

### **Minutes From the Last Meeting**

John Waldron, RIBA Convenor and Acting Chair : Valerie Bragg of 3Es will chair of the Forum following Malcolm Wall's departure.

### **Classrooms of the Future**

John Waldron felt that regular updates should be relayed to the group by the DfES. The forum will investigate the possibility of having an exhibition of classroom designs. It was suggested that the Institute of Education should host the show. The group agreed that it could develop into a touring exhibition hosted by schools of architecture and design centres. There are twelve boroughs involved in the classrooms for the future initiative. Andy Thompson will investigate how the DFES can support a touring exhibition. David Noel will liaise with the Nick Pacey at the Institute of Education with regards to exhibition space.

### **Revised DfES BB82 Guidelines**

The revised guidelines are now available online and will be printed in due course. Andy Thompson highlighted that the information is constantly being updated. Online information was the main medium being used. Forum members asked whether circulation areas would go up by 10%. The revised guidance notes focused on the importance of non-teaching spaces being utilised further. The BB82 Steering group is open to suggestions by consultative groups such as the Schools Forum. It was suggested that the forum liaise with DfES particularly on PFI. Andy Thompson was asked to provide regular feedback to the group on BB82 Guidelines.

A comprehensive study by the DfES has proven that costs for a 900-build secondary school cannot be developed for under £13 million. AT said the DfES was evaluating its findings and looking at costs of buildings over an expected lifetime. Georgina Frank said she was willing to provide the DfES with information collated by Bovislendlease.

### **Research on Building Regulations**

Hilary Graves of the Environmental Engineering Centre disclosed that a number of schools have now been selected for research on airspace and ventilation. The list included schools in Manchester, Somerset, Melton Keynes and Luton. HG will provide further updates.

### **Great Notley School Exemplar**

Chris French was absent from the meeting. The group felt that it should discuss this further at the next forum. DEN disclosed to the group that RIBA Policy Co-ordinator Diana Maxwell had left. He said the RIBA Policy and Strategy Group required a list of exemplar buildings but had

not provided him with appropriate criteria. He will investigate this and report back to the group  
**Guide For Governors Publication**

David Noel gave members a copy of the revised edition now available for £6.50 due to printing and distribution costs. Amendments have been made to the text and the book now follows the new RIBA format. One thousand copies have been printed.

### **SENJIT and the Institute of Education Seminar Proposal**

David Noel presented the group with a draft programme for a one-day event in the new year. The event should take place in February at the earliest. The date would be dependent on the availability of confirmed speakers. Dominic Cullinan who represented SENJIT emphasised the importance of having a programme that addressed both behavioural patterns and inclusive design. Achitype Architects are involved in several school projects that include after hours community use, nursery and disabled access to buildings. Catherine Harrington of Architype said her client worked closely on the project. He would be willing to participate in a seminar using the school as a case study. She agreed to approach him and liaise with David on the programme. Georgina Frank attended a seminar organised by the Institute of Acoustics. The areas covered included the effects of noise on children and teachers in the classroom. She recommended that the subject should be included in the event programme. The group agreed. Joanna Morgan, Special Projects Director of the London Borough of Harrow would be willing to participate in the event. John Waldron will contact her.

### **PFI & Design Standards -A report by CABE**

JW reviewed the CABE publication entitled ' Public Guide to Achieving Well Designed Schools through PFI.' It highlighted the importance of a good design brief. He said the publication addressed the use of in-house expertise, the need for appointing design advisors and the benefits of small architectural practices forming alliances on projects when possible. Further advice was available from the Private Public Partnership Programme (4ps)

JW suggested that members assist in developing RIBA's policy on PFI by updating the forum with personal experiences, views and suggestions. Members of the forum addressed the difficulty of local authorities consulting CABE on guidelines after planning applications were approved. Members argued that CABE Enablers should be involved in the process at an earlier stage, changing their negatively perceived advisory role into a supportive member of a team. It was suggested that a DfES/CABE conference should be staged to clarify the benefits of PFI and advantage of using a CABE enabler in the early stages in the procurement process.

### **Membership of the group**

David Noel acknowledged that due to the rescheduling of the meeting and the half term break, a number of forum members could not attend. He suggested scheduling dates for the new year. The group welcomed the idea of having forum meetings followed by CPD workshops with guest speakers. Members agreed that workshops or site visits to schools would increase the attendance. Alternative representation for those unable to attend meetings was suggested. Shirley Turner will be attending the National Education Development Building Officers Group meeting with other members absent from today's meeting and she will discuss with them future representation and content for meetings.