



Press Release – for immediate release

Better places to live

Monday 4th September 2006- Judith Grice, from the environmental regeneration charity Groundwork, based at the Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire, has been appointed to help guide the work of Inspire East – the Regional Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Communities.

Making sure local communities get involved in their changing environment and being able to champion good design is at the heart of Judith's experience and interest. "It is an old cliché, I know...but design matters", Judith says. "It makes us question, it challenges our perceptions, it offers us the chance to solve problems and raises expectations. Development and regeneration should offer exciting opportunities for new and existing communities, not be something to dread and avoid at all costs. It is Inspire East's job to show how it can be done....better"

As part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth area, and adjoining the Peterborough Cambridge, Stansted, London Growth corridor, Bedfordshire has the opportunity to work with Inspire East and play its part in championing better places to live.

The new board includes James Hehir, chief executive of Ipswich Borough Council (Suffolk); Mary Spence, chief executive of Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership (Essex); David Ralph director of NELM Development Trust – The New Deal for Communities pathfinder in Norwich (Norfolk); and Peter Studdert, director for sustainable



communities at Cambridgeshire Horizons. (See below for full list of members). They were recruited through an open selection process from a strong list of potential applicants.

Inspire East champions the creation of high quality places to live, work and visit. It supports people working in the built environment and community regeneration occupations and professionals, in public, private and voluntary sectors. It aims to deliver the knowledge, skills and advice to inspire people to use and apply best practice.

The new board comprises of:

Paul Burall – Inspire East Co-Chair and EEDA Board Member

Judith Grice - Regional Director, Groundwork, East of England

Sue Hay - Regional Delivery Support Manager, Government Office East of England

James Hehir - Chief Executive, Ipswich Borough Council

Greg Luton - Regional Director, English Heritage

David Potter - Regional Operations Director, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

David Ralph - Director of NELM Development Trust (North Earlham, Larkham and Marlpit)

– The New Deal for Communities pathfinder in Norwich.

Michele Rigby - Chief Executive, Social Enterprise East of England

Yasmin Shariff – Inspire East Co-Chair and EEDA Board Member

Mary Spence - Chief Executive, Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership

Peter Studdert - Director for Sustainable Communities, Cambridgeshire Horizons

David Thompson – Principal of LSI Architects and Chair of RIBA East

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Notes to Editors



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About Inspire East

Inspire East is the regional centre of excellence for sustainable communities in the East of England and is supported by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

Inspire East was set up in April 2005 and champions the creation of high quality sustainable communities. It works with individuals and organisations from a wide range of private, public, voluntary and community sectors to deliver the knowledge, skills and independent advice that will inspire them to harness and implement best practice. Inspire East also works to influence regional and national policy.

This summer Inspire East held a conference called the 'Big Event' held in Norwich, to promote its activities. It was attended by nearly 200 delegates and saw the launch of two important new regional services - a Design Review Panel and an Enabling Service.

- Design Review Panel – a free expert service to advise on the quality of the development of new communities and building projects in the region - first meeting to be held on 27 September 2006
- Enabling Service – also a free service to provide individual support and expertise to a variety of sustainable community projects

Inspire East's other success stories to date include:

- Developed a new web site to provide signposting advice and best practice information about regeneration in the region
- Supported the development of a Quality Charter for Growth in the Cambridgeshire area
- Supported an innovative housing demonstrator project in Elmswell, Suffolk
- Delivered design training in Southend-on-Sea, Cambridge and Harlow
- Produced best practice guidance on community engagement including for the planning process in Essex and Cambridge.

For further information on Inspire East visit: www.inspire-east.org.uk or e-mail: enquiries@inspire-east.org.uk

About EEDA

The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) is the driving force behind sustainable economic regeneration in the East of England: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The vision for the East of England is to create a leading economy, founded on a world class knowledge base, creativity and enterprise to improve the quality of life for all who live and work here. For further information visit www.eeda.org.uk