

Chief Executive
Howard Miller

To: The Members of the Rural
Affairs Consultative Assembly

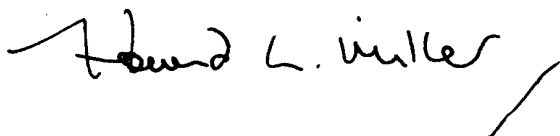
**PLEASE NOTE
TIME AND
LOCATION OF
MEETING**

4 October 1999

Dear Councillor

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **RURAL AFFAIRS CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY** to be held at the Old School, Lavendon, on **THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 1999 at 7.00 pm** (map attached) when the business set out overleaf will be transacted.

Yours faithfully



Chief Executive

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AGENDA

Item No:

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Rural Affairs Consultative Assembly held on Thursday 17 June 1999 (Item 2)

3. Buckinghamshire Community Action

To receive a presentation from Bucks Community Action on Support to Rural Communities.

4. Minerals Local Plan

At a previous meeting an undertaking was given that a report would be made to every meeting updating the Assembly on the latest position on the Minerals Local Plan. Unfortunately, there has been no progress to report at this stage, the Council is presently seeking to discuss with the County Council about how to proceed.

5. Local Plan Review - Progress Report

To receive an oral report.

6. SSI Report - Care in the Country (Chris Chapman)

To receive presentation on Community Care in Rural Areas based on a recent Social Services Inspectorate Report "Care in the Country".

7. Country Roads and Lanes

The Consultative Assembly will recall that, at its last meeting, it considered a document prepared by Rodney Newth (Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council) on Country Roads and Lanes (copy attached at **Annex to Item 7**). The Consultative Assembly resolved to defer consideration of the document to enable it to be circulated to all Local Councils for comment.

The document was circulated to all Local Councils with the Parish and Neighbourhood Newsletter in July 1999. At the time of writing this report no responses have been received. However, a message has been inserted in the September issue of the Newsletter encouraging Local Councils to attend this meeting or to ensure that their comments are submitted in time to be reported to the meeting.

8. South East England Development Agency

a. Priorities in the Rural Sector

At the last meeting of the Assembly it was reported that officers of local authorities within the South East Region agreed that a document should be written for SEEDA that could inform their rural agenda. A draft document was circulated to the last meeting of the Assembly. The officer group has met again and, attached to this agenda (**Annex to Item 8 a**) is a brief summary of how they feel SEEDA could be operated and what the key principles are. It should be stressed that this response is an informal document produced at officer level and has not been agreed by Members of any of the local authorities within the Region.

b. Towards a Regional Economic Strategy for the South East of England

One of the first duties of SEEDA was to prepare an Economic Strategy for the South East. This Strategy has to be with Government Ministers by the middle of October, therefore there has been little time for the drafting and consultation period for this Strategy. Unfortunately, by the time of this meeting the consultation period will have past. However, the Assembly may wish to see the draft Strategy insofar as it affects rural issues. The Strategy identifies seven 'Programmes for the Region' which are as follows:

- World Class Business
- World Class Learning
- World Class Workforce
- World Class Infrastructure
- World Class Environment
- World Class Regeneration and Communities; and
- World Class Rural Economy.

Attached at **Annex A to Item 8b** is the World Class Rural Economy part of the Strategy. Also attached at **Annex B to Item 8b** is an Explanatory Statement produced by SEEDA.

9. Any Other Matters

To consider any other matters raised by local councils.

10. Date/Venue for the Next Meeting

To consider a date and venue for the next meeting. If the present cycle of meetings is maintained then the next meeting would be 24 February 2000 in the Hanslope/Haversham/Castlethorpe area.