



# EAST OF ENGLAND CIVIC & AMENITY SOCIETIES

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

9th November 2012 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park, Cambridge

**Present:** Terry Betts, Alec Hartley, Peter Landshoff (Chair), Andrew Sangster and Jennifer Lawler.  
[In attendance: Nigel Bell – Admin. Officer]

### 1. Apologies

From Jo Edwards, Carolin Göhler and Sue Sollohub.

### 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed.

### 3. Matters Arising

None.

### 4. Chairman's Report

PL and JL had both attended the Civic Voice(CV) AGM and PL had also attended a CV away-day meeting. The feedback from the delegates had been mixed; though they thought CV was good at lobbying and that its finances meant it could continue for the time being. The Committee discussed the future level of membership fees: it thought that member Societies were reasonably happy with the current levels and that there should not be any significant increase and that CV should concentrate on increasing the number of member societies using forums such as EECAS in order to contact them directly. PL would communicate these conclusions to CV. **[PL]**

There was currently a lot of discussion by CV of neighbourhood plans but that these were expensive and premature while Local Plans were being developed and consulted on. Advice to societies to influence the formative Local Plans would be better at this stage.

PL reported that the independent website <http://www.placecheck.info/> was promoted by CV. AH reported that in Norwich the 'Local List' had now been accepted by the Council. This had been a 4 year project in the City.

PL had attended the Regional Transport Forum meeting in Ipswich where the future formation of Local Transport Boards was mentioned and that some transport decision-making may be devolved to these. There was still discussion on exactly how any A14 upgrade was to be funded.

### 5. Forums

**East of England Environment Forum [EEEF]** – PL had attended the most recent meeting. The setting up of Local Nature Partnerships had been welcomed though it was unclear how they would be resourced or how they would influence decision-making.

**Historic Environment Forum [HEF]** – PL said that this forum felt it still had an important role for organisations to share information.

### 6. Financial Report

There was a total of £353 in the EECAS account. The bill for administrative services to the Committee, by CambridgePPF, had now been paid.

The Committee would need to find further funding. if it were to continue, and should encourage more societies to send representatives to its meetings.

## **7. Workshops/Seminars**

A seminar held on 13th October in Ely on 'The Economic Benefits of the Environment' had made a small loss, but had been informative and interesting. It was thought that in future we might try and attract sponsorship to cover the costs of an annual event. It was suggested that the next event might be organized around the issue of 'Transport versus Heritage' and deal with the problem of balancing transport needs against those of the historic and natural environment. Committee members were asked to suggest possible speakers, and issues to be covered, at the next EECAS meeting. **[ALL]**

## **8. e-Newsletter**

Suggested articles for the next issue included the production of the Local List in Norwich and the Ash Tree die-back. AH asked that the data produced by English Heritage be publicised, showing that a Conservation Area designation increased an area's house prices and boosted local business. **[NB]**

## **9. Website**

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

## **10. Any Other Business**

PL drew the Committee's attention to the forthcoming Protect Our Place meeting in Birmingham on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## **11. Date of next meeting:**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park