



ITEM 4

ACES COUNCIL 24th April 2025

Item 4 – President's Report

Following approval at the last Council meeting of the budget forecast for the Gala Dinner and Conference, I have been busy putting in place further arrangements. The venues are confirmed and deposits paid. Marcus Perry has done a recce of Bath for the Social itinerary, and I am visiting Bath at the end of the month, when I hope to be able to negotiate preferential rates with a couple of the Hotels. Interest in the Conference appears strong.

JLL have expressed interest, and I have secured Hartnell Taylor Cook (HTC) sponsorship of the drinks reception. HTC will also hopefully be presenting a CPD session at the next SW Branch meeting in June. Its possible, if they find the experience worthwhile, they may upgrade their sponsorship next year?

Speakers for the conference confirmed to date include:

Ben Sharples of Michelmores – BNG delivery S.106 agreements v conservation covenants

Emma Chapman, Hertfordshire County Council – delivery of Council BNG requirements in house and in collaboration with farm tenants (case study)

Jeremy Moody, Secretary and Advisor to the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV) – land use change and conflict (possible inclusion of Land Use Consultation)

Norse Consulting colleagues (Tentative) – LGR in practice

Adam Birchall and Julie Zessimedes of Cornwall Council – LGR done well (case study)

Tentative speakers include:

Charles Coates (Past President) – the history of Council Farms

Graeme Willis of the CPRE – The importance of Council Farms Panel discussion (unfortunately Baroness Rock was otherwise engaged)

I am in discussions with our Corporate Partners – LSH, Carter Jonas, and Avison Young to see how and where they wish to slot into the agenda.

I have been supporting Marcus Perry get the SE Branch back on track with a new Chairperson.

I have been organising the Rural Branch summer meeting to be held at Stoneleigh on 14 May.

I have rewritten the ACES Rural Branch Asset Valuation Best Practice Guide, which will be discussed and hopefully signed off at the next meeting (following interactive discussions with CIPFA).

I have attended the RICS Public Sector Forum meeting on 1 April, and will be Chairing the next meeting on 22 July.

I have had a catch up meeting with Baroness Kate Rock in the House of Lords, discussing all things tenant farming and the potential impact of LGR on Council Farms.

I have been working with the Farm Tenancy Forum to prepare evidence for Ministers on the detrimental impact of the proposed IHT APR and BPR changes on tenant farmers. I have also been working with DEFRA and the RPA to try and unlock issues with transferring agri-environment scheme contracts which have had an adverse effect on new entrant tenant farmers.

I have also liaised with DEFRA to ensure they have a suite of best practice case studies for inclusion in the next 'smallholdings' report to Parliament.

I have attended the ACES South West Branch meeting in Cheltenham on 3 April.

I continue to work with Sara and Alan to try and find a pipeline of future JVP's.

I am booked into attend (in person) the following branch meetings:

- North West Branch meeting on 8 May
- Rural Branch meeting on 14 May
- Welsh Branch meeting on 20 May
- Scottish Branch meeting on 6 June
- South East Branch meeting on 11 June
- Heart of England Branch meeting on 12 June
- Eastern Branch meeting on 20 June

Unfortunately I have had to decline the invitation to the IRRV Presidents Luncheon at the Goring Hotel in London on the 6th June as I was already committed to attending the Scottish Branch meeting.

Dan Meek

April 2025