

**Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Local Government Landscape Group**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday September 29th 2005
Oakridge Hall, Basingstoke**

Present

Stephen d'Este Hoare(Chair)	East Hampshire District Council
Mark Wilson	Hampshire County Council
Mark Ellison	Southampton City Council
Paul Johnson	Basingstoke and Deane B.C.
Tim Boschi	Basingstoke and Dean B.C.
Tony Harris	New Forest District Council

Apologises

Jill Colclough,Clare Collins,Julian Davies,Neil Williamson,Peter Phillips,Julie Boschi,Paul Best and Vivian Fifield.

1 Added Value

This item followed a recent query on the techniques available to assess the Added Value(AV) arising from the completion of enhancement schemes etc. It was pointed out that these AVs need not be just community benefits, although these were likely to be the main ones, but could be ecological, aesthetic and social benefits too. Tangible benefits might include increased land values, reduction in crime as well as improvements to the general environment, but it was agreed that there is likely to be an increase in pressure to undertake these assessments as the use of indicators is becoming more widespread. The means to achieve this assessment could include customer surveys, both before and after the project as a means of providing a quantifiable basis. It was pointed out that CABE had done some work on this and produced a paper "The Value of Open Space" which could provide a lead.

Members were asked to forward and ideas/suggestions to PJ who will report back to a later meeting.

2 Tranquillity Study

MW reported on work undertaken in the late 1990s and the recent more extensive work undertaken in the north of England by Northumbria University and

the Landscape Research Group at Newcastle University. Reference was made to the Countryside Agency publication "Understanding Tranquillity". March 2005. HCC would like to adopt recent approaches for a study of tranquil areas in the county and a lot could be learnt from the study in Northumbria. The methodology will need adjusting and some aspects of the public participation will need changing too but the approach is relevant. There is a correlation between the landscape character assessment work and tranquillity and this will be tested in work being done in Basingstoke.

3 HIPOG Funding

HIPOG has requested ideas from its sub groups on ways that it can most effectively use a £5000 balance currently held its account. Members of the group put forward a number of suggestions for a range of seminars which would be of value to a cross section of officers in local authorities throughout the county. These ideas will be forwarded to the HIPOG chairman. (Note : the list of ideas submitted by this group has already been circulated to members of HLGLG).

4 High Density Housing in Hampshire

MW introduced the Group to the recent work undertaken at HCC on its web page under High Density Housing. They would welcome suggestions from the Districts of schemes which show examples of best practice of high density housing. They need not necessarily be new but be relevant to an urban design/open space/landscape theme. Ideas should be sent to MW directly as hard copies or as a "J" peg image.

4 LISW/LI

The new LI Director is now in post. The LI web page is about to be redesigned, if anyone has strong feelings about what should be included, constructive suggestions are welcomed.

The LISW now have a new Chairman, Lionel Fanshaw – other changes to the committee will be posted on the LISW web page.

5 HLGLG Finances

The Group currently have a balance of £901.76 which is an increase of £16 over the year.

5 Oakridge, Basingstoke.

The meeting ended with a presentation by TB of the background to the Oakridge development and a walk around the area. The prize winning development was originally a 5 storey, 1960s deck access concrete jungle however through an inspired partnership of the Sentinel Housing Association, BDBC, Hunt Thompson

Associates and the local community a comprehensive redevelopment of the area has been achieved – and in doing so increased the housing density over the site from 19 units/ha to 43 units/ha. Given the success of work at Oakridge two further bids have now been submitted by Sentinel. For further information refer to the BDBC web page (currently a Beacon Housing Award winner for affordable housing) or the Hunt Thompson web page .