Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Landscape Group

Minutes

Meeting on Thursday 15th May 2008 at Eastleigh Borough Council 2:00 pm

Trevor Bradnam – Hampshire C.C. (Highways)
Tim Dyer – Eastleigh B.C. (Chair)
Steven d'Este Hoare – East Hampshire D.C
Charmaine Smith – Test Valley D.C
David Veal – Hampshire C.C. (Highways)
Charlotte Webb – Hampshire C.C.
Mark Wilson – Hampshire C.C.

Item		Action
1.0	Apologies / Overview	
1.01	Julie Boschi (Havant), Stuart Dunbar Dempsey (Win), Louise Gilbertson (Havant), Catharine Harris (NF), Paul Johnson (Bas), Sarah Kelly (NF), Peter Phillips (Test Valley), Andrew Ratcliffe (Hart), Charmaine Smith (Test Valley) & Neil Williamson (NF)	
2.0	Minutes of 17th January 2008	
2.01	TD apologies for the delay in producing minutes from the previous meeting and handed out copies to those in attendance.	
3.0	Street Tree Planting – the way forward	
3.01	18 months ago HLGLG invited TB and colleagues to speak on the issues of street tree planting. TD outlined the problems generally associated with street trees in high density developments. TB gave an update of HCC work with the MDA at West Waterlooville & South Andover. They started with basic principles to give guidelines to developers. Appropriate species, location, spatial separation, utilities coordination, adequate growing space underground, use of root deflectors etc. Andover's chalk has given particular rooting issues. Below ground issues are increasingly important with	

	restrictive tree pits giving inadequate growing environment for the chosen species. Will the tree pit allow the tree to reach a substantial size or will it just struggle to survive? SH commented that authorities that do not have MDA/SDA still require guidance for development planting particularly given the issues of services, density, highway restriction. TB responded by suggesting that maybe developments should focus on fewer large trees that have the space to reach maturity rather and that 4m from tree trunk to house frontage is to small (ie .5m verge 1.8m footway 1.7m front garden). An upright medium height tree should be 6m from housing frontages. HCC still have a policy of not adopting high maintenance planting although there maybe opportunities where higher commuted sum are used to offset the time/cost of extra maintenance. However TB suggests the use of a wider range of species to better fulfil the qualities required for a particular site rather than a standard list which may require a tree sited in a location that will require maintenance liability. Various technical tree pit solutions including structural soils will be going to the HCC Highway technical advice note to seek approval. Highways street lighting dept at HCC are tasked with minimal energy requirements for lighting (they use BS 5489:1992). N.B. Manual for streets gives some other priorities for street lighting TB/DV highlighting the point that new development design briefs are difficult for them to respond to given the speed of response required and the length of the documents. TD suggested that standard methods/sections are required to enable developments that are small than those requiring a design brief to be planned DV is tasked with looking at HCC response to Manual for Streets to update the MASS document. Terry Lowmass (from the technical advice group) has been pulling together technical specifications covering roads, systainability, drainage etc not yet covering street lighting and trees. TB and Christianne Strubbe will helping put it	

	together. The document will go to the Manual for Streets working party (HCC) and will be on the web. It will be at least the end of the summer before the document will be ready. TD suggested that the HLGLG would be keen to contribute to the document. CS highlighted the problem of agreeing/negotiation with the Local Authorities Highways and various HCC departments but one department (Street Lighting) has the power to veto a whole scheme. In Test Valley they have given only one solution and have been willing to think holistically. The street was one main street (35m double avenue of London Planes) in the context of all other roads in the whole development meeting there requirements. Test Valley are trying to agree to take on some highway verge under there public open space adoption to allow responsibility for the trees to fall on them and therefore there species selection. CS talked about the solutions used at Letchworth Garden that create a public landscape, with trees of large proportions, that has been and will be used for many years. Can we say that our current planned streets will have this longevity? DV will be including Christianne Strubbe and TB in the development of the landscape part of the new HCC document and he advises that other aspects required for inclusion should go through them	
4.0	Landscape related policy development and SPDs for Local Development Frameworks	
4.01	CW has moved to HCC Landscape Planning and Heritage Group and amongst other areas is tasked with landscape policy. Common policy approach has been adopted for sustainability policy within PUSH. Can landscape policy adopt common policies? The advantage of common policy is that districts cannot be played of each other. Is this necessary/useful for landscape? • TD Eastleigh are developing landscape policy slowly with the emergence of the LDF core strategy. • CS Test Valley are thinking about compiling a small overarching document, similar to High Peaks B.C. • Authorities are low on resources to make significant progress on landscape policy issues • SH East Hants are developing a suite of documents	

	for there LDF, issues and options, one being for environment • Other authorities are looking at gap studies, revised landscape character assessment, landscape sensitivity studies, housing and urban extensions, renewable energy, open space reviews, landscape capacity, design and sustainability • Renewable energy guidance/policy could influence landscape policy on a regional or sub regional level and may require cross boundary liaison. What about wind turbine capacity studies relating to landscape character	
5.0	Upcoming events/training	
5.01	• Places to Go? Place-shaping, safer streets and sustainable transport for a child-friendly public realm **20th May 08**, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/news_and_events/events/events/2008/05/20/Places_to_Go_Place-shaping_safer_streets_and_sustainable_transport_for_a_child-friendly_public_realm/ • An Evening at Great Dixter with Fergus Garrett When **29th May 2008** Where Great Dixter Time 14:30 The gardens at Great Dixter were begun when Nathaniel Lloyd commissioned Sir Edwin Lutyens to create a romantic country house in the East Sussex Weald. • Making Successful Places: Developing Public Spaces to Create a Sociable & Sustainable Urban Environment When **12th June 2008** Where Mayfair Conference Centre, London Time 09:00 A quality public realm can improve quality of life, enhance local identity and foster commercial success. Placemaking professionals working in this area have an important role to play in urban development and can benefit from sharing experiences about what works when designing, managing and resourcing public spaces. http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/news_and_events/events/events/2008/06/12/Making_Successful_Places_Developing_Public_Spaces_to_Create_a_Sociable__Sustainable_Urban_Environment/ Trees - The Key to Climate Proofing our Cities When 10th July 2008 Where The Royal Geographical Society, London Time 09:00 Temperatures in UK cities are predicted to rise by 4–7°C in the next 30 years. Research indicates that a 10% increase in urban tree cover would completely neutralise this impact. However, trees are being lost at an alarming rate including large and mature trees whose climate-control benefits are irreplaceable in the short term; the	

	result is that urban 'deforestation' is offering a hot future for city life. http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/news_and_events/events/events/2008/07/10/Trees_-_The_Key_to_Climate_Proofing_our_Cities/	

The dates of the next 4 HLGLG meetings;

17th July 2008
18th September 2008 (Adaptation to Climate Change) Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
20th November 2008 (Townscape Assessments) open to offers on venue!
15th January 2009