

# Rural Matters

Modernising Rural Delivery in Yorkshire and The Humber

June 05



Welcome to the third issue of Rural Matters, the Modernising Rural Delivery update for the Yorkshire and The Humber (YH) region.

## Special edition – Staff NEWS

### Modernising Rural Delivery Staff Changes

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005, most of the Countryside Agency's socio-economic delivery functions were transferred to Regional Development Agencies and Government Offices. In this region, staff and resources transferred from the Countryside Agency's Yorkshire and The Humber regional office to Yorkshire Forward and Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber. This edition of Rural Matters explains who has transferred as a result of Modernising Rural Delivery in the region.

### Working towards *Natural England* for people, places and nature

Work towards the creation of *Natural England* as a powerful new agency building on the world-class strengths of English Nature, the Countryside Agency and the Rural Development Service continues. In the region, Hazel Thomas (Countryside Agency Landscape, Access & Recreation division Regional Director), Martyn Howat (English Nature Regional Director) and Peter Nottage (Rural Development Service Regional Manager), are working together, with their teams, to:

- get to know, and learn more from, each other
- explore new ways of working and develop good practice
- deliver tangible and progressive improvements for their customers in the lead up to the formation of *Natural England*.



Hazel Thomas



Martyn Howat



Peter Nottage

### New Rural Director for Yorkshire and The Humber's Government Office

David Fraser has been appointed as the new rural director for the Government Office Yorkshire and The Humber and takes up the post on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2005. David brings with him a wealth of experience, having spent the past 20 years working for English Heritage. In his new role, David will take forward a high profile agenda, linking rural development in Yorkshire with a range of other government policies and programmes, including those relating to the environment.



David Fraser

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[YH Rural Framework Website](#)

## Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber

Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber (GOYH) have taken on the Countryside Agency's previous role working with the voluntary and community sector in rural areas, particularly on addressing rural social exclusion.

They have taken on responsibility for working with the Rural Community Councils, who in turn will deliver the parts of the Vital Villages programme associated with Parish Plans, Community Development work and rural housing enablers. Some of this work will also be taken forward in a new programme due to be announced soon by Defra.

To ensure a smooth transition, Mike Feist, a longstanding senior member of the Agency's regional team and who has covered planning and most aspects of regional work, has transferred to the Rural Team in GOYH together with Anna Knight from the Agency's Bristol office.



Mike Feist



Anna Knight

## Commission for Rural Communities

David Gluck began working for the new Commission for Rural Communities on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 as its Regional Affairs Manager, covering the 3 northern English Regions (North West, Yorkshire & The Humber and North East). The Commission has been established by Government as its Rural Watchdog, Rural Adviser and Rural Advocate, with a particular emphasis on tackling disadvantage in rural communities.

Although the Commission does not have regional offices, David is co-located with GOYH in Leeds and is charged with ensuring that intelligence regarding rural communities in the North is fed into the Commission's thematic studies, inquiries and research projects, as well as ensuring the Commission's research findings are fed into regional and sub regional strategies and plans affecting rural communities.



David Gluck

## Yorkshire Forward

Yorkshire Forward were delighted that they were able to retain the skills and experience of Countryside Agency staff within the region. They attribute the successful transfer of staff (as well as remit and resources) to the very positive working relationship which existed between Yorkshire Forward and Countryside Agency staff prior to the transfer, and the work both organisations put in to informing staff of their options with Yorkshire Forward.

Four members of Countryside Agency staff transferred to Yorkshire Forward on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005.

Liz Jordan, Steph Hiscott and Ian Stewart took up posts as sub-regional Rural Renaissance Delivery Managers and Ruth Ashton, as Rural Renaissance Programme Support Officer.

Liz Jordan is based in the Hull office and is the Humber sub-regional Manager, Steph Hiscott is based in Bradford as the West Yorkshire Manager and Ian Stewart is based in the York office as the North Yorkshire Manager. Chris Maunder (*not pictured*), previously based at the Yorkshire Rural Community Council, completes the team as the South Yorkshire Rural Renaissance Delivery Manager based in the Wath office. Ruth Ashton is based at Yorkshire Forward's head office in Leeds.



Liz Jordan



Steph Hiscott



Ian Stewart



Ruth Ashton