

**Minutes of CODS Meeting No 71
Thursday 4 June 2009
Room 166a, First Floor, North Block, County Hall, Matlock**

Present:

Allan Morrison (Chair)	DCC
Kerry Babington	EH
Debby Yates	BDC
Chris McKinney	BDC
Philip Smith	BDC & CBC
Jamie Foot	AVBC
Tanya Shaw	DDDC
John Sharpe	LCC
Kerry Bennett	EBC
Catherine Mate	PDNPA
John Sewell	PDNPA
Gill Stroud	DCC
Barry Joyce	DCC
Adam Lathbury	DCC
Dave Barrett	DCC
Paul Warren	DCC

1. Apologies

David Walsh	EH
Eilish Scott	EH
Jo Brooks (Secretary)	HPBC
Helen Bower	HPBC
Debbie Maltby	Derby CC
Chloe Oswald	Derby CC
Kim Wyatt	BDC
Jonathan Moore	BDC
Helen Carrington	CBC
Becky Waddington	PDNPA
Sue Adam	PDNPA

2. Introductions

The following new members were asked to introduce themselves:

Kerry Babington, English Heritage; Phil Smith, Urban Designer for Chesterfield and Bolsover Councils and Jamie Foot, temporary Senior Community Planning Officer, Amber Valley.

3. Minutes of meeting No 70, 5 March 2009

Minutes of the meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: Item 8: ABM reported that South Derbyshire's £2.7m bid for public realm works in Swadlincote had been a victim of a moratorium on public realm works; AL updated the position reporting that the 1st stage bid to DDEP had been approved; 2nd stage submitted.

Item 7: A flyer for the IHBC Annual School 2009 was distributed.

4. East Midlands Construction in the Built Environment (EMCBE) **Cathie Clarke, Heritage Skills Manager**

This item was taken at the start of the meeting. Cathie Clarke gave an enthusiastic and informative presentation explaining her role in the East Midlands Regional Heritage Skills Training Group (EMRHSTG), a partnership between EH, EMCBE and NHTG, in developing a regional heritage skills training programme.

Cathie described the Group's objectives, setting it within the context of plans for built heritage skills and explaining other initiatives, including Bursary Scheme placements, and its aim to run two Heritage Skills events.

The following information was tabled by Cathie:

- Memorandum of Understanding on maintaining Standards and Best Practice in the Built Heritage Sector in England
- Get Qualified to Work on Historic Buildings – Heritage Skills NVQ Level 3 CSCS Heritage Skills card (NHTG)

which give further explanation of the aim for a Heritage Skills card based on the existing CSCS card system, by 2010, as proof and recognition of competency for crafts persons working on heritage buildings, projects and sites.

BJ – mentioned that in the recently held THI Liaison Group meetings the need for skilled 'street masons' to deliver quality public realm works was consistently being highlighted as an issue and that this may be something that the training programme could help to satisfy.

5. Conservation Areas at Risk

BJ - tabled a downloaded paper relating to CA@R; he suggested that this English Heritage initiative needed a response from CODS, to input

experience of harm and best practice to the online questionnaire. He strongly recommended that each authority submit its experience.

ALL

CM – reported that PDNPA had participated in a pilot study, but understood it had more of an urban emphasis than ‘rural’.

6. Building for Life (BFL)

AL – reported he had been nominated as DCC’s candidate on this CABE initiative to raise quality of design/development and provide an objective means to evaluate proposals; intention is to become part of a network of assessors in County; Phil Smith (CBC +BDC) already received training; scope includes assessing housing developments, scrutinising district policies in LDF/LDP’s and Core Strategy; operates on 20-point pre-application assessment criteria, with pass mark being 14.

KB (EH) – reported that BFL is working, confirmed that appeals have been won on BFL assessments.

ABM – suggested that Design Champions should be trained in the BFL assessment criteria; AL stated training is free (CABE funded) for one local authority representative and £200 for others.

7. Regional Design Guide and Manual for Streets

AL -); DCC Highways, in collaboration with the other 6C (3 cities/ 3 counties), is embarking producing and adopting a regional supplementary technical document to support Manual for Streets; additionally, a ‘Process & Principles’ companion document to this is being produced, with assistance from CABE. However, currently the scope and function of this document is not yet established. It is hoped that this companion document will be adopted by ALL the planning authorities in the 6C region. An e-mail from AL to Graham Fairs (DCC Highways) setting out AL’s concerns was tabled.

AL to provide JS (LCC) with Leicestershire contact.

AL

8. Historic Environment Record - update

DB - Despite the Heritage Protection Reform Bill not getting parliamentary time EH have identified funding to develop HER data for a 5-year period; a group has been convened by EH with ALGAO and IHBC to set priorities; funding has been secured for DCC (50%) and district Councils (50%) to appoint a Historic Environment Record Assistant post for a period of three years. The post will prioritise the

recasting of the Historic Landscape Character data and general HER maintenance. In addition 2 temporary posts are currently in place, one to enhance the HER for the DVMWHS and the other the HER records in aggregate producing areas of the county. The latter is part of a larger ALSF project.

BJ – reported that DB has been appointed chair of ALGAO England (which would require him to work 1 day / week) and ABM congratulated Dave on behalf of CODS.

9. IHBC News

CMcK - reported that the forthcoming IHBC Annual School was to be hosted by the East Midlands Region at Buxton on the 11th, 12th and 13th June 2009 and that the School is now fully booked and that this represents the IHBC's most successful school in terms of bookings to date. CMcK added that the Derbyshire report for the Branch's AGM was due to be prepared soon and that if anyone wanted to put forward information to pass this to him asap. CMcK also added that he had not yet decided whether he wanted to be nominated for the Derbyshire representative for the forthcoming year and that if anyone else wanted to put themselves forward they should let him know.

ALL

10. Funding applications and approvals

AL – reported that DCC had been awarded grants by EH for 75% of essential repair costs at Elvaston Castle to achieve a condition survey of the castle, historic estate and gardens for an options analysis feasibility study to inform an enabling development assessment and 80% for permanent repairs to a number of structures, including the Moorish Temple.

BJ – explained that the aim was to reduce the conservation deficit by putting the Castle in good order; Simpson & Brown Architects have been appointed for the essential repairs survey and the second appointment would appear on Source Derbyshire within the month.

CMcK – reported that an additional £222,000 had been secured to complete the schools project under the Creswell THI. This award was made in competition with new THI projects in what is a unique situation for the HLF who do not normally entertain grant increases.

DB –reported that there would be a public open day for the new Creswell Crags Visitor Centre on 26/27 June 2009.

11. Appeal decisions and casework

JS (PDNPA) – reported on an application in Edale, where the applicant sought to sell-off the end of a building and split the curtilage. Appeal decision attached on DHBT web site.

12. AOB

KB (EBC) – announced that she would be leaving Erewash BC to take up a position of Conservation Architect with Highland Council, in Inverness. ABM wished Kerry well in her new post on behalf of CODS.

13. Date of next and future meeting

Wednesday 16 September 2009

*** EXCEPTIONALLY THIS WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW VISITOR CENTRE AT CRESWELL CRAGS, AT 10.30, near Bolsover. Maps will be provided.

Wednesday 9 December 2009 County Hall Room 166a, First Floor,
North Block, County Hall Matlock