



IHBC EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4th February 2026 - 7pm
Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

1. Apologies and Introductions:

Apologies

LM – Liz Mayle
GW – Greg Watkinson
CS – Colin Simmons
SWW – Sam Walker-Wood
CH – Carol Heidschuster
FN – Fiona Newton
JeB – Jenny Ballinger
JaB – Janine Buckley

Attending

FM – Felix Mayle
EW – Emilie Wales
KK – Kate Kelly
CP – Chris Perkins
CB - Chris Bradley
LB - Lloyd Bird
MB – Matthew Bentley

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Agreed.

3. Updates:

All mentioned below.

4. Chair's Report

MB & FM attended the branch connection event. At start asked to introduce then say one tip/piece of advice around organising branch events. A lot commenting not getting CO to events (a lot of discussion in LPAs no longer funding CPD for CO staff), advocating Eventbrite or other platforms for communications/booking, and having an events officer to convene and do risk assessments etc. Another great compliment for CP!!

5. Treasurer's Report

£650 invoice sent to national branch, paid and confirmed receipt. Not yet got online banking access but chasing.

Account Balances:

£xxxx

£xxxx

£xxxx

EW – to get internet banking access.

6. Events

The George Barnsdale visit went well, great set up, highlights how mass-produced timber windows are manufactured. What they can and can't do. They can have a very smooth finish which is similar to UPVC. Many thanks to CP for arranging. Discussion around the "gap" between new timber windows and "heritage" style uPVC – finishes, frame section thicknesses, trickle vents etc.

Northampton event for April progressing, booked Guildhall. Rose from HE to talk, then Market Town Master Planning presentation by Council, then a session on the Greyfriars by project architects followed by two concurrent afternoon walkarounds. Discussing ticket prices, still waiting for lunch costs but agreed that c£40 is ideal, good value for members and attractive for non-members. This event is also likely to appeal to non-heritage professionals. Even if we struggle to reach 40ish or make a slight loss our finances allow us to stomach the cost. One option could be to add Eventbrite fees to attendees.

Starting to think about AGM venues, opened to the room for ideas. General discussion that Derbyshire, Lincolnshire or Leicestershire are due a turn to be host county for IHBC EM events.

FM has discussed with national the idea of hosting region specific MATE session. FN has emailed as follows:

"If you think an in-person MATE might generate up to 20 people and can find a suitable venue we could do that (it could be Angharad, me if I'm down there, someone else, or both of us but we can fix that once a date is getting close.

So if you are wanting to set up a MATE you might consider a venue and venue availability and give us an idea of when you might be looking at roughly to start this off.

It doesn't have to be a fancy venue - lap top connectable projector/screen is probably the only requirement. Break out space could be useful or somewhere to work in groups at least. Company meeting rooms or council offices work well enough for these if anyone is feeling generous (and perhaps want their staff along too)"

CP considering organising topical CPD with Velux rooflights – possibly after AGM. **Post-meeting note (FM):** Velux are offering funding to subsidise events with a theme of “Adaptive Re-use” in line with theme of Annual School 2026.

Action – CP to finalise Northampton event.

Action – All to send Chris AGM venue ideas.

7. Communications

Colin is in Aus. Intention/Action from last meeting was to set up a LinkedIn page but not yet happened.

Eventbrite for Northampton all ready to go, subject to finalising ticket price/lunch costs.

- **Bulletin** – n/a
- **Twitter** – going to be deactivated and replaced with LinkedIn.
- **Website** – all up to date with current committee members etc.
- **Event/Flyers** – have done one for the Northampton event.

8. National Updates

Branch update from Sean O'Reiley, Fiona Newton is moving roles and Angharad Hart and Sarah Homer are now full time.

Unanimous agreement for chartership. Work to be done on rules and regulations to meet the requirements of privy council.

9. Membership Report

173 members. Increase in numbers (7) are all new Supporters.

10. County Rep's Reports

Leicestershire – LB provided verbal update provided and written report included at end of minutes.

Lincolnshire – Not met since last meeting.

Nottinghamshire – no report.
Derbyshire – no report.
Northamptonshire – no report.

11. Private Sector Report

KK to use membership contacts to reach out to private sector members to ask them to participate. Emails to come from branch account email for continuity.

Action – CB to send contacts to KK.

Action – KK to email private sector members using branch email account.

12. Any Other Business

Keep an eye out for comms around the next event and please share with your networks.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

July 1st 2026 – 7pm via Teams

Written Reports:

Leicestershire

Staffing

- CO posts still (AFAIK) outstanding at both Charnwood Borough Council and North West Leicestershire District Council. I haven't seen the jobs advertised and no-one in Leicestershire seems to know anything regarding whether these roles have or are being filled.
- Justin Webber is at Leicester City as Conservation Team Leader along with Ben Gomme as Conservation Officer. Hoping to recruit another CO later this year and if successful with NLHF bid for a heritage-led regeneration scheme, there might be scope for a new Project Officer.
- Paul Grundy is at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council is also covering ? a day per week for both Tamworth and Rugby. Paul is also partly covering a vacant Regeneration Post until the summer of 2026.
- Helen Livingston and Sally Hartshorn are still at Harborough District Council.
- Toby Ebbs is still at Melton Borough Council.
- Fiona Wallace is still at Rutland County Council.
- Richard Clark and his team of Planning Archaeologists (William Freeman and Chloe Cronogue-Freeman) head up Leicestershire County Council, and also provide some interim assistance to Leicester City Council who are without an Archaeologist.
- I am still at Blaby and also provide ? a day a week for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

Projects/Updates/Ongoing Issues

- Hinckley & Bosworth – Adopted a fresh Heritage Strategy covering 2025-29. Also undertaking a Heritage Impact Assessment of possible allocations for development in the emerging Local Plan. Coordinating the scoping of regeneration opportunities and stakeholder engagement for key sites identified in the Hinckley Town Centre Masterplan, along with managing the final snagging of the Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone (mainly the public realm scheme). Currently managing a small UKSPF funded projects including a Heritage Building Improvement Grant programme and some small public realm projects including implementation of the Hinckley Town Centre Wayfinding Strategy. Assistance being provided to Hinckley & District Museum in applying for funding opportunities (which includes Historic England grant support), and continue to monitor progress of voluntary urgent works at Bradgate Stables (again with Historic England support). Trying to progress towards designating a conservation area in Dadlington this spring and summer 2026.
- Leicester City– Making progress on a few HAR schemes. Looking at designating some new Conservation Areas, but nothing completed. HAZ legacy work continuing at the Grand Hotel.
- Melton – Recently adopted a Melton Town Centre SPD. Starting to write a new Melton Conservation Area Appraisal. Public consultation starts at the beginning of March and there is an aim to finish this by the end of May. Renewed interest in the town from Members and additional resource has been found to back the work required for these documents.
- North West Leicestershire – No update.
- Rutland – No update.
- Charnwood – No update.

- Harborough – Working on new additions to the Local List, including a range of assets. Working on a Conservation Area appraisal for North Kilworth. Work has taken place on the emerging Local Plan.
- Blaby – Work on CA appraisals under way, but temporary pause until mid/end of March due to a potential prosecution and several appeals. Reviewing Heritage policies for the emerging Local Plan. Tight timelines. Submission of a contentious application from Redrow imminent within the parkland setting of Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed Kirby Muxloe Castle. Staunch opposition from BDC and Historic England.
- Oadby – Certificate of immunity applied for by Leicester University for Stamford Hall (Lasdun Building). Has been assessed by Historic England and a decision should be fairly imminent.

Nottinghamshire

No report received

Derbyshire

No report received

Lincolnshire

No report received

Northamptonshire

No report received