



EAST OF ENGLAND CIVIC & AMENITY SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

11th January 2013 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park, Cambridge

Present: Carolin Göhler, Alec Hartley, Peter Landshoff (Chair), Jennifer Lawler, Peter Lee, Andrew Sangster and Andy Towning.. [In attendance: Nigel Bell – Admin. Officer]

1. Apologies

From: Terry Betts, Jo Edwards and John Norman (The Ipswich Society).

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

It was noted that the East of England was one of only two regions in the UK designated as Innovation Leaders in the UK.

PL said that Addenbrooke's Hospital was now designated as the Regional Trauma Unit for the Eastern Region.

The Committee expressed concern over the lack of protection of listed buildings, and the large numbers at risk, with Local Authorities lacking the resources to take firm action.

PL reported that the EU Commission is proposing 10 main corridors of development in the European Union with €50bn of investment available, €30bn of which was for transport. There were corridors from east to west and north to south through the eastern region.

How the proposed A14 improvements were to be funded was still to be agreed.

PL said that Civic Voice had now called a meeting to discuss the issue of the level of its subscriptions; the EECAS Committee had recommended no significant increase and a concentration on broadening the membership base.

5. Forums

East of England Environment Forum [EEEF] – CG had attended the most recent meeting. The EEEF must link effectively with the Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure that the environment was considered in their decision-making. The Forestry Commission had briefed on the latest position regarding Ash Die-Back. Biodiversity Partnerships in the region are struggling due to Local Authority funding cuts.

Historic Environment Forum [HEF] – PL said that this forum had met the previous Tuesday. English Heritage had reported that it has funding for a heritage issue event to be held on 26th March. The EECAS Committee were concerned that the audience invited would be limited and that English Heritage(EH) should work with Civic Societies to increase capacity and widen attendance. PL reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund now had a new strategic framework for funding applications.

The Committee noted that the LEPs in the region had little contact with the 'third sector' and that while the Norfolk/Suffolk LEP was working with its areas newly established Local Nature Partnership, the Cambridgeshire LEP was not working with its LNP.

6. Local Lists

Peter Lee of the Peterborough Civic Society gave a short presentation on how the society had compiled a new list of Buildings of Local Interest. It was the view of the Planning Authority that the list should form an annex to the new Local Plan to ensure the Local Plan conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. He would circulate the paper and further details by e-mail. **[Peter Lee]**

7. Financial Report

There was a total of £353 in the EECAS account.

8. Workshops/Seminars

It was suggested that the next event might be in Peterborough, at The Northern Hotel), on the 4th May (or 11th) and include talks on listing Buildings of Local Interest, Community Registers of Assets and the issue of balancing transport needs against the protection of the historic and natural environment.

9. e-Newsletter

Suggested articles for the next issue, due in early February, included the production of the Local List in both Peterborough and Norwich, the Ash Tree die-back, protecting the Greenbelt and an article on the data, produced by English Heritage, showing that a Conservation Area designation increased an area's house prices and boosted local business. **[NB]**

10. Website

The Chairman's Newsletter section is regularly updated by PL.

11. Any Other Business

Peter Lee circulated a leaflet for the Peterborough Civic Society's book entitled 'Peterborough in Detail'.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 17th April 2013 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park