

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

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday May 19 2005
Hilliers Gardens, Romsey**

An informal meeting was convened during the visit when we stopped for tea, so no formal minutes of the meeting have been taken. The following represents a summary of the topics raised and points made.

1 Landscape Guidelines (Mark Ellison)

Copies of the Landscape Checklist were circulated to the group. This is now in its final consultation draft form. All members of the group are asked to look at the document and make comments to Mark or Julian, ideally within a month or so.

Discussions then followed on how the document should be distributed to the group – should the different authorities buy copies of it or should they buy a disk so that they can download copies in the form and number they require ? This latter option was favoured. Costs incurred should be covered by the cover price for the disk.

2 Single Status (Neil Williamson)

Attention was drawn to an article in the Vista magazine which highlighted problems being experienced by some landscape architects in local authorities. Apparently the problem varies but some are going through the Single Status assessment and finding their post is downgraded. In some cases quite dramatically. There is a legal obligation for all to go through this process by 2007 so it is important to find out what your authority is doing about it and prepare for the assessment.

3 High Hedges (Stephen d'Este Hoare)

Legislation came into force on June 1st. The following info may be of interest – Winchester may charge about £500 and HH will be dealt with by Enforcement; Test Valley £300-400 Tree Section/Enforcement ; Havant and Basingstoke not yet known, Enforcement; Rushmore £260, in the Tree /Conservation team, New Forest £450 in the Tree Team. East Hants £500.

4 SW Branch (Neil Williamson)

AGM is on Sunday 10 July – details to follow.
Thursday Oct 20 : Katherine Moore. The event is to be held in Bristol

