

Murata sed Amicata - Walled but Friendly

Briefing for Members May 2015

This briefing is to give Members an update on the current situation at European Walled Towns. It has been a difficult six months, which has culminated in the resignation of the Treasurer, one Vice President with the towns they are associated with, the Secretary General and secretariat being replaced and the arrangements for the June Executive Meeting being drastically revised.

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1. *Introduction*

At a face-to-face all day meeting in Chichester on Monday 18th, President Joe Spiteri met Vice President Anne Scicluna and David Bruce, Academic Adviser. Tony French, a member of the internal audit committee also came to part of the meeting and Nada Zajc in Piran took part via a conference phone call with the meeting. Joe Spiteri and Anne Scicluna are currently the only two elected officers of EWT. It was agreed that:

- The Secretary General, whose position had been under review, was immediately to be replaced.
- The President's prompt action in response to the resignation of the Treasurer, to secure the funds of EWT was to be welcomed.
- The website, email addresses and postal address of EWT were to be updated and the website replaced in early June 2015.
- The membership of EWT was to be involved through a 'virtual' meeting of the 47th Executive Committee of EWT to commence on 1st June 2015 and finish on 23rd June 2015

2. *Secretariat and Website.*

Having spoken to a number of full walled town members, many are of the opinion that the Secretary General has been inactive and unco-operative, may well have had other priorities for her time but has not delegated. Members, on the Treasurer's mailing list will have noted from the resignation letter (dated 24th April) of three towns in the Netherlands that have chosen to resign from EWT - Bergen-op-Zoom, den 'Bosch and Heusden - that they too have despaired of the efficiency of the Secretary General.

Acting within Section 8 of the Constitution Joe Spiteri, as President has accordingly appointed a new Secretary General to take over from Gabriella Agius with immediate effect and advised her that her services are no longer required by EWT. He has also made the same clear to Matthew Carbonaro, whose responsibility was to look after the website, and Elaine Caruana, who as Gabriella's assistant,

has as a result also been removed. While, at a very late stage in April, some limited if useful changes were made to the website, a new website is being put together.

EWT has new email addresses -president.ewt@gmail.com and secretarygeneral.ewt@gmail.com .

A new PO Box address in Malta has been set, this is the address European Walled Towns P.O. Box 492 Old Bakery Street, Valletta VLT1000.

The new Secretary General and webmaster is Andrew Grima, an IT Professional in Malta.; the new Secretariat has been reduced from four to two, the second member being Medwyn Jones of Denbigh, former Treasurer of EWT (2002-2011). The restructured Secretariat and Website are now independent of the City of Valletta Local Council

The wider President's advisory committee (the 'Seven'¹), which has met rarely but corresponds frequently, has been reconstituted to continue in its role and like the inner Secretariat remains accountable to the membership as a whole through the AGM. The new 'Seven' will be (1) President (JS); (2) Vice President (AS); (3) 2nd Vice President (vacant pending election); (4) Treasurer (vacant pending election) but pro tem Medwyn Jones; (5) Secretary General (AG); (6) Academic Adviser (DB); (7) a.n.other (appointable by the President).

3. The 47th Executive Meeting of EWT 1st - 23rd June 2015 ('Virtual' and via social media).

In accordance with the existing Constitution, EWT is required to have one AGM and normally two Executive Committee meetings each year. The June 2015 Executive Committee Meeting, planned to take place in Bergen-op-Zoom **will now take place via email and social media**. This briefing gives members the context for this decision and more generally the current situation of EWT. It includes the draft agenda for the June meeting (**Appendix 1**). **More detail of arrangements and further agenda papers will be circulated very soon.**

With no mandate from EWT, the town of Bergen-op-Zoom, supported only by neighbouring towns Heusden and 's-Hertogenbosch (who then all three simultaneously resigned their membership), decided to 'cancel' the Executive meeting of EWT scheduled to be held on 4th June. (letter of 24th April from Gemeente Bergen-op-Zoom addressed to 'Executive Officers of European Walled Towns' but copied to 43 email addresses, mainly of members ([see link](#)))

As Bergen-op-Zoom has clearly withdrawn its support for the meeting, EWT regrets that it cannot take place in face-to face form. This may have caused financial loss to members, who had already booked travel and/or accommodation in advance. We understand that Bergen-op-Zoom has written to those who had already booked, who should apply to Bergen-op-Zoom for compensation for any hotel, train, flight cancellation costs.

The 47th Executive Committee meeting is therefore being organised as 'virtual' (by email and social media) during June 2015 to deal with essential business. In particular, the June 2015 Executive was authorised last year at the AGM at Chichester to discuss and decide on procedures for 'postal' voting at EWT Officer Elections. It also gives you, the Members, an opportunity to record your views on and ideas for EWT.

Full details of this meeting, to be conducted by email, social media and possibly a conference telephone call will be sent to Members in the next few days. All those invited (those invoiced this March if they have not formally resigned and Life and associate members) are welcome to

¹ The 'Seven' made up an operational advisory group, convened by the President under Section 8 (as an extension of the Secretariat) to implement plans for EWT; They were the President (JS), the two Vice Presidents (AS and MN), the Treasurer (FP), the Secretary General(GA), the Academic Adviser (DB) and the Local Adviser (VS).

contribute but **only fully paid-up (2015 or 2014) Member towns will have voting rights at this meeting. Paid up Associate Members** may take part in the discussion but must channel any voting intentions through their representative, Vicky Macdonald.

Unpaid up but invoiced members may only propose, second or vote on any motions, if they can demonstrate **payment against their numbered invoice before the cut off date of 18th June**. (see 3 below for bank details). This same cut-off date will apply to eligibility to vote in any 2015 President, Vice President and Treasurer Elections. The draft agenda is at Appendix 1.

4. The financial situation

With the abrupt resignation of the Treasurer, Joe Spiteri, as President, has taken steps to assure the funds of EWT. All EWT moneys have been transferred by former Treasurer Frank Petter and his assistants to a new bank account in Valletta. The existing Malta located account has been closed, thus taking former Secretary General Gabriella Agius off as a signatory and putting Andrew Grima on. Medwyn Jones of Denbigh, a past Treasurer (2002-2011), has agreed to oversee some of the financial matters on a temporary basis. Tony French, as one of the internal auditing committee (Heidi-Marie Penke of Gmuend is another - Wim van Engeland of Heusden is assumed to have resigned when he signed his town's resignation) is looking through the books and will generally take care of the finances until a new treasurer is elected. He will keep Heidi-Marie Penke the other internal auditor informed.

Funds of €25000 are available to EWT at this point

Joe Spiteri as President has taken immediate steps to protect the funds of EWT. A new bank account has been opened with the President and new Secretary General as the only signatories. For paying Euro subscriptions: account name is European Walled Towns **Account No: 4002330273-2 Bank's BIC: VALLMTMT IBAN: MT58 VALL 2201 3000 0000 4002 3302 732. Reference "invoice number/ town or Associate name"**. £ Sterling payments should continue to be made to Anne Scicluna in Chichester **SCICLUNA-EWT Payee account number 73990450; Payee sort code 20-20-62; Payer reference INVOICE NUMBER and town or assoc name.**

We advise Members that at the point of opening the new account, a total of €25000, including €6145 of 2015 subscriptions, is reported. In addition a £ sterling account currently holding £673 in 2015 subscriptions is held by Anne Scicluna in Chichester.

In consultation with the Vice President Anne Scicluna and Academic Adviser David Bruce, President Joe Spiteri has proposed a budget for the remainder of 2015 (7 months) to his adviser Medwyn Jones, a former Treasurer of EWT (2001-2011) who acknowledges it and to Tony French, acting financial supervisor:

2015 Budget May - December

| | |
|---|-------|
| To costs of SecGen (and webmaster) 10 hours a week for 7 months | €3000 |
| To President's expected travel and expenses | €3000 |
| To Electoral expenses (see 6. below) | €1500 |
| To Contingency | €7000 |

(Including (but not exclusively for) supporting an AGM and seminar)

TOTAL Expenditure budgeted €14500

In 2014, a total of approximately €13-14,000 revenue in subscriptions was eventually after reminders received (based on December 2014 estimate - the final 2014 Account figure is awaited from the former Treasurer, Mr Frank Petter). We may therefore expect a few more thousand Euros to be paid in but even without such sums, this budget would leave EWT with

A TARGET RESERVE AT YEAR END 2015 of approximately €10,000

5. Members

Based on membership invoices sent out by the former Treasurer, 78 towns are in membership but only 50 of these have paid either this year or last. See Appendix 2 for lists of towns. There are also associate members. Three walled town members have formally resigned their membership. As part of the Action Plan, revised Membership criteria and fees are to be proposed to form the basis of a membership drive both to previous Walled Town Members and to new Walled Town with associated links and networks of walled towns.

6. Registration, Constitution and Elections

A Treasurer election as well as President and Vice President elections are needed before the end of 2015. They need to be held within the existing Constitution but compatible with the Registration application on which Joe Spiteri, as President, has worked with Anne Scicluna of Chichester Vice President and David Bruce, Academic Adviser, based in Bristol since last November. With the assistance of John Bonello, Lawyer, a final draft EWT constitution compatible with applying for Registration as a legal Association under the civil code of Malta has been drafted. Under the current EWT Constitution (2013) changes to that Constitution can be made on the authority of the President, subject to subsequent ratification by the EWT AGM.

The NGO registration documents ('Constitutions and Statutes') are ready to be approved by Members and ratified (by the AGM) and will be circulated separately. It is not a formal responsibility of the Executive meeting. The draft 'Statutes' for Registration were presented to the 'Seven meeting' in November 2014, where it was exhaustively discussed with John Bonello, the lawyer and several amendments proposed. It has since been made compatible with the current Constitution as amended. The application to register has to be signed by three of the elected officers, and at present there are only two – so we have to have our elections for Treasurer, President and second Vice-President prior to Registration and as soon as reasonably possible.

As agreed at the 46th Chichester Executive (and acknowledged by the AGM) this can be done by 'postal' (Electronic) voting without an actual meeting. **Specific Arrangements need to agreed at the 47th Exec.** Anne Scicluna, Vice President and not up for election this year is finding a UK Official with Election experience to act as Returning Officer (possibly one who has done it in the Chichester District elections and so knows what he/she is doing). He would send out requests for nominations – by a certain date. He would then collate and get electronic voting papers done and sent out. Votes would come to him and he would count them and either bring them to the AGM or send them in a sealed envelope to that AGM. He would receive reasonable expenses. This system has the advantage of all paid-up member towns having the right to vote, not only those who can physically attend a meeting. A formal motion will be put to the virtual Executive to authorise this procedure.

7. Conclusion.

While the Elected Officers and advisers much regret not having the opportunity of meeting members in the amicable surroundings of a usual Executive Meeting, we trust that the proposed 47th virtual meeting of the Executive will allow your Elected Officers to take account of your questions, views and ideas, take necessary decisions and allow EWT to get back on to a productive track for the benefit of all Members.

JS/DMB/AS 29 May 2015.

Appendix 1 Proposed 'Virtual' 47th Executive Committee of EWT 2015.

The Draft Agenda is:

1. Record of those eligible to participate and respondees.
 - a. Paid-up (2015 or 2014) full Walled Town Members (one voting contributor per town)
 - b. Paid-up Associate Members (Individual and Associations) - contributors but only through their Representative, Vicky Macdonald, one vote in all
 - c. List of Respondees to the invitation to participate
2. Agreement of Procedure for this 'virtual' Meeting
3. Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting (XLVI) held in Chichester Sept 2014 to be agreed
4. To take note of draft minutes of 2014 Chichester AGM (XXIV) and proposed corrections to them
5. To take note of a President's Report
6. To take note of President's Advisory Committee's (formerly the '7 meeting') Report (based on the Members' briefing paper above).
7. To take note of Financial Report
8. Matters Arising from Chichester Sept 2014 Executive XLVI and AGM XXIV including:
 - a. Matters delegated to the Executive Committee by the Chichester AGM (XXIV)
 - b. other urgent matters
9. The 2015 AGM arrangements
10. Action plan for 2015 and a longer term Business Plan
11. Any Other Notified Urgent Business
12. Date and Format of next meeting.

APPENDIX 2 List of towns and Associates invited to participate in Virtual Executive Meeting

The A. List with voting rights but invited to pay 2015 dues, please (payment details in Section 4 above):

* paid already in 2015* -Thank you

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Almeida | 25. Kilmallock Co Cork |
| 2. *Athenry County Galway* | 26. *Kuldiga* |
| 3. Berwick-On-Tweed | 27. *Labraza* |
| 4. Bursa | 28. Maastricht |
| 5. Cardepera Mallorca | 29. Meppen |
| 6. *Chichester* | 30. Montreuil-Bellay |
| 7. Cittadella | 31. *Naarden* |
| 8. *Conwy* | 32. Narva |
| 9. *Cowbridge* | 33. Nicosia |
| 10. *Denbigh* | 34. Nin |
| 11. Derry | 35. Ozmangazi Bursa |
| 12. *Drosendorf A/D Thaya* | 36. Pecs |
| 13. Dubrovnik | 37. *Piran* |
| 14. Eggenburg | 38. *Ptuj* |
| 15. *Elvas* | 39. Radstadt |
| 16. Famagusta-Limassol | 40. Scala-Salerno |
| 17. *Fredericia* | 41. Sinj |
| 18. Friesach | 42. *Sluis-Oostburg* |
| 19. Gaziantep | 43. Tenby |
| 20. Gmund In Karnten | 44. *Trnava* |
| 21. *Gradara* | 45. *Valkenburg* |
| 22. Grave | 46. Veere-Domburg |
| 23. *Hellevoetssluis* | 47. Woudrichem |
| 24. Karlovac | |

The B list participants without voting rights unless they pay fee due before 18th June

(payment details in Section 4 above)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Alanya | 13. Great Yarmouth |
| 2. Amelia | 14. Isla |
| 3. Antonana | 15. Kilkenny |
| 4. Bernedo | 16. Kdz Eregli |
| 5. Birgu/Vittoriosa | 17. Kutahya |
| 6. Caernarfon | 18. Lagos |
| 7. Carrickfergus | 19. Laguardia |
| 8. Chester | 20. Lucca |
| 9. Contrasta | 21. M'dina |
| 10. Diyarbakir | 22. Novigrad, Dalmatia |
| 11. Egirdir/Isparta | 23. Peñacerrada |
| 12. Gamle Frederikstad | 24. Sainte-Suzanne, Pays De La Loire |



25. Salinas De Añana
26. Salinillas De Buradon
27. Salvatierra-Agurain
28. Slavonski Brod

29. Valletta
30. Victoria Gasteiz
31. Youghal, County Cork
32. Zadar



List C Associate Members, invited to participate but need to go through Vicky Macdonald to influence the vote.

- * Paid up 2015 or 2014 thank you for 2015, please consider paying if only 2014 so far (payment details in Section 4 above);
 - ^Life Member (deemed paid);
 - ^^Life President;
 - \$ Association etc.
 - \$\$ Reciprocal Membership
- | | |
|---|---|
| *A. Scicluna | \$Sveaborg Seura RY |
| *A-L. Lavila | \$Stichting Vestingstad Valkenburg |
| *B.J.H. Woerdman | \$Stichting Groene Hart |
| *D. Bruce | \$State Museum History of St. Petersburg |
| *H.J. Laverman-Berbée | \$Rhodes International culture & Heritage Society |
| *I. Thomas | \$Obala Krajjice Elizabete |
| *J. Bewes | \$Noe Stadtmauerstaedte |
| *J. Spiteri | \$Irish Walled Town Network/The Heritage Council |
| *M. Jones | \$Friends of York Walls |
| *V. Macdonald | \$FICAM |
| *^R. Storey | \$Euregionaal Historisch Centrum Sittard-Geleen |
| *^J. Price | \$Derry Holywell Trust |
| *^C.J. Lines | \$Chester Civic Trust |
| *^^P.L. Osborne | \$Arabbari |
| *\$Narva Museum | |
| *\$Lucca Promo | |
| *\$Chichester Walls Trust | |
| *\$Chichester District Council | |
| *\$\$ European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (B. Smith) | |

- A. Dryhurst-Dodd
- C. Rohder
- D. Hilditch MLA
- D. Misljenac
- E. Grilo
- E. Price
- F. Gastone
- G. Dryhurst-Dodd
- J. Beynon
- J. Bourhill
- J. Scriberras
- Jones (Denbigh, Mrs)
- L.E. Adam
- M. Arkesteijn-Van Willigen
- M. Masio
- M. Pritchard
- P. MacDougall
- P. Smith
- V. Manthorpe
- W. Hamilton
- \$York Archaeological Trust



European **Walled** Towns

Disclaimer: particularly with Associate Members and Associations, there may be errors in whether you have paid up and when and in spelling of names. Please advise us of necessary changes/updates.