



EAST OF ENGLAND CIVIC & AMENITY SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

7th March 2012 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park, Cambridge

Present: Peter Landshoff (Chair), Carolin Göhler and Terry Betts.

[In attendance: Nigel Bell – Admin. Officer]

1. Apologies

From Alec Hartley, Andrew Sangster and Sue Sollohub.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

PL said that while cities in the Eastern Region were growing rapidly the lack of new supporting infrastructure was worrying. There was no central Government money for this and schemes such as an A14 upgrade would need to be paid for by tolls and a 'cocktail of funding sources'.

PL reported on various schemes being proposed that might threaten the Cambridge greenbelt; including a new sports stadium and a leisure park development. There was a general concern at pressure for greenbelt development and a potential reduction in greenbelt protection due to the NPPF. TB said that Hertfordshire had problems protecting its greenbelt and would send PL details. **[TB]**

PL reported concern at the daunting range of issues that would have to be confronted in the formulation of the new Local Plans and the speed with which Local Authorities had to produce these. There was concern at the NPPF and the fact that many detailed national planning policies would be downgraded or removed when it came into force: PL reported that the government may release the NPPF in final form as early as budget day on 21st March.

5. Forums

East of England Environment Forum [EEEF] – CG said the Forum would continue as, while it had no resources, member organisations appreciated its value and would continue to attend. The last meeting on 15th February had been postponed. CG was now the Vice-Chair representing the voluntary sector.

Historic Environment Forum [HEF] – PL said that this had met the day before. He reported that the greenbelt was on the discussion list for the next meeting. The Institute for Historic Building Conservation were concerned that Local Authorities now had to use consultants, for advice on the historic environment, as they no longer had expertise amongst their employees. The Regional Director of the Heritage Lottery Fund said that they had funding money available, particularly for schemes linked to the Olympics. The NT reported that the Norfolk & Suffolk Local Enterprise Partnership were to be the government's 'green economy pathfinder'. PL also reported that Tony Burton had now left Civic Voice for the Design Council.

6. Financial Report

There was a total of £758 in the EECAS account as there had been no change since the last meeting. CambridgePPF would need to present a bill for administrative services to the Committee and PL would e-mail this to the EECAS Committee for approval. **[PL]**

The Committee would need to find further funding if it were to continue. It was thought that a bid might be submitted for funding an outreach or educational series of seminars. This would be an Agenda item for the next meeting. **[NB]**

7. Workshops

A workshop had been planned for April 2012 but had been postponed as English Heritage had said they would hold an 'open' seminar on the issue of 'the economic benefits of the environment'. However, this had been invitation only. It was decided EECAS would now hold a workshop/seminar on 22nd September or 13th October 2012 and that a program would be developed around this issue.

8. Newsletter

The latest e-Newsletter had just been issued. It was decided that the Chairman would continually update the Chairman's Message on the EECAS webpage, with a date against each entry, and each time an e-Newsletter is produced the content of the webpage would be 'decanted into it' and the website Chairman's Message would be started afresh. An article on the Wensum from AH would appear in the next e-Newsletter and an article on issues in Bury St.Edmunds would be requested from SS. **[NB]**

9. Website

See e-Newsletter notes.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date of next meeting:

9^h July 2012 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park