buying scheme also helps people to be able to afford to heat their home adequately – this was recognised by the Dept of Health which awarded the scheme Warm Homes Healthy People Funding in 2011/12. Financial exclusion also has a direct impact on people's health and the work of FID aims to address this issue.

Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Community Development - The RAD work in supporting Village Halls, Playing Field Committees and Community Led Planning all contribute to creating and sustaining communities that are engaged in shaping their own futures.

Resources

RAD currently employs 13 staff , 3 full time and 10 part time.

It has 18 trustees and a further 27 volunteers engaged in environmental work and the Oil Buying scheme.

Turnover for 2010/ 11 was £752K

Turnover for 2011/12 is estimated to be at similar levels to 2010/2011.

Charges –

There is a standard RAD membership fee – which varies according to the status of the member from £20 to £100.

The Village Halls scheme charges £35 annual membership which gives members access to a wide range of materials specifically designed for Village Halls on the members page of the RAD website. (Members of the Village Hall scheme get automatic membership of RAD).

There is an annual membership charge for the Oil Buying scheme which varies from £20 for a household to £100 for a business.

Income comes to us from a number of sources including;

- Defra,
- Derbyshire County Council,
- District Councils,
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust,
- Big lottery Fund,
- RIEP

The income from South Derbyshire District Council is less than 1% of the total but is important in that it shows local support for our work and therefore helps us lever in funds from national bodies.

Sylvia Green

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