



ENGLISH HERITAGE

# Commission

## Minutes of the 234<sup>th</sup> meeting held at 10.30am on 1 November 2006 at 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ

**Commissioners present:** Sir Neil Cossons – Chairman  
Ms Maria Adebawale  
Mr Michael Cairns  
Professor David Cannadine  
Mr Manish Chande  
Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe  
Lord Douro OBE  
Mrs Gilly Drummond  
Mr Piers Gough CBE  
Dr Jane Grenville  
Mr Michael Jolly CBE  
Ms Jane Kennedy  
Lord Leicester CBE  
Mr Les Sparks OBE  
Mrs Elizabeth Williamson

**Staff present for meeting:** Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive  
Mr Peter Beacham – Heritage Protection Director (item 9)  
Ms Tracy Borman – Learning Director (item 8)  
Ms Tina Corri – Head of Education (item 8)  
Mr Michael Crich – Director of Resources  
Dr Edward Impey – Director of Research and Standards  
Dr Anna Keay – Director of Properties Presentation (item 8)  
Ms Deborah Lamb – Director of Policy and Communications  
Mr Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach  
Ms Moira Thomson – Executive Assistant to Chief Executive (item 2)  
Mr Dan Wolfe – Marketing Director (item 2)  
Mr David Burgh – Commission Secretariat Manager

### **Item 1 – Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

#### Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Joyce Bridges CBE and Mr Bill Bryson. Mr Steve Bee also sent his apologies.

## Declarations of interest

- 1.2 A declaration of interest was received from Lord Douro in respect of his residence at Apsley House.

## **Item 2 – Horizon Scanning (Oral)**

- 2.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: Prejudice to conduct of public affairs*
- 2.2 Commission were invited to consider the challenges likely to face English Heritage in 2012, and six Commissioners made brief presentations on their own areas of expertise as follows:
  - Environmental Issues – Ms Maria Adebawale
  - Property Industry – Mr Manish Chande
  - Planning – Mr Les Sparks
  - Architecture – Mr Piers Gough
  - Research – Ms Jane Grenville
  - Visitor Needs – Mr Michael Jolly

## **Item 3 – Announcements**

- 3.1 The Chairman was delighted to announce that Lord Leicester had agreed to become a member of the Audit Committee and that Mrs Elizabeth Williamson had agreed to become Chair of the Historic Parks and Gardens Panel.
- 3.2 The Chairman also reported on a very positive meeting with Jonathan Stephens, the new Permanent Secretary at DCMS the day before. He had taken the opportunity to ask about progress on the appointment of his successor, who was due to take up the post in April 2007. Interviews had taken place and press reports had indicated that two candidates had been short-listed.

## **Item 4 – Open Minutes of the 233<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: 20 September 2006 (CP 2006/91)**

- 4.1 **The Commission agreed the open minutes of the 233<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting held on 20 September 2006, to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

## **Item 5 – Exempt Minutes of the 233<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: 20 September 2006 (CP 2006/92/E)**

- 5.1 **The Commission agreed the exempt minutes of the 233<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting held on 20 September 2006, to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

## **Item 6 – Matters Arising**

### 6.1 Regional issues (minute 16.2)

A Commissioner referred to the need to co-ordinate discussions in the English Heritage Advisory Committee (EHAC), the work of the Urban Panel and planning issues at regional level. Currently the London Advisory Committee (LAC) was responsible for considering planning issues in London and EHAC covered those in other regions. The consideration of dissemination of the views of Urban Panel was timely and would be the subject of discussion at the meeting with CABE Commission on 8 November. There was scope to raise the profile of the Panel's work and Regional Commissioners might be invited to attend Urban Panel visits to their areas.

- 6.2 Commission noted that CABE was developing regional Design Review Panels and it was important that English Heritage had an input. English Heritage regional offices would be encouraged to work with CABE on this development.

## **Item 7 – Committee Minutes**

### a) EHAC minutes (open) – 7 September 2006 (CP 2006/93)

#### **7.1 The Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the EHAC meeting held on 7 September 2006.**

- 7.2 The Committee Chairman highlighted the number of key strategic issues which had been considered by the Committee, in the light of the Peer Review comments that English Heritage did not address such matters with sufficient frequency. The debate on these issues was assisted by commendably high quality reports by staff.

### b) EHAC minutes (exempt) – 7 September 2006 (CP 2006/94/E)

- 7.3 Commission noted the UNESCO World Heritage Committee concerns about the tall buildings proposals for both Liverpool and the Tower of London, which might lead to the latter site being placed on the World Heritage in Danger list. Earlier in the day the Chief Executive had met both the Minister for Culture and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DCLG to seek their support in working with the local authorities and others to safeguard the Tower.

#### **7.4 The Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the EHAC meeting held on 7 September 2006.**

### c) LAC minutes (open) – 8 September 2006 (CP 2006/95)

- 7.5 Commission noted that the major issues raised in the LAC minutes relating to tall buildings in London and the Mayor's powers had been considered by Commission on 20 September 2006. The decisions taken on 20 September are set out in those Commission minutes.

**7.6 The Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the LAC meeting held on 8 September 2006.**

d) LAC minutes (exempt) – 8 September 2006 (CP 2006/96/E)

**7.7 The Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the LAC meeting held on 8 September 2006.**

#### **Item 8 – Peer Review (CP 2006/97/E)**

8.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: information intended for future publication.*

8.2 There had been insufficient time at the September Commission meeting to give full consideration to the Peer Review report. This was an opportunity for Commissioners to give further thought to the Review and English Heritage's response, aided by presentations on three topics; Learning, Property Presentation and Planning and Development.

#### **Item 9 – Heritage Protection Review (CP 2006/98/E)**

9.1 *This item is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: information intended for future publication.*

9.2 Commissioners considered a report on the development of the draft Heritage Protection White Paper. Commission was invited to look at the major issues arising from the draft while the details would be reviewed by a proposed working group.

#### **9.7 Commission:**

- a) **noted the current position on the draft Heritage Protection White paper;**
- b) **approved the establishment of a working group composed of staff and Commissioners to take forward consideration of the White Paper; and**
- c) **expressed concerns that English Heritage and local authorities might not be allocated additional financial support to enable them to implement the proposals set out in the White Paper.**

## **Item 10 – Any Other Business**

10.1 The meeting closed at 15.15

### Next meetings

10.2 A one-day joint meeting of English Heritage and CABE Commissioners would be held in Bedford on 8 November 2006.

10.3 There would be a Commission meeting at 9.30am on 13 December in London, at One Birdcage Walk, to be followed by a Christmas meal.

**David Burgh**  
**Commission Secretariat Manager**

**November 2006**