



EECS NEWSLETTER

East of England Civic Societies

Issue:

September 2009

Final Call:

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST OF ENGLAND: How can we avoid throttling the goose?

A one-day event on 17 September 2009 organised by the Cambridge Preservation Society in partnership with Cambridgeshire Horizons, Cambridge University, East of England Civic Societies, East of England RSA and Shape East.

The East of England region is hugely important to the economy of the country, but we need to make sure that its expansion preserves its attractiveness as a place in which we live and work. The event will re-assess the process by which the development of the region is planned and seek to inject new vision into it.

Chair: Nigel Brown (Greater Cambridge Partnership)

Brief introductions from

- **Robin Pellew** (Cambridge Preservation Society)
- **Paul Dickson** (East of England RSA)
- **Alex Plant** (Cambridgeshire Horizons)

Why is the region developing?

- **Steve Cox** (EEDA)
- **Christopher Tunnell** (Arup)
- **Matthew Bullock** (Norwich & Peterborough BS)
- **Adrian Cannard** (EERA)

Finance: Adam Marshall (Centre for Cities)

Transport: Sir David Rowlands (former Permanent Secretary, DfT)

Homes: Sir Richard MacCormac (MJP Architects)

Governance: Professor Tony Travers (LSE)

Agriculture, Landscape and Resources: Gareth Dalglish (Natural England)

Summary: John Worthington (DEGW)

TIMING AND LOCATION

Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge.

A free all-day event beginning at 9.30am, ending by 4.30pm, with a buffet lunch provided.

TO REGISTER

If you wish to attend this event, please email: planning@cpswandlebury.org including your name, organisation, email address and phone number (stating any special needs with regard to access or diet) or call the Cambridge Preservation Society 01223-243830.

Further details will be provided to registered attendees regarding access, parking and location. Please note that places per organisation may be restricted.

East of England Civic Societies:

Chair's annual report - September 2009

As a Trustee of the Cambridge Preservation Society, I agreed a year ago to become chair of the then EEACTION, the East of England Association of Civic Trust Societies, because of the enormous concern we have in Cambridge about the very rapid development that is affecting the whole of our region. The Cambridge Preservation Society, in the shape of its CEO Carolin Göhler and its Planning Support Officer Nigel Bell, has also agreed to provide admin support for us, following the resignation in February of our secretary Janet Smith-Gibbons, to allow her to devote herself to a new job. Carolin has been representing us at the East of England Environmental Forum and I at the regional Heritage Environment Forum.

The sudden news in April that the Civic Trust had gone into administration was a shock. We welcome the attempt by Tony Burton to rescue a new structure from the ruins, and look forward to hearing about it from him on 10 October at our AGM at the Green Quay in King's Lynn. We hope that, whatever form it takes, it will be fully responsive to the needs of the member societies. A big question will be how it will be financed. The same applies to the regional associations if they are to survive. EEACTION used to receive £2,000 per year from the Civic Trust, which went to pay a small fee to the secretary and travel expenses for committee members. We have some £2,000 saved up, so we can continue for a while.

Although this has been a time of uncertainty, we have not been idle. We have begun a new quarterly newsletter, of which this is the third issue. We have also teamed up with the East of England RSA (the Royal Society for the promotion of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce), and so far have organised three meetings together with them. The first was in June with the Bury St Edmunds Society and was a meeting to discuss how the heritage and character of our towns can be preserved and adapted during a time of rapid expansion.

The second will be in Cambridge on 17 September 2009 and will re-assess the process by which the development of the region is planned, and seek to inject new vision into it.

The third will be with the King's Lynn Society **on 10 October 2009** under the title "Keeping our region special"; it will include not only our **AGM at 10.15 am**, and the presentation by Tony Burton, but also a discussion of the pros and cons of a barrage across The Wash, and a visit to the True's Yard fishermen's museum. For information about these meetings, and to register for them, email planning@cpswandlebury.org

The old EEACTION web page is no longer being maintained and we intend launching a new one. The Cambridge Preservation Society is changing its name to "Cambridge Past, Present & Future". When that change is complete its web site will be revamped, and will include a new web page for us.

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to come to our AGM. If you cannot, please feel free to email me about issues that concern you:

Peter Landshoff: pvl@damtp.cam.ac.uk

EECS AGM

AGM 10 October 2009 - 10.15 am

followed by day seminar “Keeping our Region Special” for details please see next page

Venue: Green Quay in King's Lynn (all day parking available nearby on the Boal Quay)

Map: <http://www.thegreenquay.co.uk/open/map.gif>

Agenda

1. Welcome by Chairman
2. Apologies
3. Approval of the Minutes of October 2008. Note the draft minutes are to be published on the web beginning of October at the latest see <http://www.eeacts.org.uk/news.php?section=4>
4. Chairman's Report & name change
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Committee member's reports
 - East of England Environmental Forum (EEEEF)
 - East of England Historic Environment forum (HEF)
7. Election of Officers and Committee Members (see note below)
8. Any other AGM business

Election of County Representatives

Each County has a representative on the EECS committee and all positions will be subject to election at the AGM, as some committee members wish to retire.

Currently they are:

Cambridgeshire (Chair of EECS): Peter Landshoff P.V.Landshoff@damtp.cam.ac.uk
07917 131 540

Essex: John Egan postmaster@egan17a.plus.com 01206 767288

Hertfordshire: Andrew Sangster andrewsangster@onetel.com 01992 582594

Norfolk: Danny Jeffrey 01842 753770

Suffolk: John Bloomfield jbloomfield39793@aol.com 01842 753770

If anyone has an interest in any of these posts please urgently contact the current Chair Peter Landshoff: pvl@damtp.cam.ac.uk

If you wish to attend the AGM only (i.e. not the seminar) or to add anything to the agenda, please contact Nigel Bell - planning@cpswandlebury.org

Keeping our Region Special

East of England Civic Societies & East of England RSA

Saturday 10th October 2009 from 10.00 to 16.30

at the Green Quay in King's Lynn (all day parking available nearby on the Boal Quay)

Map: <http://www.thegreenquay.co.uk/open/map.gif>

10.00 Arrival, coffee and welcome

10.15 **AGM of East of England Civic Societies**

10.45 **The New Civic Societies Initiative**

Presentation by its director Tony Burton, followed by discussion

11.45 Coffee Break

12.00 **The Wash Barrier Project**

Peter Dawe (CEO, Wash Tidal Barrier Corporation)

Richard Powell (Regional Director, RSPB)

13.00 Buffet Lunch

13.45 **True's Yard old fishing community museum**

Introduction by chairman of trustees Dr. Paul Richards, followed by visit

16.00 **Return for tea and final discussion**

COST: £12.00 (including Museum entrance)

For booking and enquiries please contact:

gladys.jones@virgin.net Tel: 01638 500404

Inspire East – Sustainable Communities

Inspire East are running two training sessions, applying the principles of sustainable communities to your work and an introduction to environmental standards. Both sessions are likely to book up fast, so book early to avoid disappointment.

<<http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/anintroductiontoenvironmentalstandards.aspx>>

An Introduction to Environmental Standards on Friday, 2 October 2009

This free training session will introduce you to a set of standards found within the environment segment of the Excellence Framework, with an opportunity for surgery time after lunch to ask questions regarding use for your project. Follow the link:

<<http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/anintroductiontoenvironmentalstandards.aspx>>

for more information and a booking form (FREE).

<<http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/sustainablecommunitiesinpractice.aspx>> Sustainable Communities in Practice on Friday, 9 October 2009

An opportunity to explore sustainable communities principles and policies combined with a hands on practical session, where you can apply these to Thetford, a historic market town facing significant growth challenges. Follow the link:

<<http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/sustainablecommunitiesinpractice.aspx>>

for more information and a booking form (2 October 2009: £120 for Public & Private sector, £60 for Voluntary & Community sector).

Regional Meeting of Civic Societies at Bury St Edmunds



A meeting entitled 'Our Heritage Our Future' was held on 20th June at the Unitarian Meeting House in Bury St Edmunds. After a warm welcome and short history of the Meeting House building from David Rees, of the Meeting House's Preservation Group, the meeting got under way with a presentation from Greg Luton (Regional Director, English Heritage) entitled 'New Designs: Old Buildings'. Greg posed the question 'Why does design matter?' considering its particular relevance to the region, specifically its growth and the need for high quality design

solutions. He said that it was "Not a choice of old or new" but that regeneration of old buildings added to the quality of our lives.

Barry Shaw MBE FRSA (Director of the Essex Design Initiative, ECC Head of the Built Environment) followed with "Old and new in Essex". The Essex Design Initiative provided examples of development in the region stressing the importance of design and placing development in the historical context of the region.

"Skills Challenges and Change" was addressed in John Preston's presentation. John is Education Secretary of the IHBC and the Historic and Natural Environment Manager for Cambridge City Council. He took us through managing change using New Hall College in Cambridge as an example.

Dave Phillips and Merlynne Francique, the Youth Action Team of the National Youth Agency, explained that their aim is to support organisations that work with young people. They gave many examples of the ways in which young people can become involved in Civic Societies; for instance training young people to act as guides at heritage sites, in galleries or using young people's skills (visual, musical, drama etc.) to promote inclusion in the programmes of organisations.

An excellent lunch, and a tour of the new central shopping arcade the Bury Arc, were followed by tea and discussion and ended an extremely enjoyable and informative day shared by a number of societies. The event was held with the regional RSA, and represents a new venture for the RSA in this region. Another similar event is planned for King's Lynn on 10th October (see above for details) in conjunction with the East of England Civic Societies AGM.

A big thank you to all involved and in particular the Bury Society, friends of the Meeting House and the RSA for the generous and enthusiastic support and expert guided walk making it such a successful day.

Conservation Areas Mean Higher House Prices

A survey of estate agents in the East of England by English Heritage has shown that people value conservation areas, because of their special character and appearance, and are prepared to pay higher prices for properties in well-kept conservation areas.

The results show that:

- three-quarters of estate agents believed that a well-maintained conservation area added to the value of the properties within it.
- 82% felt that original features added financial value to properties and 78% believed they helped a property to sell more quickly
- nearly 50% reported that residential properties within conservation areas were selling for more than equivalent properties outside.

See: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.20809>

ANTAS

We should like to recommend the online publication of the latest Newsletter of the Association of North Thames Amenities Societies:

<http://www.antas.plus.com/newsletters/newslettersummer2009.pdf>

PPS 15 – English Heritage Consultation Events



On 24 July 09 CLG launched a formal consultation on *PPS 15: Planning for the Historic Environment*.



English Heritage is holding a series of events exploring the consultation draft. The events will provide delegates with background on the process of developing the PPS, and afford opportunities for discussion about its principles, content, and the supporting Practice Guide.

The guide is available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationhistoricpps>

The PPS 15 will have impact on our heritage environment – make your views heard!
Closing date for comments is 30 October 2009 (direct to the Department of Communities and Local Government).

English Heritage welcomes anyone who is involved in the heritage sector, and wants to contribute to the consultation, to these events.

Events will run in September from 9.30 to 15.30 on:

7th – Bristol

11th - Planning & Development Sector Specific Event – London

21st – Leeds

23rd - Leicester

For queries or to register your interest in attending please email

Rachel.prosser@english-heritage.org.uk

The Future Of The Civic Society Movement – Your Views

The **Civic Society Initiative** is inviting your thoughts and ideas, on the best future for the civic society movement, following the closure of the Civic Trust. The results will help them to know more about the range of activities civic societies get involved in and find a way forward which provides more of the support they need and strengthens the movement as a whole.

The deadline for responses is 30th September 2009 and if they receive your completed questionnaire by that date you will automatically be entered into a prize draw with the chance of winning £250 for a civic society of your choice and a personally signed copy of Griff Rhys Jones' latest book – 'Rivers - for you'.

The survey can be accessed or downloaded at:

<http://snaponline.snapsurveys.com/siam/surveylanding/interviewer.asp?sid=513ECB226B9A1285B08CA13AC4E74F1455594D8E53A4>

The Civic Society Initiative Website can be found at:

<http://www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk/>

East of England Plan > 2031 – Public consultation

The final East of England Plan published in May 2008 contained a policy that requires EERA to commence an early focussed review to be completed by 2011. The review requires the Plan to extend its coverage to 2031.

For the review, EERA is testing the implications of a range of scenarios through a variety of models (e.g. Government's advice on housing, demography, economic, traffic, water supply) to assist in the development of options for the scale and distribution of growth up to 2031.

The options will evolve from the first public consultation programme around a number of scenarios for future growth.

The public consultation programme starts on 2nd September 2009 and runs to 24th November 2009.

This is an important consultation which will affect the entire Region and us all. Deadline to comment on scenarios etc is 24 November 2009.

EERA are holding twelve public consultation events across the region in September to provide an opportunity to debate and hear more about planning for the future of the region.

These interactive events will provide an opportunity for the audience to question the East of England Regional Assembly and an expert panel about planning for the thousands of new homes needed across the East of England by 2031.

To view the events or book a place go to: <http://events.eera.gov.uk/conferences/>

They are being held during September at the following locations:

- 2nd – Norwich
- 3rd – Chelmsford
- 8th – Chicksands, Bedfordshire
- 9th – Stevenage
- 10th – Cambridge
- 14th – Peterborough
- 16th – Ipswich
- 17th – Kings Lynn

22nd – Luton
23rd – Southend-on-Sea
24th – Thurrock
30th – Huntingdon

An East of England event for Government agencies and regional stakeholders is also being held between 2-4pm on 10th September in Cambridge.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/What-we-do/developing-regional-strategies/east-of-england-plan/east-of-england-plan-review-to-2031/>

Note: The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) is carrying out an early review of the Plan, in particular to roll forward the Plan to provide for the period up to 2031. Government has indicated that it wishes the review to be completed by 2011.

Editors:

Carolin Göhler / Nigel Bell – Telephone: (01223) 243830

e-mail: planning@cpswandlebury.org

We'd love to hear from you and your local group.

Please e-mail or call us with updates from your area as well as other hot topics from the Region.

Submission deadline for the next EECS e-newsletter is Friday 30 October 2009.