

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

**9.45am Coffee & registration**

**Welcome by Michael Dower, PREPARE**

**10.20am ACRE - Sustaining Rural Services & Infrastructure**

Discussion and feedback

**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** (provided by local social enterprise)

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

**1.30pm 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. TBC – European Partner
- d. TBC – European Partner
- e. TBC – European Partner

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

**Tea and close**

Field trip for European visitors and guests - minibus provided by **local community transport** (tbc) to [Roxy Cinema](#) (tbc) [Westbury Community Shop](#) (tbc)