

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2012

It's been a busy time for CRELA members over the last few months since our newsletter in April.

NAMA Talk

There was a great attendance at the offices of Knight Frank LLP in Baker Street to listen to our three guest speakers Paul McDowell, (Managing Director and Head of Investment of Knight Frank in Ireland), Elaine Tooke, (Proprietary Partner for Corporate Recovery for Knight Frank in London) and John Hogan (Partner at Leman Solicitors in Dublin) who provided an entertaining and enlightening overview on NAMA and its role in the UK property market. Not only did the members leave with a clear understanding about what NAMA has done and why it was formed but we now expect to see it playing its own part in connection with the real estate market in the UK and Ireland. If you want to have a look at the assets that NAMA has under its control (NAMA bought loan books, not property) then have a look at its website www.nama.ie

A big thank you to our three speakers for giving up their time to attend and to present.

Easements Talk

On 13th June, Professor Elizabeth Cooke, the Law Commissioner who heads the Property, Family and Trust Team, gave members and guests an interesting and informative talk on the Law Commission's 2011 Report on easements, covenants and profits à prendre. Our President, Lord Justice Lewison also attended and heard that the report makes recommendations to simplify, modernise and enhance the law in this field. These rights are essential to the effective use of land and are relied upon by a significant proportion of property owners in England and Wales (as distinct from servitudes in Scotland which are entirely separate). Parts of the current law are clearly ancient, contradictory and unfit for modern society, and the report recommends reform where it is required yet simultaneously preservation of aspects which function correctly.

The Law Commission's recommendations will not affect validity and enforceability of existing rights and there is clearly more to follow on this in the future.

AGM

On 12th July 2012 our AGM took place at the offices of Charles Russell LLP to whom go our thanks for providing the venue. The minutes of the AGM and the 2012 Annual Report can be found on the website at www.crela.co.uk.

We are pleased to confirm that the annual subscription for the coming year remains unchanged at £25.00, and you should have already received your request for membership renewal. We would ask members to renew as quickly as possible to allow us to gauge the size of the membership and therefore potential numbers for the remaining events which are to take place throughout the balance of this calendar year and beyond.

Committee Members

At the AGM the following committee members were reappointed:-

Robert Highmore (Chairman)
Katherine Watts (Vice Chairman)
Claire Timmings (Secretary)
Jason Tann (Treasurer)
Richard Smith (Press Officer)
Paul Jennings (Representative for Scotland)
Michael Shaw (Regional Co-ordinator)

and we welcome the following new appointments:-

Anton Newton (Membership Secretary)
Simon Schipper (Chair of Practice and Procedure Sub-Committee)
Russell Sykes (IP & Website)
Robert Kilgour (Committee)
Sarah Pass (Committee)

In addition, the committee has appointed Sue Howell of England-Clarke Associates to act as accountants for CRELA. We wish to thank Martin Muirhead of Kingston Smith LLP for performing the role to date.

Regional Events

The first CRELA event in Birmingham is now confirmed as

**“NAMA (*National Asset Management Agency*) - the new player in UK property”
on Tuesday, 9th October (provisionally 6 – 8 pm)**

This will be a repeat of the event held in London in May (described by one member who attended as "*exactly the reason why I joined CRELA*"). Mike Shaw, the Regional Co-ordinator, will be in touch with Birmingham based members to enlist support for this event. Look out for more details.

Future Events

Olympic and Paralympic Legacy – 12 September (*publicity circulated on 15 August*)

Some of you will have attended the talk in July 2011 by Duncan Innes, who provided a thoroughly informative talk about his experiences and the challenges ahead to ensure legacy in relation to the Olympic Park.

Duncan has agreed to speak to us again on 12 September, just 3 days after the Closing Ceremony of the Paralympic Games, on the next steps for the Olympic Park.

Electronic Communications Code

Professor Elizabeth Cooke has offered to speak to us about the Electronic Communications Code, and that is likely to follow publication of the report in March 2013.

Crossrail

At the request of some members we are working up the possibility of a talk on Crossrail, given the significant changes to the London transport network as the biggest engineering project in Europe. More details will follow.

Practice and Procedure Committee

The Practice and Procedure Committee has been busy raising CRELA awareness and profile. Simon Schipper and the Sub-Committee members have been an active participant in the finalisation of the IPF Readiness for sale. It has also responded to the RICS Small Business Retail Lease consultation and the PLC CPSE Survey. More information is contained in the attached 2012 Annual Report.

The Future

The Committee is focused on extending the membership, striving to improve the variety and content of seminars and presentations and promoting the Association beyond London and throughout the regions in the UK. If you do have any suggestions, queries, recommendations or requests for the coming year, please direct them to the personnel on the website who will be only too delighted to do what they can to assist you. This is your Association and so we want it to represent your needs and wishes!

New members are also very welcome. Please see the CRELA website www.crela.co.uk for details.

All membership renewals should be sent please to Tim Power at TPS (booking@tpsnorfolk.co.uk).