



EAST OF ENGLAND CIVIC & AMENITY SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Present: Peter Landshoff (Chair), Carolin Göhler Alec Hartley and Andrew Sangster.

[In attendance: Nigel Bell – Admin. Officer]

1. Apologies

Terry Betts.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

The report was on the main website page and was noted.

PL said, with regard to the A14, that the scale of the Felixstowe Port expansion was 'awesome' and generating considerable traffic. An A14 working Group was due to report shortly and was likely to recommend an upgrade through a cocktail of funding, including tolls. Local Authorities may need to raise large sums in 'match-funding'.

PL said that various bids to government were being prepared to fund "super-fast" broadband. In addition, 27 cities had been invited to bid for funding to install even faster "ultra-fast" broadband and 10 would be selected. Additionally, there was a call for bids to become a "Future City Demonstrator"; 20 cities would be funded to prepare feasibility reports and then one would be selected, to receive up to £24 million.

5. Forums

East of England Environment Forum [EEEF] – CG reported on the most recent meeting on 25th April. A point to note was that a new government consultation paper on forestry management was due shortly. There was some discussion on the relevance of neighbourhood plans being created while Local Plans were being developed

Historic Environment Forum [HEF] – PL said that he had attended the meeting on 12th June. The Heritage Lottery Fund was piloting new grants for smaller projects; costing between £3k - £10k. The NT was working on a regional plan for its properties with an emphasis on access by the public. The Association of Preservation Trusts (UKAPT) website was mentioned, AC said he was active in the Norwich PT which has a rolling fund working successfully to restore and protect properties in the city. The HEF members expressed concern that the Green Deal might impact badly on historic buildings and that Local Authorities were cutting Conservation Officers. The Forum heard of the work done by 'Volunteering England'.

6. Civic Voice Member Away day

The new Director of Civic Voice was Steven Graham. PL would be attending the 'awayday' in Birmingham on 4th August and would urge Civic Voice to recognise the importance of 'regional context' in its strategy.

7. Financial Report

There was a total of £758 in the EECAS account as there had been no change since the last meeting. CambridgePPF still needed to present a bill for administrative services to the Committee.

8. Workshops and Seminars

A Seminar was planned for 13th October 2012 on the issue of 'the economic benefits of the environment'. This would be held in Ely and charges of £10 per person, or £15 per couple, were suggested.

9. Newsletter

The latest e-Newsletter would be produced in a new format for e-mail with a PDF version also accessible on the website.

10. Website

A link to the government's Forestry consultation should be provided.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date of next meeting:

12^h October 2012 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park