

# Notes of Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010

Meeting held at 7A, Adams Road: 20:00 to 22:15

## 1. Attendance

Ann Mullinger, Ron Clifton, Roger Crabtree, John Hipkin, Jane Singleton, Michael Bond, Clive Brown.

Apologies from Nicky Morrison

## 2. Lessons from Public Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November

### Positive

Interest generated: good for FeCRA: Councillors very positive, in particular Sian Reid: contact established with a nucleus of interested people: the Post-It process worked well: issuing the questions in advance of the meeting improved the meeting: good topic.

### Caveats

Stunning amount of work resulted in a disappointing number of attenders (~60 registrants and only ~45 turned up): statement by one Reporter was very different from what his group had understood he would say: FeCRA might be in danger of being seen as too close to the LibDems because the meeting was politically imbalanced (as a consequence of the subject and purpose) – this caveat could be redressed by FeCRA having a joint meeting with Sian Reid and Louis Herbert: FeCRA needs to be clear that it does not have any mandate since it is not an elected organisation: need to get information about meetings circulated much wider – some (even many) of the FeCRA contacts appear to not circulate information: the delay in the issue of the Government Localism Bill reduced the meeting effectiveness.

### Other pointers for any future events

Identify Group reporters before the meeting and give guidance: issue breakout group questions before the meeting: if appropriate, agenda should allow for alternative political views to be presented: seek Council assistance with logistics (eg publicity and venue) given local government obligations to support local groups.

## 3. Meeting Reports

- 3.1 Copies of the drafts had been sent to Julian Huppert and Tim Bick for their comments, but as expected, none had been received.
- 3.2 After discussion, the meeting agreed that just one document with appendices is to be issued. The body of the document will be the meeting report as prepared by Ann and Ron with the section on the Reporters' feedback replaced by the introduction to the Breakout Group Feedback draft document. The feedback from each group will be an independent appendix.
- 3.3 The revised documentation will be:-
  - sent by email to all attenders, registrants, and to the FeCRA contact list: the cover note is to emphasise that the FeCRA Committee is seeking effective means of correlating the output from the 27<sup>th</sup> November meeting with opportunities in the Localism Bill. All recipients will also be asked to cascade the document by email to anyone who might be interested in the subject, and to advise of any interest in being involved in further action and of any relevant assistance that they can offer.
  - posted on the FeCRA website; CPPF to be asked to either post the document on the CPPF website or provide a link to the FeCRA site.
  - sent to all City Councillors and to local County Councillors

Ref	Task	Who/when
3.1	All to advise Morcom of any typos, errors, or omissions in the circulated drafts	All
3.2	Document changes to be made and the revision circulated for comment	Morcom
3.3	Document circulation by email to attenders, registrants and the FeCRA contact list	Morcom
3.4	Document to be circulated to City and local County Councillors	Michael
3.5	CPPF to be request to post the document	Morcom
3.6	Document to be posted on the FeCRA website	Morcom
3.7	Trevor Woollams is to be asked specifically to circulate the document to other Council staff who are (or ought to be) interested in the topic	Morcom

#### 4. Follow-up actions by FeCRA on Localism

The meeting agreed with John's proposition that FeCRA and Residents need input from experts on the implications of the (very large) Localism Bill. The changes to the framework for neighbourhood planning could be very significant: what forums would take decisions, how they would be organised, etc.

John suggested Mills and Reeve as a possible source of assistance. The company has produced a summary report of the Bill and its implications. M&R might be prepared to sponsor a FeCRA event, if FeCRA could show how such an event would offer benefits to their clients. A good contact would be Beverley Firth.

The meeting discussed whether FeCRA should take up the specific issue of pushing for more consultation from the Councils on planned Cambridge area growth, the provision of sufficient social housing coupled with a reduction in the total planned, and a local referendum on the matter. The meeting agreed to review which specific topics should be pursued once a better understanding had been obtained of the opportunities likely to be provided by the Localism legislation.

Ref	Task	Who/when
4.1	John to circulate the document produced by Mills and Reeve	John
4.2	Mills and Reeve to be contacted arrange a preliminary meeting	Roger
4.3	Michael to look at the published Localism Bill to identify relevant links for the output from the 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov. meeting.	Michael

#### 5. Cambridge First possible articles on Cambridge Residents' Associations

After discussion, the meeting agreed that FeCRA should suggest the "The Square", Oxford Road, & Richmond Road as suitable for a short series on the work of Residents' Associations. Richard Footit was an appropriate contact for Rose Taylor on the basis that she would progress matters directly without further involvement from FeCRA.

Doubts were expressed about the circulation of Cambridge First as compared with Cambridge News and the free weekly "News and Cryer". Chris Havergall was suggested as a good contact at the Cambridge News.

Cam Boaters and Friends of Stourbridge Common should also be contacted.

Ref	Task	Who/when
5.1	Rose Taylor to be sent the contact details.	Morcom
5.2	Cam Boaters and Friends of Stourbridge Common to be contacted	Clive
5.3	Notes from the Meeting of 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov to be sent to Chris Havergall as an initial contact.	Morcom

## 6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 **Meeting Accounts:** Clive reported that the collection for refreshments on 27<sup>th</sup> November raised £93.65. Ann reminded the meeting that WIRE had agreed to provide £20 to support the event. Also, the the Council agreed to pay £250. Noting that Newnham would be billing FeCRA £187.50 for 75 coffee and biscuits at £2.50 each, plus £60 for the room hire (concessionary "Fellow" rate), the meeting agreed that Newnham be invited to bill £100 for the room. Additionally, the meeting has been charged £7.50 for the flipchart pad (half of which remains unused).  
The balance from the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting will provide a modest increase to the FeCRA reserves.

### 6.2 Information Circulation

The meeting agreed that the circulation of information by FeCRA contacts can and should if practical be improved.

The challenges of maintaining up to date email addresses was noted.

Ref	Task	Who/when
6.2.1	A list of those RAs on the Contact List who did not attend the 27 <sup>th</sup> Meeting to be extracted	<b>Morcom</b>
6.2.2	The list to be partitioned to Committee members for a personal follow-up to contacts as identified by 6.2.1.	<b>All</b>
6.2.3	The contact name for Solachra to be updated (John Smith – Ian Davidson)	<b>Morcom &amp; Roger</b>

### 6.3 Cambridge Vision

Following the FeCRA meeting with Peter Carolin some months back, Roger has joined the Steering Committee for "Cambridge Vision" that is aiming at producing a view of what Cambridge should be in 2030 regarding Economics and Technology. There will be a small workshop of experts in January followed by a second, for a wider audience, probably on the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> March.

### 6.4 Purpose of Resident Associations

John stated that in his view, RAs have three roles which are, not in any order of priority:-

- Bring local people together to socialise
- Get stuff done for locals – eg local safety grants
- Represent local committees politically

### 6.5 Potential issues

The meeting noted the following related potential issues:-

- Speculative developers seeking planning permission for student accommodation (vide recent rejected planning application for the garage site at the junction of Histon Road and Huntingdon Road).
- The establishment of "Apartment Hotels" that qualify for business rates even though they are to all intents and purposed conventional flats. As a result the City, which has to provide all services, does not get any Council Tax benefit.
- Need to get the different parts of the Council staff to act cooperatively, and to overcome the challenge for outsiders to find who is responsible for what.

### 6.6 Possibility of establishing "local Parish Councils"

Michael point out that under the Local Community Act of 1972, there are arrangements for the establishment of Parish Councils and some hybrid form might assist local community activism.