



**Press Release: January 2009**

## **Call to Action for County's Villages**

Villages throughout Surrey with a population of 5,000 and under are being called to action as the Calor Surrey Village of the Year competition 2009 gets underway.

The competition is being organised by Surrey Community Action with sponsorship provided by Calor – the UK's leading supplier of off-mains gas.

Villages that enter will be judged across four areas of rural village life including communities, business, sustainability and communications. The competition is about recognising, rewarding and encouraging vibrant and sustainable village communities which pull together to make the best of local opportunities – through both good times and bad, for example in the current economic downturn.

This year there will be cash prizes for smaller villages (population under 1500) and also larger villages (population 1500 and over), with one overall village being named the Calor Surrey Village of the Year. Due to the success of last year's simplified entry procedure, there will once again be a very short entry form to fill in.

Chief Executive of Surrey Community Action, Jean Roberts-Jones commented: "We know that Surrey has lots of fantastic village communities, all of which are involved in some excellent projects and are really working hard to improve life for villagers of all ages. We want to give villages the opportunity to showcase what they do well while recognising what they can improve on or where best practice can be incorporated.

The aim of the competition is to get villages to help themselves, so we want as many villages as possible to get involved and give it a go. Villages should register their interest and Surrey Community Action will do the rest for you."

The deadline for entries to the 2009 Calor Surrey Village of the Year competition is 17 April and entry forms can be requested from Surrey Community Action by telephoning Anne Barry on 01483 459292 ext 216 or emailing [anneb@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:anneb@surreyca.org.uk). They can also be downloaded from [www.surreyca.org.uk](http://www.surreyca.org.uk). Judging will take place between mid May and mid July.

Later in 2009, one of the winning villages from Surrey will have the added honour of being nominated to go forward and represent the county in the prestigious Calor Village of the Year for England competition 2009/10. This will give the village the opportunity of gaining recognition at national level as well as a share of a prize fund totalling more than £40,000.

The Calor Village of the Year UK competition is also running for a second year so the ultimate accolade for one village in Surrey could be representing England and going on to win the overall UK title.

The village representing Surrey in the current national competition for England is Hambledon and, following the submission of a written entry, villagers will receive a visit from competition judges between March 23 and April 3.

For further information in relation to the county competition, please contact Anne Barry on Anne on 01483 459292 ext 216, email [anneb@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:anneb@surreyca.org.uk).

***To find out more about Calor Village of the Year you can visit the competition website at [www.calorvillageoftheyear.org](http://www.calorvillageoftheyear.org)***

*Surrey Community Action is resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector across Surrey through access to advice, training, funding and advocacy. Surrey Community Action actively promotes volunteering and our website [www.surreyca.org.uk](http://www.surreyca.org.uk) can signpost you to local opportunities at a volunteer centre near you. Help is especially needed in health or as a school governor.*

If you are interested in volunteering the details of local volunteer centres in Surrey are on our website: [www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm](http://www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm)