
Rother Voluntary Action



Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2013

Introduction

RVA operates in Rother District in East Sussex. We are passionate about our community and its well being. We work with a wide range of partners in order to bring change and improvement for and with the people and community of Rother. We work to highlight the needs and wishes of our community against a backdrop of environmental awareness and social accountability.

We do this by working with the backbone of our communities - the volunteers and voluntary groups that run and support our sports clubs, our play groups, our day centres, our youth clubs; groups supporting carers and people with illness; people looking for a fresh start in life; people conserving and protecting our heritage and environment; people looking to make a difference. And to making sure everyone's voice is heard and listened to.

By helping people, families, communities and groups achieve their aims and objectives we aim to make life better for everyone in Rother

RVA is a member of the National Association of Voluntary Community Action and a member of the Development Trust Association

Company No: 5333784 Charity No: 1117546

The Purpose and Direction of Rother Voluntary Action

RVA has been established to:

- Promote local community action;
- Improve the quality and effectiveness of the local voluntary and community sector;
- Proactively identify changing community needs and facilitate the development of services to meet those needs with the voluntary and community sector playing a key role;
- Establish effective working relationships between the voluntary sector, statutory sector and other outside bodies;
- Enable the local voluntary and community sector to influence strategic policies and priorities

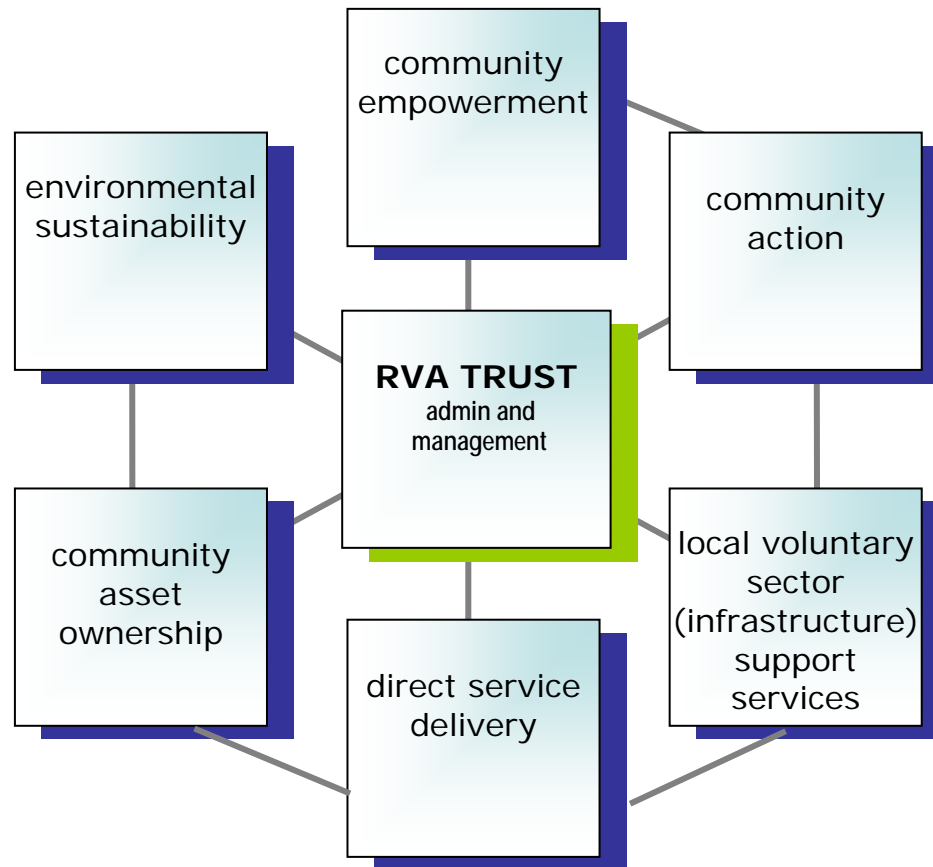
Vision Statement

RVA seeks to strengthen the social and economic wellbeing of local communities and help people fulfil their potential in a socially and environmentally sustainable fashion.

In undertaking this role RVA has a number of underlying strategic principles:	In the furtherance of its work RVA will:
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| In undertaking this role RVA has a number of underlying strategic principles: | In the furtherance of its work RVA will: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to develop active communities• to highlight issues of disadvantage• to build sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enable people of all ages to collectively play an active part in their community• uphold and promote good practice in working within these declared beliefs and values and to ensure that services offered by Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs) working in Rother are of the highest possible standard• to promote equality• to grow the social economy• to highlight the rural dimension• give priority to working with people whose full participation in society is limited by economic, physical and social disadvantage• enable the diverse views of the local community and voluntary sector to influence strategic priorities and planning |

Strategic Shape of RVA



Cross cutting themes: communities and individuals facing disadvantage, health & well being, sustainability

DEFINITIONS	
Community empowerment	<p>Enabling more people to influence decisions made by statutory agencies about their communities, and encouraging more people to take responsibility for tackling local problems, rather than expecting others to.</p> <p>Enabling the Voluntary and Community Sector, alongside traditionally under-represented communities, to have a voice in local decision-making</p>
Community action	<p>Supporting local communities to develop skills to achieve changes as identified above to develop and improve sustainable local services.</p> <p>Assisting people in groups in defining their own needs, intention and potential and to provide them with whatever support, advice, facilities or resources that they may need to meet them by their own autonomous efforts.'</p>
Environmental sustainability	<p>Developing local projects and initiatives focussing on the environment and encouraging people, VCO's and businesses to be greener</p>
Local voluntary sector infrastructure support services	<p>Supporting the local voluntary sector by providing direct services in response to their needs and creating an environment in which they can flourish.</p>
Community asset ownership	<p>Using self-help, trading for social purpose, and ownership of buildings and land, to bring about long-term social, economic and environmental benefits in the community.</p> <p>A community 'anchor' organisation, delivering services and facilities, finding solutions to local problems, and helping other organisations and initiatives succeed.</p>
Direct service delivery	<p>Developing and running projects and enterprises that support the vision of RVA Trust and bring about long term social, economic and environmental benefits to the local community</p>

RVA Strategy 2010-2013

RVA seeks to strengthen the social and economic wellbeing of local communities and help people fulfil their potential in a socially and environmentally sustainable fashion.

Strategic Objectives 2010-2013	Activities 2010-13
<p>1. Community Empowerment</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging active citizens: people with the motivation, skills and confidence to speak up for their communities and say what improvements are needed. • Strengthened communities: community groups with the capability and resources to bring people together to work out shared solutions. • Partnership with public bodies: public bodies willing and able to work as partners with local people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Networks • Administering small grant schemes • Local Strategic Partnership • Representation & Advocacy • Policy Development • Use of Community Hub/Rye office
<p>2. Community Action</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping self identified communities actively deliver change • Supporting groups to develop new services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local VCO support • Local Action Planning • Local Strategic Partnership • Social Enterprise Development
<p>3. Environmental Sustainability</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that we behave and promote behaviours and actions that support the environmental well being of Rother • Ensuring that local organisations and people participate in delivery of services • Supporting community groups to develop sustainable policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting sustainable communities • Supporting environmental groups • Adopting environmentally friendly practices

<p>4. Local voluntary sector infrastructure support services</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring we have a vibrant flourishing voluntary sector in Rother • Supporting groups to improve their quality and effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local group support • Funding Advice • Information • Liaison • Representation & Advocacy • Strategic Planning and Partnership Development • Facilities and Equipment • Strengthening Groups • Development of Community Hub/Rye office
<p>5. Asset Ownership / Development</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking to build the long term sustainability of the organisation and develop the ability to generate its own funds for community development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual (RVA Brand, RGS Brand, LAP Process, Social Enterprise) • Financial (Reserves) • Physical (Capital assets and buildings)
<p>6. Direct Service Delivery</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and filling a need or a gap, acting as a pilot or exemplar , ensuring resources are secured for Rother that may otherwise be lost. Developing local skills and capacity – increasing the proportion of services delivered by local organisations and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Parenting Project • Community Development in rural Rother • Social Enterprise support

RVA Action Plan 2010-2013

Acronyms

RVA	Rother Voluntary Action
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COO	Chief Operating Officer
FM	Financial Manager

Strategic Objectives	Key Actions	Responsible Officer	Target	Date
<p><u>1. Community Empowerment</u></p> <p><i>RVA seeks to ensure all sections of the community have the ability, opportunity and resources to impact their own and their communities quality of life</i></p> <p>Community Empowerment includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring we have active citizens: people with the motivation, skills and confidence to speak up for their communities and say what improvements are needed. • Strengthened communities: community groups with the capability and resources to bring people together to work out shared solutions. • Partnership with public bodies: public bodies willing and able to work as partners with local people <p>Development Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Development • Young People (Consortium, YDS, Forums) • Rother Race Action Forum • Local Food Project 	<p>What Success looks like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of volunteers (measured against a baseline) • Increased community action (measured by funding applications assisted by RVA) • Increased community engagement (measured by network participation) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVA runs 3 geographic Community Networks • RVA supports development of community networks Race Action, Youth Partnership • RVA Administers small grant schemes • RVA supports Local Strategic Partnership • RVA attends Representation & Advocacy meetings • RVA undertakes Policy Development & research • RVA increases the use of Community Hub/Rye office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info Officer • COO • Funding Officer • CEO • CEO/COO • CEO/COO • FM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 meetings • Networks supported 8 meeting • 1 small grant scheme administered • 5 meetings attended • Attend meeting list (annex a) • Updated BME report • LAP Analysis • % of time community rooms let • No. organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per year • All year • Per year • Per Year • Per year • By Dec 2010 • Per year • Per year

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/ Project Development work • Training • Community Digital Media Project • Business sector engagement • Local Action Plan Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVA provides Intensive Group Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COO 	<p>using facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 groups p.a. 	<p>Per year</p>
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Strategic Objectives	Key Actions	Responsible Officer	Target	Date
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2. Community Action</u></p> <p><i>RVA will work to ensure that community groups have the capacity, resources and know-how to deliver quality services and benefit to their community</i></p> <p>Community Action includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping self identified communities actively deliver change • Supporting groups to develop new services <p>Development Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social enterprise support in rural Rother • NEET/pre-NEET provision • Young people's activities • Training • Digital Media Project • Business sector engagement • Community land trusts 	<p>What Success looks like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large number of community groups by geography and sector (measured by RVA database) • Increased numbers of people volunteering (measured against a baseline) • Increased community action (measured by funding applications assisted by RVA) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVA will provide an enquiry help line • RVA will provide news and information • RVA will hold funding advice sessions • RVA will provide organisational health checks and business planning sessions • RVA will organise or signpost training for the VCS • RVA will provide general advice sessions • RVA will provide support in villages and rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info Officer • Info Officer • Funding Officer • Funding Officer • COO • COO • COO 	<p>9am-2pm telephone 24:7 website</p> <p>12 Bulletins; 3 newsletters website</p> <p>4 sessions</p> <p>6 health checks</p> <p>6 training courses</p> <p>4 per month</p> <p>2 villages per month</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Per year</p> <p>Per year</p> <p>Per year</p> <p>Per year</p> <p>Per month</p> <p>Per month</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVA will support social businesses • RVA will Represent the Rother voluntary sector and act as its advocate • RVA will be involved in local Strategic Planning and will promote Partnership Development • RVA will liaise on behalf of local groups with statutory agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FM • CEO • CEO • CEO 	<p>10 businesses supported</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Per year</p>
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Strategic Objectives	Key Actions	Responsible Officer	Target	Date
<p><u>3. Environmental Sustainability</u></p> <p><i>RVA will seek to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly and locally sustainable policies, practices and procedures with the local voluntary and community sector</i></p> <p>Environmental Sustainability includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that we behave and promote behaviours and actions that support the environmental well being of Rother • Ensuring that local organisations and people participate in delivery of services • Supporting community groups to develop sustainable policies <p>Development Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of localism (LAP) • Local Food project • Promoting green awareness • Promoting innovation – Broad Oak Park • Increase local contracting by agencies with Third Sector. 	<p>What Success looks like:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All VCS organisations have adopted an environmental policy 2. Rother Strategic partnership has adopted climate change and environmental issues as a leading priority 3. RVA offers an environmental advice service to the VCS 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVA will work with the CVS partnership to develop a county wide service to support local groups going green • RVA will seek to influence local policy makers to prioritise climate change and reducing consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO • CEO 	<p>Action Plan developed Action Plan implemented</p> <p>LSP prioritises environmental issues</p>	<p>2010 2011</p> <p>20101</p>

Strategic Objectives	Key Actions	Responsible Officer	Target	Date
<p><u>4. Infrastructure Support</u></p> <p><i>RVA will offer the Rother VCS a comprehensive set of services aimed at developing, supporting and strengthening community groups and organisations</i></p> <p>Local voluntary sector infrastructure support services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring we have a vibrant flourishing voluntary sector in Rother • Supporting groups to improve their quality and effectiveness <p>Development Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Support • Training • Community Accountancy • Support to small local businesses 	<p>What Success looks like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased effectiveness of community groups (as measured by annual survey) • Increased community action (as measured by funding applications assisted by RVA) • Community has access to quality and timely information (measured by newsletters and bulletins) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVA will provide Local group support • RVA will provide Funding Advice • RVA will provide Information • RVA will provide Facilities and Equipment for local groups • Strengthening Groups • development of Community Hub/Rye office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COO • Funding Officer • Info Officer • Info Officer/FM • COO • FM 	<p>200 organisations contacted/assisted</p> <p>50 sessions per year</p> <p>15 bulletins & newsletters; website</p> <p>Digital Media, display, furniture</p> <p>50 organisations receive in depth sessions</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>Per year</p> <p>Per year</p> <p>Per year</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Per year</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Strategic Objectives	Key Actions	Responsible Officer	Target	Date
<p><u>5. Asset Ownership / Development</u></p> <p><i>RVA will seek opportunities to develop a capital asset base in order to both secure a more sustainable future for itself and in order to deliver better services to the local community</i></p> <p>Asset Ownership / Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking to build the long term sustainability of the organisation and develop the ability to generate its own funds for community development 	<p>What Success looks like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase and Development of Old Bank Chambers Bexhill 3 months operating costs as reserves RVA Brand recognised as a positive strong influence for community benefit. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RVA will continue to develop its Intellectual property (RVA Brand, RGS Brand, LAP Process, Social Enterprise) RVA will continue to maintain a healthy financial reserve RVA will look to increase its ownership of physical assets and buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO FM FM 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>3 months operating reserves</p> <p>Purchase of Old Bank Chambers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2010</p>

Strategic Objectives	Key Actions	Responsible Officer	Target	Date
<p><u>6. Direct Service Delivery</u></p> <p><i>RVA will seek opportunities to deliver services directly to the community, where no existing local VCS organisation exists and where an identified need is unfilled</i></p> <p>Direct Service Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at filling a need or a gap, acting as a pilot or exemplar, ensuring resources are secured for Rother that may otherwise be lost. Developing local skills and capacity – increasing the proportion of services delivered by local organisations and people. <p>Development Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of digital media project to support rural communities in Rother • BYPS Drill Hall Project (young people) • Community Accountancy 	<p>What Success looks like:</p> <p>1. On going delivery of 3 contracts by RVA</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RVA will offer a Home Visiting Parenting Project • RVA will offer Community Development in Children's Centres across rural Rother • RVA will seek to offer business and social enterprise support to the VCS in Rother • RVA will seek to offer a range of services from Old Bank Chambers 	<p>COO</p> <p>COO</p> <p>FM</p> <p>FM/COO</p>	<p>Contract repeated 2010/11</p> <p>Contract repeated 2010/11</p> <p>Contract repeated 2010/11</p> <p>Develop Old Bank Chambers site</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2011</p>