

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

**Minutes of meeting held Thursday 17th March 2005
Penns Place, Petersfield**

Present

Stephen d'Este Hoare (Chair)	East Hants District Council
Clare Collins	Rushmoor Borough Council
Jill Colclough	Test Valley Borough Council
Catherine Harris	New Forest District Council
Julie Boschi	Havant Borough Council
Viv Fifield	Winchester City Council
Graham Flatt	Hampshire County Council

Circulation

HLGLG members; Dorset Landscape Group; HIPOG; LI Public Sector Committee

1 Presentation by Lionel Fanshaw of Terra Firma consultancy

Lionel led a wide ranging and interesting discussion on a number of issues which we all deal with on a daily basis, but looking at them from a consultant's perspective. In particular he argued that the number of documents coming from Government departments was becoming overwhelming and counterproductive; that more could be permitted in the wider landscape where the character of the landscape and limited visual impact allowed; that formality in the landscape was not necessarily bad; that the practicalities of a site are often ignored; that visual impact is often over emphasised and that enforcement of landscape conditions is very important because developers will seek to take advantage if they can. These and many other points were raised and discussed

2 Apologies

Mike Tartaglia-Kershaw, Paul Johnston, Paul Best, Neil Williamson

3 Minutes of meeting held 17 January 2005

Agreed

4 Matters arising

VF to run course on High Hedges for mediation service in Winchester at Winchester City Council Offices – re-visit issue at May meeting

5 Action Plan Review

Agreed action points to amend

- 1.1 alter to read Spring 2006
- 1.2 has been completed and should be replaced by the visit to Hillier's Arboretum in May 2005
- Section 2.0 to remain the same
- 3.3 should be retained as an aspiration
- 3.4 has been completed and should be deleted

- Section 4.0 to remain the same
- 5.3 update our guidance in relation to this, rephrase with reference to current work being done.
- 6.3 speak to PB regarding CABE, and change to ongoing. Add reference to presentation to the group by Paul Grover
- Sections 7.0-10.0 to remain the same.
- Page 12 update current chair.
- Page 2 change contact info to Steve d'Este Hoare

6 The Highway Environment in rural areas – update from Graham Flatt on his work with HCC

The main problems are the erosion of character, inappropriate advertising, lighting and planting and an increasing urbanisation of the road environment. Whilst the main influences and constraints are generally Gov. regulations, the desire to avoid risk, political pressure, different cultural backgrounds influencing how different professions tackle a problem and the desire to reduce speeds and casualties on the roads. Graham is looking for good and bad examples of road signage so if you know of any let him know. There is a concern that there is a general cascading down of intrusive elements, signage etc down to minor roads and they are becoming less effective, "the message is being diluted". He will be involved in the second version of the Local transport Plan which will be more responsive to character assessments and the Traffic Calming Group where a rethink of its approach is required. Workshops are planned so if you want to be involved there will be an opportunity to do so.

7 SW Branch update

Nothing new to report.

8 New Projects

Only new projects reported were :

Havant : reported on progress on the Liveability project. Consultants have been appointed. The budget for 2005-6 is £3.3m

Winchester : reported that there has been a reorganisation but the landscape group still lies within Planning. In addition the Winchester Natural Environment Forum has been set up

9 AOB

There were no items raised and the meeting closed at 5pm.

Next Meeting

Please meet at 2pm Thursday 19th May 2005 at Hillier's Arboretum. We will have a short presentation and guided walk led by the Head Gardener.