

## APPENDIX D

### Trustees of the Farmland Museum Chairman's Report for meeting November 5<sup>th</sup> 2014

#### 1. Trustees and Staff

Bridget Yates' resignation will be a great loss to the museum she has been a Trustee for very many years and has given us the benefit of her vast experience of the museum sector. Part of her reason for resigning is due to the long distance she has to travel and she also has some health problems. It is a great shame we shall not be able to say good bye to her in person at the meeting but she was given an important hospital appointment which she did not want to miss.

Earlier this year we contacted Linda Brooklyn about becoming a Trustee and she did express an interest. However she now feels that she does not have time and that day time meetings in particular would be difficult for her. She also travels quite a lot. This means that she feels that she cannot commit to becoming a Trustee. She has however offered to help in other ways and I have asked if she might be able to help with informal HR advice and to let us know if she can think of any appropriate people who might be approached to be trustees.

I have talked to Gordon Chancellor to see whether he has any ideas for new trustees (though we aren't alone in trying to recruit) and I have asked Sarah Clover who has recently left Amey Cespa whether she might be interested, She has not immediately said 'no' and has asked for more information which I have sent her and we await her response. I am also following up another very tentative lead.

Ann has now put out advertisement on Reach, on the Cambridge Volunteers website and on our own website and if anyone can think of people who might be interested it would be good to sound them out to see if they might be prepared to get involved.

#### 2. Possible new New Town

With this report I am circulating a draft Statement of Common Ground between RLW Estates and the Waterbeach Trust who are the developers for a proposed New Town on the Waterbeach Barracks site (owned by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation ), English Heritage (as a statutory consultee) and the Farmland Museum. The Statement has been drawn up by LDA Design who have been doing the research into the land surrounding the scheduled ancient monument area which includes not just the Denny Abbey the Farmland Museum site but adjacent land as well.

Protecting the setting of the Scheduled Ancient monument will be a key aspect of plans for the new town which is why English Heritage is a statutory consultee.

It is almost by chance that the Farmland Museum has come to been included in discussions as to how the character of the Abbey, Museum and surrounding land area might be protected and used as a major asset for the new town as well as maintaining the historic significance of the Abbey and its setting. Initial documents made no reference to the Museum and suggested that the more recent farm buildings which make up the Museum were detracting from the setting of the Abbey and should be removed. It was

clear when we first met representatives of LDA that they had done found out very little about the museum and its relationship with Denny Abbey but since we made ourselves known the subsequent draft of the Setting Study does make reference to us.

Ann and I were invited to a meeting On 31<sup>st</sup> October with members fo LDA Design, RLW Estates, ( the partnership of landowners who own a large part of the land which has been identified in the Draft Local Plan as a New Town. Ann was unable to go but I went.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a draft of the Statement of Common Ground and mainly concentrated on where the proposed boundary would be between the New Town built area and the area of land to be left open so as to protect the setting of Denny Abbey, and English Heritage's input was of prime importance. However, I was able to reiterate once again the importance of a non-vehicular approach to the Abbey site ideally using the old causeway route because it would maintain an important link with perhaps 2000 years' of history. I also took the opportunity once again to say to the assembled body that though our buildings may not contribute to the setting of the Abbey as it was five and a half centuries ago they nonetheless are an important part of the story of the local area.

A revised draft of the Statement of Significance will be circulated within the next few weeks and we are on the provisional list of signatories.

I am circulating the draft Statement of Common Ground which we discussed and the two long documents which are relevant to this which provided the basis for the Statement .These are a Setting Study and an Appraisal Study (the former is shorter and covers most of the ground of the Appraisal study so it might be easier to skim that first). They are very interesting but you can just skim and also search for references to the Farmland Museum in particular if you don't want to read everything.

If you aren't able to be at the meeting on Wednesday when I hope we can discuss it I'd be grateful for any comments about the Statement of Common Ground which I can feed back to the other parties.

### **3. Landbeach Tithe Barn**

Plans to save the Tithe Barn in Landbeach are ongoing if a suitable use cannot be found for it it will be sold by South Cambridgeshire District Council who own it. There are plans to set up a charitable trust to find funding to restore it and find a sustainable use for it. It has been suggested that I should be a trustee but I am resisting for a number of reason this as there could be potential conflicts of interest but I have attended several meetings when a potential way forward is being discussed. It is another very historically significant building

### **4. Meeting with Lord Lieutenant**

Ann and I met Hugh Duberley on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. He agreed that if our LHF bid is successful then he would be happy to be involved at the Museum in July. He also thought he might be able to get the Duke of Gloucester to open the project when it was completed!

If our HLF application is not successful then we will have to rethink our development

plans and will talk to him about how he might be able to help with an alternative fundraising programme

5. **Friends.**

I continue to attend the Friends meetings. The plans for a jazz concert in the summer next year are ongoing. Ann' report covers their activities. The small number of active members have made a big contribution this year and they are beginning to think more strategically about fundraising activities.

6. I have continued to try to come to the museum each Wednesday to have coffee with volunteers and a weekly meeting with Ann. The Wednesday team seems to have grown quite a lot and is a lovely group of people who carry out some important tasks, a very visible example of this is the newly cut hedge along the entrance drive.

JRW 1.11.2014