

CODC Rural Study Meetings

16th – 18th August 2005

Ian Brown's introduction notes

The purposes of the meeting are:

- To introduce the rural study and its objectives
- To introduce the team and begin the consultation process
- To obtain initial thoughts and comments on the issues that are likely to arise through the study

We see this very much as the start of a journey and not the end. This is a journey which we hope you will participate in with us. As a team we are looking forward to on-going dialogue with you. This is important as we recognise that we haven't got all the answers. You live in this district and we would like to draw on the extensive local knowledge and experience that many of you have of the area.

I have been impressed by the CODC's commitment to this consultation process. We do recognise that as soon as you start talking about subjects such as landscapes that there will be tension points. Our challenge as a team is to manage these tensions and to work through the issues with you to develop sensible solutions. It would be nice if we came up with something that everybody agreed with. Realistically, I don't think this will happen, but, I would like to get to a point where people can say the process has been fair and our views have been heard.

Apart from this and future meetings our main means of communication with you will be through email contact. If you don't have email we will post the information to you. If at anytime you do have any questions or comments about the study, please don't hesitate to contact me. My contact details are set out below.

As a follow up to the meetings this week we will be holding a further series of meetings probably around mid-September. At these we would hope to get into a lot more detail. I encourage you to be part of the process.

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