

Sustaining Services & Infrastructure in Rural Communities **6th September 2017 - Shipham Village Hall, Somerset, BS25 1SG**

9.45am Coffee & registration

Welcome by Michael Dower, PREPARE

Day to be chaired by Chris Head, West of England Rural Network

10.20am ACRE - Sustaining Rural Services & Infrastructure

Discussion and feedback on research

10.45am Smart Villages – Paul Soto ENRD (European Network for Rural Development)

11.30am Villages and small towns as catalysts for rural development – challenges and opportunities - Tom Jones EESC (European & Economic Social Committee)

Lunch

1pm Sharing learning through the European Rural Parliament – Michael Dower

1.20pm Local solutions to rural issues

- a. Agents for change supporting Somerset's vulnerable residents – Keeley Rudd, Community Council for Somerset
- b. The benefit of LEADER funding in the West of England – Chris Head, West of England Rural Network
- c. The importance of village centres, Prof. Dr. Kurt Krumbach, Village Movement Brandenburg Association
- d. European Partner (tbc)

2.30 – 3pm Case Study from a local community – [Avalon Community Energy](#)

Tea and close

3.30 – 5.30pm

Field trip for European visitors and guests – transport provided by [Bluey](#), [Congresbury Community Transport](#) to [Roxy Cinema](#) and **Westbury Community Shop** (tbc)

[Register to attend here](#)



Timings are approximate

26 July 2017