RAC MEETING

RAC/2019/January/14/01

MINUTES of a meeting of the RTPI East of England RAC meeting held on 14 January 2019 at West Suffolk Council, Room GF13- Conference Room East

PRESENT: Adam Banham (in the Chair) David Potter (DP),Christopher Maidment, Lee Melin (LM), Graham Bloomfield (GB),David Carlisle (DC), John Dagg (JD), Martin Cahn (MC), Libby Hindle (LH), Phil Grant (PG), Anas Makda (AM), Maison Mokoena (MM), Nathaniel Udoh (NU), Sophie Pain (SP)

IN ATTENDANCE: Sue Bridge Vice Chair of the Board and Victoria Hills Chief Executive RTPI. Stacey Bunn (SB) RTPI East of England Regional Co-ordinator

MINUTES:

Item		Action
1	**Introduction and Welcome,** Welcome to all members **Apologies and Declarations of Interest** Jonathan Dixon, Liz Beighton, Michael Hand, Jake Nugent, Wendy Hague, Robert Purton, Charlotte Burton, Peter Geraghty, Bethany Jones, Christopher Maidement,	
2	**Minutes of Meeting on 12 November 2018** The minutes RAC/2018/November/12/11 were agreed as an accurate record.	
3	**Corporate Strategy 2020-2030 – discussion to be a led by Sue Bridge vice Chair of the Board and Victoria Hills Chief Executive** Sue Bridge and Victoria Hills attended to consult on the new Corporate Strategy 2020-2030. A draft framework document was the focus of discussion. Detailed discussion took place on the choosing and meaning of key words in the mission statement and objectives. Conversations included subjects like ethical matters, standards of practice, increasing membership and how technology will change how communities engage with planning issues. The tensions were recognised between brevity and a long-term timeless document, versus topics that are current but shorter-term. AB on behalf of the RAC thanked Victoria and Sue for the chance to engage in the Strategy writing process. All members are invited individually to complete the survey below, and we would ask that members encourage other stakeholders including non-members to participate too. The survey is open until midnight on 17 march: Survey	

4	**Regional Vacancies 2019** AB began by thanking everyone for their nomination and being an active member. The RAC has strength in depth with a fantastic diversity of private/public, large/small companies, as well as senior and new entrants to the profession. LM agreed to take the role of secretary for 2019. MM agreed to be treasurer for 2019. GB and Sophie expressed an interest in the General Assembly role, once Jake's availability to continue is fully known. The PAE role remains vacant with AB continuing as a contact in the interim **Action**: SB to send LM and MM the "Role Descriptions"	SB
5	**Preparations for RTPI Presidential Visit** Three days of visits were identified, although one topic will be dropped as details become clearer. Brian Whiteley has offered contacts for visiting Sizewell. AB and LM have contacts for schemes in Lavenham and Long Melford, and consultancy Project Orange. Alternatively a focus on Lowestoft would be good - contacts being Ben Woolnough, Liz Beighton and Phil Ridley. LH would like YP involvement, possibly Ipswich. A steering group is identified of LH, AB, LM, and possibly Wendy Hague, but others are welcome.	LH, AB,LM, WH
6	**Gala Dinner** It was agreed to hold the 2019 Gala Dinner at the University Arms, Cambridge opposite Downing College. The date 13 September will be put back to end of September if possible. DP agreed to be Chair of judges again with more panel members to be sought. SB to speak to SW about the timeline for the Awards process, relative to the date of the Dinner. Those interested in being involved with the Gala Dinner should contact SB. On the steering group already are DP, LH and PG, SB. LH to encourage a YP to be part of the steering group.	SB DP,LH PG, SB

6	**CPD Programme** Each of the CPD events were discussed: **Self and Custom Build, Milton Keynes, March** The Self Build seminar in Milton Keynes on 29th March is largely agreed, but further assistance is sought (including for people who can attend on the day). Half day conference starting at 12pm with a light lunch, Held at Guild Hall. **Heritage and New High Street, St Albans, May,** The New High Street conference in St Albans on 15th May is well-advanced. The line-up of speakers is largely in place. Further input, including from people who can attend the event, would be ideal. **Community Engagement and Local Democracy, June,** The Engagement and Local Democracy conference in June is led by CM and SS, One of the elements is likely to be focussed on community engagement with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, another will be focussed on Planning Aid, and another will have a Young Planners theme. This programme is yet to be formed but discussions will be held in the next few weeks. The proposal is to give free places to ARU students and Planning Aid members. Additional support would be welcomed. **Viability, Harlow, July,** The Viability conference in Harlow in July is led by LM, Date changed from the 4th July to the 18th, Venue – Council Chamber Harlow. The programme is unformed and support would be appreciated. **Planning Law Update, November,** The annual Law Update, Downing College is booked for the 8 November, World planning day.	CM, LH,SS LM, WH DC
7	**Reports** **a. Young Planners** LH provided a written report on current and potential Young Planner activities for 2019 YP Report YP 2019 Programme	
8	**AOB** GB outlined possible changes to the Routes to Membership guidance	