

## BIAC Newsletter



MAY 2017

### Chairman's greeting - Adrian Cannon, MBIAC



*I was presently surprised this week when I Googled BIAC to see we are now on the first page at the top! Clearly this is showing good engagement and indicates just how many*

*people, both within and from outside the Institute are using the site. With the continued lack of clarity in the future direction of Agriculture from the UK government, a snap election distracting the negotiations and UK decision making process we as consultants continued to be questioned as to the future. This continues to present opportunities for our members and as an Institute we aim to provide support these.*

*Once again we look towards our members for feedback on their membership and I welcome any comments ahead of the AGM, and hope to see you there. **Adrian***

### Farm Visit, Lunch & Annual General Meeting

We look forward to welcoming those who have booked to attend the Farm Visit, Lunch and Annual General meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2017.

#### PROGRAMME

11am - Meet at The White Horse, at Churton

Chester Road, Churton CH3 6LA

11.30am - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12.30pm - Lunch followed by an introduction

to Grosvenor Farms by Mark Roach

1.30pm - Farm visit to Grosvenor Farms by kind permission of

Mark Roach.

Grosvenor Farms produce about 58,000 litres of milk a day, some 21 million litres a year which is processed by Müller Wiseman Dairies and sold to Tesco as liquid drinking milk.



All members are welcome to attend the AGM but a charge is made for attending the lunch. Please email Victoria@biac.co if you would like to attend the AGM without lunch or farm visit.

#### EVENTS COMING UP

- ◆ Farm Visit, Lunch & AGM - Tuesday 23rd May 2017
- ◆ SW Region - Wednesday 21st June 2017 - Legal Update The Latest Planning Legislation and Case Law Affecting Rural Development
- ◆ BIAC Foundation 1 - 12th & 13th September 2017 - Farmers Club
- ◆ Central Region - Tuesday 19th September 2017 - Tax Efficiency Seminar
- ◆ BIAC Rural Planning Conference - 5th October 2017 - Williams Conference Centre

**All membership subscriptions must be paid in full by the AGM.**



GROSVENOR FARMS

Advisors should be aware that they can make certain changes to submitted applications without penalty before midnight on 31st May and changes with penalties until 9th June



## Rural Payments Agency

With the passing of the 15th May we can draw breath and reflect on a year where many claims were relatively straight forward, but a significant number were caught up in either historic errors, inspection delays or ongoing RPA system issues, which continue to cause uncertainty, worry and excessive time in their completion. Despite BIAC's continuing efforts to instil better accountability at the RPA, there is a sense that the

current system is simply going to rumble forward for a couple more years with minimal investment and improvement until longer term political decisions are made...

Advisors should be aware that they can make certain changes to submitted applications without penalty before midnight on 31st May and changes with penalties until 9th June. Details of this process have been circulated to BIAC members and appear on the Gov.uk website.

Historic issues (from 2015 and 2016) remain the biggest concern to many. The RPA have at last started working

through the reconciliation list and steady progress is being made with payment recalculations. BIAC will continue to put pressure on the RPA to resolve these issues.

On a separate note, Natural England have just about succeeded getting 2017 stewardship offers out before the 15th May. In recognition of the delays, the claim deadline for Agreements starting 1st January 2017 has been extended to 15th June. The practical impacts of these delays have been significant and many claimants may not receive the full stewardship payment in the first year.

Peter, Walker, MBIAC

### BIAC FOUNDATION 1 COURSE

#### 'INTRODUCTION INTO PROFESSIONALISM'

**FARMERS CLUB, 3 WHITEHALL COURT, LONDON SW1A 2EL**

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

To book go to [www.biac.co.uk/events](http://www.biac.co.uk/events)



You may be aware that nearly 65% of woodland in this part of England is not under active management.

The above group is recently formed with co-operation from the Forestry Commission. The group is offering woodland owners the following:

a) A Directory of suitably qualified and experienced forestry

advisors from which woodland owners can choose someone to help them.

b) A free preliminary visit and outline advice to help them take the first step to active woodland management.

c) A standard report that is completed to a peer-reviewed standard on a template that has been endorsed by: (FC, WT, AONBs, etc. etc.)

I would be interested to know if any of your clients or members would be interested in taking up this offer and I can be first point of contact for your response.

Richard Bellamy,  
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Email: [richard@bellamyrural.co.uk](mailto:richard@bellamyrural.co.uk)  
Website:

### *Southern England Forestry Advisors Group -Richard Bellamy, MBIAC*

## REGIONAL EVENTS

### South West

#### LEGAL UPDATE THE LATEST PLAN- NING LEGISLA- TION AND CASE LAW AFFECTING RURAL DEVELOP- MENT

**WEDNESDAY  
21ST JUNE 2017**

**FROGMARY GREEN  
FARM, WEST STREET,  
SOUTH PETHERTON  
TA13 5DJ**

Practitioners will know the difficulty of keeping abreast with legal developments whilst doing their day to day work.

This half day seminar, led by the planning lawyer **Alex Madden**, will examine recent developments within the planning law arena including some of the leading court judgments of the moment and assess their rural implications for planning professionals and those engaged in property and development. Alex who is well known for his appearances at the BIAC rural planning conference is an engaging speaker whose humour will ensure this will be an interesting insight into the thinking of the Courts and legislators.

After lunch there will be a farm walk of the farming, diversification, renewable energy and biodiversity projects that

have been undertaken by Nick and Claire Bragg at Frogmary Green Farm which include poultry units, a cookery school, classroom and anaerobic digester plant.

Alex Madden, Partner and Head of Planning and Environment at NFU Panel Firm Thrings LLP. Alex's planning practice covers both contentious and non-contentious work ranging from legal challenges in the High Court to the drafting/negotiation of section 106 agreements. He is a Legal Associate of the Royal Town Planning Institute, a Higher Court Advocate and is ranked in Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners for his planning and environmental expertise.



**ALEX MADDEN,**

Partner and Head of  
Planning and  
Environment at  
NFU Panel Firm  
Thrings LLP

**TO BOOK**

**WWW.BIAC.CO.UK**

**/EVENTS**

**THRINGS**  
SOLICITORS

### Central

#### TAX EFFICIENCY SEMINAR

**TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2017**

**NAEC, STONELEIGH,  
WARWICKSHIRE  
CV8 2LZ**

This half day seminar will be split into two sections starting with lunch at 12 noon.

Session One - Steve Hicks, MBIAC Oakleys LLP

Session Two - Jeremy Procter Bidwells LLP

What tax efficiencies can be made and how

these can be practically implemented.

Covering business structures, partnerships, FRS—102, tax updates, EU tax laws and stock valuations.

Full details will be available shortly along with booking via the website



  
**BIDWELLS**

## BIAC Council under 30's representative - nominations welcome



*Professional Advisers to Rural Business and on the Environment*



Mike Greetham, CEO BIAC

BIAC continues to explore ways of supporting its members as they in turn support those directly involved in the agricultural industry

In addition to Foundation Courses BIAC are looking for ways of reinvesting member funds that will benefit the Institute, its members and the industry. We are always keen to hear from members with ideas and initiatives in this respect.

Similarly Council are pleased to note the success of the Institute over recent years in reducing the age profile of its members. We are now looking for the younger members to step up and help to promote the cause of the younger BIAC member. As CEO I am considering the election to Council of an under 30's representative and I welcome members reaction, positive or otherwise to this suggestion. I see it as a double benefit, providing a consultant with the experience of management of a professional body while also giving individuals the opportunity to play an active part in the continuous process of reshaping BIAC and making it fit for the future

As part of my role representing BIAC on the Senior Stakeholders Committee of the RPA I will be meeting with Paul Caldwell, the new CEO of the RPA in a one to one session.

We continue to encourage members to come up with ideas for regional and national meetings that will appeal to our membership and others

*Mike Greetham CEO*

PROFESSIONAL  
ADVISORS TO RURAL  
BUSINESS AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT

*BIAC (The British Institute of Agricultural Consultants) is a professional organization whose members provide professional advice to Farmers, Rural Businesses and those who care for our Environment and Countryside.*

### **Who we are?**

*BIAC (The British Institute of Agricultural Consultants), formed in 1957, is a membership organisation for all engaged in the provision of advice:*

*Principals; Partners; Directors; Employees; Individuals*

*Members are engaged in the giving of advice in all matters concerning the ownership and occupation of land and rural businesses – not simply farming and food.*

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BIAC MEMBERSHIP**

**PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE**

**WWW.BIAC.CO.UK**

**OR EMAIL**

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