



Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 24th JANUARY 2008,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres	-	L B Bromley	(Chairman)
George Furmanski	-	L B Greenwich	(Secretary)
Jaspal Sehmi	-	L B Newham	(Treasurer)
Steve Davis	-	L B Enfield	
Colin Palmer	-	L B Redbridge	
John Peck	-	L B Havering	

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 22nd NOVEMBER 2007**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. Autumn seminar minutes - Draft of these minutes had been circulated prior to this meeting. Following two minor amendments Steering Group agreed they could be issued to members at the next seminar for their approval. GF to send amended copy to CP. **Action - GF**
2. MACE buildings – GF had circulated his draft article prior to this meeting. Steering Group agreed it could be included on the web site. GF to send copy to CP. **Action - GF**
3. Externalisation review – JP will contact Waltham Forest to discuss membership issues arising from this and similarly at other boroughs (e.g. Homes in Haringey, possibly Enfield). **Action - JP**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current account balance – On 31st December 2007 (date of last statement) there was £1,966.65 in the bank.

2007 Autumn seminar – Payment from Havering has been received, payment awaited from Enfield.

2008 annual subscriptions – Invoices for the £70 annual fee were sent out on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

There are no outstanding payments to be made at the present time.

**2008 SPRING SEMINAR**

BA tabled a draft agenda which was discussed, finalised and agreed by the Steering Group.

For the Building Control item, BA advised that the consultation document is on the DCCA website.

**ASELB REPORTS**

**ASELB WEBSITE**

CP has updated various items on the web site.

SD tabled a revised home page which was agreed by Steering Group to be put on the web site.

### BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

Nothing to report as JP had just left the meeting due to a family emergency.

### EUROCODES & STANDARDS

Nothing to report.

### ASSESSMENT OF MULTI-STOREY DWELLING BLOCKS

SD reported that he has prepared the information for the web site and will be sending it to CP for inclusion on the web site.

**Action - SD**

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Nothing to report.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Nothing to report.

### LOTAG

BA's report circulated prior to this meeting was acceptable to the Steering Group.

### ISE

Nothing to report.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. GF reminded Steering Group that the annual accounts for 2206/07 and 2007/08 will need to be audited after March.
2. BA will be writing to members' Chief Executives similar to his April 2003 letter about masonry falling off buildings.

**Action - BA**

### NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING

Thursday, 20th March 2008 at 1.00pm in Room 77, Lynton House, Ilford.



Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 20th MARCH 2008,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres	-	L B Bromley (Chairman)
George Furmanski	-	L B Greenwich (Secretary)
Jaspal Sehmi	-	L B Newham (Treasurer)
Steve Davis	-	L B Enfield
Colin Palmer	-	L B Redbridge
John Peck	-	L B Havering

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 24th JANUARY 2008**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. GF still to send amended Autumn seminar minutes and MACE buildings article to CP. **Action - GF**
2. Externalisation review – JP has not yet progressed this matter. **Action - JP**

SD described the current situation with Waltham Forest and at Enfield. Steering Group will raise this issue at the forthcoming Spring seminar and will need to look at current constitution. Keith Selwood (Waltham Forest) will speak briefly at the seminar about Norfolk Property Services.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 (date of last statement) there was £3,236.65 in the bank. Since then a further £140 has been credited, making a balance total of £3,376.65.

Invoices for 2007 Autumn Seminar - There are no outstanding payments.

2008 Annual subscriptions - Invoices for 2008 annual subscription fee of £70 were sent out on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Eighteen payments have been received so far and nine are outstanding.

Outstanding Payments due - There are no outstanding payments to be made at the present time.

**2008 SPRING SEMINAR**

All venues and facilities booked.

BA advised of the following matters related to agenda items :-

Building Control review – another consultation document has just been released on 18<sup>th</sup> March. It will be referred to by the guest speaker.

Freestanding masonry walls – BA has collated and précised the three BRE Digests to provide one document (ASELB Practice Note No.5). He asked for feedback on the document. **Action - All**

### **ASELB REPORTS**

#### **ASELB WEBSITE**

CP has put SD's new welcome page on the web site.

### **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

JP informed that he has received calculations from large consultant which had errors although they had been checked by the consultant.

BA advised that on 6<sup>th</sup> April some new amendments to the Building Regs. come into force for "Contravention" of Part L only (conservation of energy). At present Building Control have six months but this will be extended to two years for Part L only.

### **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

Manual No.6 (Masonry) and No.5 (Timber) now out.

### **ASSESSMENT OF MULTI-STOREY DWELLING BLOCKS**

SD handed over to CP the CD containing the information on management of high rise buildings.

CP will include this information on the web site.

**Action - CP**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Nothing to report.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

A significant aspect now is BREEAM.

### **LOTAG**

Nothing to report.

### **ISE**

BA informed that there is an exhibition on 100 years of structural engineering at the V & A museum from 17<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. JS will forward to CP the financial documents for the audit of the annual accounts for 2206/07 and 2007/08.

**Action – JS & CP**

2. BA mentioned that an ICE conference on forensic engineering is to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2008.

### **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, 22nd May 2008 at 1.00pm in Room 76, Lynton House, Ilford.

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**MINUTES OF THE ASELB AUTUMN SEMINAR  
HELD ON FRIDAY 25th APRIL 2008  
AT THE INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS**

**1. PRESENT**

- 1.1 23 Engineers from the member boroughs, 3 Honorary members, 4 guest speakers. The attendance list is attached.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Ray Aldrich (Barking & Dagenham), Peter Card (Enfield), Paul Jones (Hammersmith & Fulham), Jaspal Sehmi (Newham).

**2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS**

- 2.1 Chairman (Barry Ayres – Bromley) introduced himself and welcomed members, associate members and the guest speakers.
- 2.2 Chairman informed members that there was to be a change of one guest speaker, Rik Fox has kindly stepped in for Ed Morton for the presentation on structural engineering applied to historic buildings.

**3. MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN SEMINAR HELD ON 12th OCTOBER 2007**

- 3.1 The minutes having been previously issued to all members were taken as read and were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 3.2 **Matters Arising :-**
  - 3.2.1 No matters arising that were not to be dealt with under the other headings.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Treasurer was unable to attend this meeting so the Secretary, George Furmanski (Greenwich), read out the Treasurer's report as follows :-

Current Account Balance

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 (date of last statement) there was £3,376.65 in the bank. Since then there has been £140.00 credited and a payment made of £56.00 leaving a credit balance total of £3,460.65.

Invoices for 2007 Autumn seminar

There are no outstanding payments.

2008 Annual Subscriptions

Invoices for the 2008 annual subscription fee of £70.00 per borough were sent out on 15th January 2008. Twenty payments have been received so far and seven are outstanding.

### Outstanding payments due

There is a £170.00 payment to be made to the auditor for preparing and auditing the accounts for the years ended 31/3/07 and 31/3/08.

### Auditing of accounts for the years ended 31/3/07 and 31/3/08

These accounts were audited on 6th April 2008 and it is the auditor's opinion that the accounts, as prepared, correctly show ASELB's receipts and payments for these two financial years.

## 5. **ASELB BUSINESS**

### **Groundwater update** – Trevor Pennell (Enfield)

Trevor gave a review of the groundwater presentation given at last Spring's seminar on the effects of rising groundwater in London. His review is attached at the end of these minutes.

Points of Contact reports were provided as follows :-

#### **Website**

Colin Palmer (Redbridge) has updated the website with minor changes. He asked members to keep him updated on contact details if these are amended.

#### **Eurocodes**

John Peck (Havering) reported that the new EC manuals for EC6 (Masonry) and EC5 (Timber) are out now. These are basically designed for buildings in Britain and not mainland Europe.

#### **Assessment of multi-storey dwellings**

Steve Davis (Enfield) had nothing to report on this topic.

However, he reported that two recent CROSS items on safety dealt with wall collapses.

A gable wall suddenly fell from a new building, inspection revealed lateral wall ties at too great a spacing and ties bent back and not used.

The other incident was at a school building where a large internal wall was blown down, the temporary wind loading condition was overlooked.

#### **Building Regulations and Foundations**

John Peck (Havering) reported that this week's Verulam has a letter on lateral restraint of steel beams. He considers the letter was vindictive, has little technical merit and is not specific.

#### **Structural engineering partnership – the Waltham Forest experience**

Following the transfer of Waltham Forest's (WF) building consultancy group to Norfolk Property Services (NPS) in 2007, Keith Sellwood formerly of WF and now part of NPS had been invited prior to the seminar to speak briefly of his experience of NPS.

Keith said that over the last two years at Waltham Forest work dropped off and staff costs were not covered. Three options were considered by the Council, redundancy, out-sourcing, tender the work.

NPS met WF staff and answered any questions including about pensions. Staff felt that NPS cared for them. WF could not accept partnering concept for a long time. Half of the profit goes back to WF but no losses back to WF. Staff transferred to NPS in 2007.

NPS funded new offices, new IT equipment, but now no work is coming in from WF the staff are worried about their jobs. However, they have recently won Hackney and Haringey long-

term framework contracts and are now recruiting staff. Three other London Boroughs are at present being considered by NPS.

Keith concluded by summarising what has happened to WF staff as a blessing in disguise.

### **Drainage**

Bob Smith (Bexley) reported that DEFRA is looking to adopt private drainage. Water Authorities are looking for Building Control role in signing off new drainage prior to adoption. Consultation is taking place at present.

## **6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Topic** - Remote wire free monitoring

**Speaker** - Graeme Phipps – SP Property Services

The company provides a suite of intelligent remote systems to monitor movement of any building or structure. The systems give remote real time monitoring, results and readings. An enclosed weatherproof box containing a battery powered wireless sensor collects movement data 24 hours a day every day of the year. The captured data is available to the client through a user-friendly secured web site ensuring total data protection at all times. The data is shown on the web site in various forms such as lists, charts, pdf files.

Installation of the monitoring box is simple and quick and the battery should last five years. In addition to use on buildings the company is also working with Local Authorities and rail consultants for use on bridges and other infrastructure..

At the end of his presentation the speaker handed out technical literature on the product .

**Topic** - The future of Building Control consultation

**Speaker** - Paula Higgins – Communities and Local Government

The speaker talked about various policy issues raised by the Government's consultation document on options for the future for Building Control. The consultation closes on 10th June 2008 and she urged all interested parties to send in their comments and views.

**Topic** - Eurocode Expert – Help for the structural engineer

**Speaker** - Kieran Dineen – Institution of Civil Engineers

Eurocode Expert is a web based information portal. The speaker using a Powerpoint presentation showed what the web site contains. There is a link for the portal on the ASELB web site.

**Topic** - Structural Engineering applied to historic buildings

**Speaker** - Rik Fox – The Morton Partnership

The speaker gave an informative and interesting presentation on the structural engineering elements of remedial work carried out on historic buildings.

His Powerpoint presentation gave examples of wide ranging problems, the many different diagnosis and analysis methods used, the solutions used, and the conclusions which could be drawn from a number of the examples shown. A case study was also talked through.

At the end of the presentation the speaker handed out paper copies of his presentation.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Chairman thanked the four guest speakers for their excellent presentations.  
 He also thanked the Steering Group members for organising this seminar, and thanked all present for attending.  
 He advised that the next seminar will probably be held in October 2008.

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## ATTENDANCE LIST

**ASELB Spring Seminar on Friday 25th April 2008  
 at the Institution of Structural Engineers  
 11 Upper Belgrave Street. London SW1**

### BOROUGH

### MEMBER / ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Barnet	-----	Joe Farrell
Bexley	-----	Bob Smith
Bromley	-----	Barry Ayres
Camden	-----	Gana Natkunan
Croydon	-----	John Waddington
Enfield	-----	Steve Davis
Enfield	-----	Trevor Pennell (AM)
Enfield	-----	Ian Robinson (AM)
Enfield	-----	Dipak Mehta (AM)
Greenwich	-----	George Furmanski
Haringey	-----	John Yiangou
Haringey	-----	Logi Logitharajah (AM)
Harrow	-----	Richard Bradford
Havering	-----	John Peck
Havering	-----	Tony Bello (AM)
Havering	-----	Duncan Groom (AM)
Hillingdon	-----	Peter Hackley (AM)
Hounslow	-----	David Chan (AM)
Kensington & Chelsea	-----	Anne Sexton (M)
Lewisham	-----	Mike Payami (AM)
Newham	-----	Atakan Tahir (AM)
Redbridge	-----	Colin Palmer
Waltham Forest	-----	Keith Sellwood
Honorary Member	-----	Manohar Bhavra
Honorary Member	-----	Doug Pittam
Honorary Member	-----	Chri Rajaratnam

### Guest speakers

Graeme Phipps	- SP Property Services
Paula Higgins	- Communities and Local Government
Kieran Dineen	- Institution of Civil Engineers
Rik Fox	- The Morton Partnership



## ASELB Spring Seminar 2008

### **Notes on review of the ASELB seminar presentations on 'The effects of rising groundwater in London'.**

Rising groundwater is a problem common to many cities founded on artesian structures. In the UK London, Birmingham, Liverpool and Nottingham all pump water from the underlying aquifers. Many buildings and structures were constructed at a time when ground water levels were low and did not appear to present a problem. In London the abstraction of groundwater reduced in the 1960s and the groundwater level has since risen.

Last year's spring seminar 27/4/7 included a technical presentation by Nigel Hoad senior hydrologist from the Environment Agency on '**Structural implications of London's Rising Water table**'.

The four issues associated with the problem of rising groundwater in London were reviewed.

- 1/ Hydrology
- 2/ History of abstraction
- 3/ Groundwater quality
- 4/ Effects and possible damage

#### **Hydrology**

London is a saucer shaped artesian basin. Chalk overlain by sands form the water bearing strata. Impervious London Clay overlays these rocks. The Aquifer is therefore confined by the clay layers thus forming the artesian basin. Water that fell as rain on the Chiltern and North Downs 1000s of years ago is now running through the centre of the London basin.

#### **History of abstraction**

In the late nineteenth century, groundwater from the chalk aquifer beneath London was heavily abstracted for industrial and commercial use. As the water levels receded, ever deeper boreholes were sunk and the use of steam driven pumps allowed exploitation beyond any previous level. The rate exceeded natural replenishment and groundwater levels fell by over 90 metres.

However, since the 1960's, abstraction levels have declined rapidly, with many breweries and paper mills closing or relocating outside the capital. Water levels have been rising at the rate of 2m/year in some parts of London, however, the average current rate of rise is less than 0.5m/year mostly as a result of increased abstraction rates in south London. The rate of rise in north-west London was 1.5m/year. Studies suggested that, if left unchecked, "the rising groundwater levels beneath London would pose a serious risk to deep structures such as tunnels and the foundations of tall buildings" (GARDIT report, 1998)

#### **Effects and possible damage**

Most high-rise buildings and deep tunnels constructed in the last 100 years had little thought given to changes in ground water levels.

Potential problems are: -

- Seepage into tunnels and deep basements
- Saturation of the clay leading to
- Changes in clay bearing capacity, reduction in foundation capacity
- Swelling/heave
  - Movement in deep structures
  - Movement in inclined tunnels
  - Differential movement in adjacent foundations
- Water pressure on basements
- Chemical attack due to sulphates

Clay swells on wetting resulting in heave, there is also a reduction in their effective stress. Loose granular materials fills settle on saturation.

LUL pumps around 30,000m<sup>3</sup> from their network every day – 4,500m<sup>3</sup> from Victoria per day alone!

### **What was done to address the problem**

CIRIA produced a report, Special Publication 69 in 1989, that examined the rise in the level of groundwater below London. The report indicated the areas most likely to be affected and provided guidance to owners and designers. It identified that structures particularly at risk were those with both shallow and deep foundations that could result in differential movement. Water Research Council modelling showed that the water could be controlled to a level that would not cause damage, and suggested that additional pumping of water from the aquifer in Central London would be sufficient. The report concluded that the rise in groundwater was a serious problem and showed that it could be avoided by an appropriate control policy.

No single organisation is responsible for controlling groundwater levels below London. In 1992, recognising the gravity of the problem, Thames Water, London Underground and the Environment Agency formed GARDIT (General Aquifer Research, Development and Investigation Team) to significantly raise awareness and increase understanding. GARDIT has since been expanded to include other interested organisations, primarily the Corporation of London, British Property Federation, Association of British Insurers and British Telecom. The umbrella group of organisations has met regularly over the years to try to address the problem, interest the broader public, gather support from those affected directly and influence the Government, amongst other appropriate parties, to make funding available to contain the threat.

GARDIT's strategy was launched in 1999. The strategy revolved around increasing abstraction from the central London area by 70Ml/d. This figure was agreed by the Environment Agency based on abstraction information during the period of stability. Thames Water committed to the GARDIT strategy by providing 90% of this target abstraction. Their aim was to increase abstraction by approximately 45 Ml/d (million litres per day) by April 2005. Thames Water developed a 3 phase strategy to achieve their contribution to the GARDIT targets, these phases were:-

- 1/ The identification of up to 50 boreholes at strategic locations across the capital for upgrade or new construction.

- 2/ The borehole sites identified were tested to understand the quality and quantity of water that can be abstracted.
  - 3/ Construction of a Treatment Plant at the site of the borehole or construct a transfer main to an existing treatment works or reservoir
- 

The spring seminar was followed up in the Autumn session 12/10/2007 by a presentation entitled '**The rise in groundwater levels and structural implications on foundations**' by David Whitiker of Arup Geotechnics

The history of the fall and rise of the water table, the formation of GARDIT and the solution of pumping to control the ground water table level was confirmed.

It was considered that the level had stabilised in 2005-7 at a saturation level lower than the original.

The Environment Agency now consider situation stable and do not generally permit additional extraction in London

## **End of review**

### **References**

- 1 CIRIA special publication 69 - 1989 –  
The engineering implications of rising groundwater levels in the deep aquifer beneath London
- 2 Presentation by GARDIT – London's rising groundwater  
By Archie Galloway – chair of GARDIT 10 July 2001  
[www.london.gov.uk/assembly/envmtgs/2001/envjul10/minutes/envmtgjul10item2.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/envmtgs/2001/envjul10/minutes/envmtgjul10item2.pdf) -
- 3 The UK Groundwater forum  
Rising Groundwater in Central London  
By Dr M Jones of Thames Water  
[www.groundwateruk.org/html/issues9.htm](http://www.groundwateruk.org/html/issues9.htm)
- 4 Groundwater levels in the chalk-basel sands aquifer of the London Basin  
Environment Agency annual report - June 2007  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/gw\\_report\\_june2007\\_1831580.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/gw_report_june2007_1831580.pdf)
- 5 The London catchment abstraction management strategy –  
Final Strategy Document  
Environment Agency 2006  
<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GETH0406BKRM-e-e.pdf>



Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 22nd MAY 2008,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres - L B Bromley (Chairman)  
George Furmanski - L B Greenwich (Secretary)  
Jaspal Sehmi - L B Newham (Treasurer)  
Steve Davis - L B Enfield  
John Peck - L B Havering

**APOLOGIES**

Colin Palmer - L B Redbridge

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 20th MARCH 2008**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. Previous action items - GF sent amended Autumn seminar minutes to CP, the externalisation review would be discussed at this meeting, BA handed out an A4 information sheet "Garden walls – better safe than sorry" and asked members to compare with the ASELB note and discuss at the next meeting. **Action - All**
2. Externalisation review – Norfolk Property Services (NPS) are looking at taking over other London Boroughs. They are working for Waltham Forest and they have won framework with Haringey and Hackney.
3. Membership  
The question of NPS boroughs belonging to ASELB was discussed. It was agreed that members must be Council employees. It was agreed that associate membership could be offered to NPS staff working for Waltham Forest but we must explore if there is anyone willing to become the member at those boroughs. The matter will be reviewed further, GF to draft a letter to Keith Selwood at Waltham Forest. **Action -GF**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008 (date of last statement) there was £2,950.45 in the bank.

Invoices for 2008 Spring Seminar - Six associate members attended the Spring seminar and invoices have been sent to them.

2008 Annual subscriptions – Still six outstanding. It is noted that four of these boroughs were not represented at the Spring seminar.

Outstanding Payments due – An invoice for £828.38 has been received from ISE. However this includes a charge for £285 plus VAT for equipment we usually are not charged for. After negotiation with ISE a revised invoice for £493.50 is awaited.

### **2008 SPRING SEMINAR**

It was agreed that it was a good seminar although the historic buildings presentation gave too much information in the short time allocated to the subject. It was a good introduction to the subject but it may need another presentation on practical courses of action for everyday defects.

Matter arising – JP considered the letter in Verulam magazine dated 15 April 2008 which attacks Newham Council's view of lateral restraint used in a particular beam calculation submission was out of order. It was agreed that BA draft a letter to ISE relaying ASELB's objection to the letters publication.

**Action - BA**

### **2008 AUTUMN SEMINAR**

Date – 1<sup>st</sup> choice 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice 3<sup>rd</sup> October. BA to contact ISE.

**Action - BA**

Technical presentations –

SD to ask Ed Morton for a follow up to the Spring seminar presentation.

**Action - SD**

Open discussion on effective lengths of beams, SD offered to draw up a list of such design items following discussion with colleagues.

**Action - SD**

Possible - regeneration of St Pancras station with particular reference to integrating existing construction with new.

Steering Group elections –

GF to bring draft ballot paper to next meeting.

**Action - GF**

JS to review membership contact details.

**Action - JS**

### **ASELB REPORTS**

#### **ASELB WEBSITE**

BA reported that he has the Morton Partnership's presentation CD for CP to place on the web site.

### **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

JP informed that he has received piled foundation calculations with no geotechnical investigation being submitted. The designers use high values of Cu based on shear vane results. BA advised that the LDSA piling guidance draft is out now for comment.

### **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

BA attended a meeting on implementation and "Public procurement directive" - use of Eurocodes for public funded building. Most national annexes are now published.

### **ASSESSMENT OF MULTI-STOREY DWELLING BLOCKS**

SD has recently been contacted by other Local Authorities in the Midlands looking at refurb of blocks over 5 storeys. They had no response from Barry Reeves or Stuart Matthews at BRE on the update document so they contacted SD. He advised them that due to a lack of funding the document's publication has been cancelled.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

JS reported that under CDM2008 one needs a CSCS card to visit a major site unless escorted by site staff.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Nothing to report.

**LOTAG**

Nothing to report.

**ISE**

Nothing to report.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 1.00pm, Lynton House, Ilford.

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Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 10th JULY 2008,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres - L B Bromley (Chairman)  
George Furmanski - L B Greenwich (Secretary)  
Jaspal Sehmi - L B Newham (Treasurer)

**APOLOGIES**

Colin Palmer - L B Redbridge  
Steve Davis - L B Enfield  
John Peck - L B Havering

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 22nd MAY 2008**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. BA has e-mailed the Steering Group the LDSA piling guidance document and comments are awaited. **Action - All**
2. BA still awaited comments on the A4 information sheet "Garden walls – better safe than sorry". **Action - All**
3. Membership query still to be reviewed further and GF still to draft a letter to Keith Selwood at Waltham Forest. **Action –All**
4. Effective length of beams – BA issued a draft practice note for comment by the Steering Group. **Action – All**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 (date of last statement) there was £2,791.40 in the bank. A cheque for £493.50 has since been paid to ISE leaving a balance of £2,297.90.

Invoices for 2008 Spring Seminar - All six payments for the associate members have been received.

2008 Annual subscriptions – Still six outstanding. It is noted that four of these boroughs were not represented at the Spring seminar.

Outstanding Payments due – There are no outstanding payments to be made.

## **2008 AUTUMN SEMINAR**

Date – Friday 10th October 2008 has been booked by BA.

BA will send JS an electronic booking form for completing and sending to ISE.

**Action – BA, JS**

Draft agenda tabled by BA and discussed.

GF tabled a draft ballot paper for the Steering Group election

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

Nothing to report.

## **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

The consultation period for “The Future of Building Control” document has closed. The report of the findings should be published in Autumn 2008.

## **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

Nothing to report.

## **ASSESSMENT OF MULTI-STOREY DWELLING BLOCKS**

Nothing to report.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Nothing to report.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

A H+H (Celcon) brochure and guide on environmental and sustainable credentials is available on-line.

## **LOTAG**

Nothing to report.

## **ISE**

BA will not write to the ISE because Peter Wren’s reply letter in Verulam dated 10<sup>th</sup> June has responded in line with Steering Group’s views on the subject.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

## **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, 4th September 2008 at 1.00pm, Lynton House, Ilford.

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Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 2008,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres - L B Bromley (Chairman)  
George Furmanski - L B Greenwich (Secretary)  
Jaspal Sehmi - L B Newham (Treasurer)  
Steve Davis - L B Enfield  
John Peck - L B Havering

**APOLOGIES**

Colin Palmer - L B Redbridge

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 10th JULY 2008**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. JP gave his comments on some aspects of the LDSA piling guidance document. He will e-mail them to BA. **Action - JP**
2. "Garden walls – better safe than sorry" - Following receipt of a number of comments BA will draft an edited ASELB note for comment. **Action - BA**
3. GF still to draft a letter to Keith Selwood at Waltham Forest regarding membership. **Action - GF**
4. Effective length of beams – JP will present a short questionnaire at the forthcoming Autumn seminar. **Action – JP**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 31st July 2008 (date of last statement) there was £2,367.90 in the bank

Invoices for 2008 Spring Seminar - There are no outstanding payments to be received.

2008 Annual subscriptions – Still five outstanding. City of London wish to suspend their membership for this year as they did not receive an invitation for the last Spring seminar.

Outstanding Payments due – There are no outstanding payments to be made.

**2008 AUTUMN SEMINAR**

Friday 10th October 2008.

Agenda was discussed and agreed. GF to liaise with JS to finalise the Steering Group election voting paper. **Action - GF**

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

Website has been upgraded.

### **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

The British Standard for sizing timber joists does not include 50 thick structural timber.

scconsultation period for “The Future of Building Control” document has closed. The report of the findings should be published in Autumn 2008.

### **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

BA will be attending a Eurocodes meeting on the Guidance documents.

### **ASSESSMENT OF MULTI-STOREY DWELLING BLOCKS**

Nothing to report as this BRE project has been discontinued due to a lack of funding.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

There are onerous competency requirements for a CDM co-ordinator compared to the previous Planning Supervisor.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Site Waste Management Plan now in force in the construction industry. BRE have free software for implementing the Plan.

### **LOTAG**

Nothing to report.

### **ISE**

BA reported that he has been invited to join the ICE Structures panel for a three year period from 1/11/08. He has been invited to attend the next Panel meeting on 17/9/08.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. SD reported that there is a BRE project, Building 47, which is dealing various aspects and methods of monitoring building movements. NHBC and building insurers are involved. SD will represent his borough and ASELB.
2. Trees and subsidence, highway trees. A joint mitigation protocol is being held with discussions between insurers, loss adjusters, structural engineers, tree officers.
3. JP asked Steering Group members what they considered was a reasonable value for the compressive strength of existing brickwork for a loft conversion. Following a discussion it was agreed that the old GLC value of 0.42 N/mm<sup>2</sup> was reasonable.
4. Flitch beams – SD confirmed he will give a short talk about their design at the Autumn seminar.

### **NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

TBA.

Subsequently set for Thursday, 20th November 2008 at 1.00pm, Lynton House, Ilford.

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**MINUTES OF THE ASELB AUTUMN SEMINAR  
HELD ON FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008  
AT THE INSTITUTION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS**

**1. PRESENT**

- 1.1 22 Engineers from the member boroughs, 2 Honorary members, 2 guest speakers.  
The attendance list is attached.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Peter Card (Enfield), Ray Aldrich (Barking & Dagenham), Anne Sexton (Kensington and Chelsea), Joe Figurado (Hackney), David Rumsey (Ealing), John Yiangou (Haringey), Mark Poundsack (City of London), Paul Jones (Hammersmith & Fulham), Doug Pittam (Honorary Member).

**2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS**

- 2.1 Chairman (Barry Ayres – Bromley) introduced himself and welcomed members, associate members and the guest speakers. He then read through the agenda for the seminar.

**3. MINUTES OF THE SPRING SEMINAR HELD ON 25th APRIL 2008**

- 3.1 The minutes having been previously issued to all members were taken as read and after amending the word Autumn to Spring in the title the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 3.2 **Matters Arising :-**
  - 3.2.1 Groundwater level item – Chairman asked if members feel that a serious situation could develop then further high profile action could be pursued to draw attention to this matter as directed by the Steering Group.  
By a show of hands members unanimously agreed the Chairman's proposal.
  - 3.2.2 Chairman handed out a one page Eurocodes questionnaire to members and got them to complete it as he read out the questions. Chairman will review the results and report findings to the next Steering Group meeting. (*Results are attached at the end of these minutes*).

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Treasurer, Jaspal Sehmi (Newham), reported as follows :-

Current Account Balance

On 30th September 2008 (date of last statement) there was £2,507.90 in the bank.

Invoices for 2008 Spring seminar

There are no outstanding payments.

### 2008 Annual Subscriptions

There are no outstanding payments. City of London has suspended their membership for this year and will resume next year. There are no members for Southwark and Sutton.

### Outstanding payments due

There are no outstanding payments to be made at present.

## **5. PRACTICAL STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING ISSUES**

### **Introduction**

Steve Davis (Enfield) introduced this item by saying that at this and future ASELB seminars it is proposed that a regular feature will be dedicated to matters of Practical Structural Engineering. Such sessions will allow brief consideration of matters that are of topical interest and that may require clarification and consensus of opinion, with the aim of providing a London wide and consistent approach through the issue of occasional Practical Guidance Notes.

A large part of members' work involves alterations and extensions to existing buildings and they may be built using materials and construction techniques quite different from those covered by current Codes of Practice which provide little assistance with designs associated with repair and alteration of existing buildings.

SD brought to members' attention a useful International Standard ISO 13822 *Basis for Design of Structures – Assessment of Existing Structures* which offers some guidance in that it provides a framework for undertaking designs in relation to existing buildings.

Today's session covers effective lengths of steel beams and flitch beams. Future topics could be strength of lime mortar brickwork, additional loads on foundations and walls, removal of rear or cross walls from houses, fixings in lime mortar brickwork. He would be pleased to hear from members on other matters they consider might be worthy of discussion at future seminars.

### **Effective length of steel beams**

John Peck (Havering) handed out a pictorial questionnaire showing a number of different end bearing details for steel beams and asked for the design effective length for each case. After members had filled in the questionnaire JP went through the answers. A discussion took place which highlighted the problems encountered on site when end conditions taken by designers are not provided on site particularly with work on existing buildings.

### **Design of flitch beams**

SD handed out two articles on the design and use of flitch beams and he gave a brief resume of the articles.

## **6. STEERING GROUP ELECTION**

Secretary handed out the voting paper to the thirteen members present and explained the voting procedure. The election officers were to be Manohar Bhavra and Chris Rajaratnam (both Honorary Members). Election result would be declared at the end of the seminar.

## **7. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Topic** - Historic structures – Practical aspects of repair and conservation

**Speaker** - Ed Morton – The Morton Partnership

The speaker gave an informative and interesting presentation. He presented a number of common defects in everyday structures such as freestanding walls, external walls of old buildings and old timber floors, and he gave details of the various remedial works undertaken to preserve the structures. Sometimes the stability of the structure cannot be justified by calculation and in those cases a risk assessment must be undertaken in conjunction with visual and physical surveys.

He advised there is an organisation, Conservation Accreditation Register for Engineers (CARES), which can be joined by engineers engaged in this type of work. A good publication to obtain is “Stopping the Rot” by English Heritage

**Topic** - Regeneration of St Pancras Station

**Speaker** - Ian Gardner – Ove Arup & Partners Ltd

The speaker gave an informative and interesting presentation. The regeneration work not only covered the station but also the land area outside. The work required major phasing of track and highway diversions, demolition and new construction works. A box tunnel had to be built to take the Thameslink line under the west side of the new station before that side could be built. The work was completed within time and budget.

## 8. STEERING GROUP ELECTION RESULTS

Manohar Bhavra (Honorary Member) declared the votes cast by members were as follows :-

Barry Ayres	(Bromley)	12 votes
John Peck	(Havering)	12 votes
Steve Davis	(Enfield)	11 votes
George Furmanski	(Greenwich)	10 votes
Jaspal Sehmi	(Newham)	9 votes
Colin Palmer	(Redbridge)	9 votes
Joe Farrell	(Barnet)	2 votes
Keith Sellwood	(Waltham F)	2 votes

and the following members all received one vote - Ray Aldrich (Barking & Dagenham), Robert Smith (Bexley), Gana Natkunan (Camden), David Rumsey (Ealing), John Yiangou (Haringey), Richard Bradford (Harrow), Anne Sexton (Kensington & Chelsea), Francois Domaingue (Richmond).

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of ASELB the persons receiving the six highest number of votes were elected onto the Steering Group.

The new Steering Group will elect the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at their next meeting.

## 9. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman asked members that all topics covered should be reported back to their individual boroughs.

Chairman thanked the two guest speakers for their excellent presentations. He also thanked the Steering Group members for organising this seminar, and thanked all present for attending.

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## ATTENDANCE LIST

**ASELB Autumn Seminar on Friday 10th October 2008  
at the Institution of Structural Engineers  
11 Upper Belgrave Street. London SW1**

**BOROUGH**

**MEMBER / ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

Barnet	-----	Joe Farrell
Barnet	-----	Niranjan Sehmi (AM)
Bexley	-----	Bob Smith
Bromley	-----	Barry Ayres
Camden	-----	Gana Natkunan
Croydon	-----	John Waddington
Enfield	-----	Steve Davis
Enfield	-----	Trevor Pennell (AM)
Enfield	-----	Ian Robinson (AM)
Enfield	-----	Dipak Mehta (AM)
Greenwich	-----	George Furmanski
Haringey	-----	Logi Logitharajah (AM)
Harrow	-----	Richard Bradford
Havering	-----	John Peck
Havering	-----	Tony Bello (AM)
Havering	-----	Duncan Groom (AM)
Hillingdon	-----	Peter Hackley
Hounslow	-----	David Chan (AM)
Islington	-----	Pushparajah Jeyakumar (AM)
Newham	-----	Jaspal Sehmi
Redbridge	-----	Colin Palmer
Waltham Forest	-----	Keith Sellwood
Honorary Member	-----	Manohar Bhavra
Honorary Member	-----	Chris Rajaratnam

**Guest speakers**

Ed Morton                   - The Morton Partnership  
Ian Gardner               - Ove Arup & Partners Ltd

**Results of the ASELB Eurocodes survey carried out at the 2008 Autumn seminar**

<b>Number of replies</b>	
19 No.	
<b>What discipline.</b>	
Building Control	8 No.
Design & maintenance	6 No.
Both above	5 No.
<b>When do you expect to design to the Eurocodes.</b>	
2010	13 No.
Never	3 No.
Don't know	3 No.
<b>What will cause you to use Eurocodes.</b>	
Building Reg submissions	8 No.
Legislation	10 No.
Insurance	1 No.
<b>Building Regulations will allow the on-going use of National Standards. Will you decline to design to the Eurocodes, or only use them if essential, for example by a client's specification.</b>	
Use Eurocodes if essential	15 No.
On-going use of National Standards	4 No.
<b>Does your Authority subscribe to an electronic library service. If so which one.</b>	
Yes ihsti.com	13 No.
Yes info4localgov	1 No.
No	5 No.
<b>What support from ASELB would help you make the change to Eurocodes.</b>	
Seminars and handouts	10 No.
Training courses	6 No.
Feedback for industry	2 No.
None at moment	1 No.
<b>Do you find the Eurocodes Expert website useful.</b>	
Yes	11 No.
No	2 No.
Never used it	6 No.
<b>What other comments should we note.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ASELB website could be used</li> <li>2. Point of contact on Eurocodes</li> <li>3. Through normal seminars – sort out problems/topics</li> <li>4. Start an ASELB database on usage</li> <li>5. ASELB course recommendations</li> <li>6. Good software</li> </ol>	

ASELB Secretary  
January 2009





Association for Structural Engineers of London Boroughs

**MINUTES OF THE ASELB STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 20th NOVEMBER 2008,  
AT REDBRIDGE COUNCIL OFFICES, LYNTON HOUSE, ILFORD**

**PRESENT**

Barry Ayres	-	L B Bromley
George Furmanski	-	L B Greenwich
Jaspal Sehmi	-	L B Newham
Colin Palmer	-	L B Redbridge
Steve Davis	-	L B Enfield
John Peck	-	L B Havering

**APPOINTMENTS**

The following was agreed :-

Chairman	Barry Ayres
Deputy Chairman	Steve Davis
Secretary	George Furmanski
Treasurer	Jaspal Sehmi

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2008**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

1. LDSA piling guidance document.- JP provided BA with verbal comments. BA advised the document will be revised for Eurocode design.
2. "Garden walls – better safe than sorry" ASELB note – this still has to be edited. SD offered to do this work in conjunction with BA. **Action – SD, BA**
3. Membership letter to Keith Selwood at Waltham Forest – GF has not sent this and advised there is at least one other borough, Haringey, from where the member is in an external organisation linked to the borough.  
Steering Group agreed to leave the membership rules unchanged and monitor any developments with Local Authority partnering matters.
4. 2008 Autumn seminar – It was agreed that the seminar was good and well participated by the attendees particularly during the practical structural engineering issues presentations.  
GF to draft minutes for next meeting **Action - GF**
5. Invitations to seminars – it was agreed that the invitations should only be sent to the member at each borough. It was then up to the member to let CP know who else from their borough would be attending as an associate member.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

JS reported the following :-

Current Account Balance - On 31st October 2008 (date of last statement) there was £1,946.05 in the bank. Since then two payments have been made, £652.13 to ISE for the Autumn seminar venue costs, and £62.02 to JS to reimburse him for the payment to Fasthost for the ASELB domain. This leaves a credit balance of £1,231.90.

Invoices for 2008 Autumn Seminar - Five Associate members attended the seminar and invoices have been issued. No payments have been received so far.

2009 Annual subscriptions – Steering Group agreed the subscription will remain at £70.00 per borough.

JS will send out the invoices next month.

**Action - JS**

Outstanding Payments due – There are no outstanding payments to be made.

## **2009 SPRING SEMINAR**

Proposed date Friday 24th April 2009 but BA advised ISE venue may not be available due to in-house seminars according to preliminary enquiry he has made. BA will contact ISE.

**Action - BA**

Technical presentations –

1. Steel design Eurocode – JP has received steel portal designed to Eurocode but when checked to BS5950 the design fails. JP will contact SCI for possible speaker. **Action - JP**
2. Concrete repair Eurocode – BS EN1504 – SD tabled a brochure from BASF which deals with this new Code. SD will contact them for a possible speaker. BA will contact Atkins. **Action – SD, BA**

## **ASELB REPORTS**

### **ASELB WEBSITE**

As agreed earlier in the meeting CP will remove associate members from the membership directory.

**Action - CP**

## **BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

JP voiced his concern about recent designs he has received which have large window openings and small brickwork panels which have to take all the wind loading and “Windposts” need to be provided. Also sloping soffit roofs which bear onto slender walls and designers have not catered for the lateral thrust from the sloping rafters.

## **EUROCODES & STANDARDS**

Discussed earlier for the 2009 Spring seminar.

BA issued the results of the Eurocodes questionnaire filled in by members at the Autumn seminar. It was agreed to publish the results for the 2009 Spring seminar. BA and GF to liaise.

**Action – BA, GF**

## **ASSESSMENT OF MULTI-STOREY DWELLING BLOCKS**

It was agreed to discontinue this topic following BRE’s halt to the project and replace it with “Practical Engineering Matters” which was a success at the Autumn seminar.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

It was agreed to discontinue this topic.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

It was agreed to discontinue this topic.

## **LOTAG**

BA attended their meeting on 14th November 2008. They have changed their meeting format, many short 10 minute long presentations at the meeting.

**ISE**

Nothing to report.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. BA will contact the Environment Agency for their statistics on the fall and rise of groundwater levels in the London area.

**Action - BA**

**NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING**

Thursday, 22nd January 2009 at 1.00pm, Lynton House, Ilford.

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