

# HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

## MINUTES OF MEETING 16 MARCH 2007

### MENZIES BELFORD HOTEL, EDINBURGH

**Present:** Liz Burns (Chair)  
Peter Burman  
Neil Galbraith  
Mark Hopton  
Ian Johnson  
Eleanor McAllister  
Ross Noble  
Evelyn Silber  
James Simpson  
Andrew Wright  
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Secretary)

#### **Welcome and apologies**

1. There were no apologies.

#### **Minutes of the meeting of 8 December**

2. The minutes of the meeting were approved.

#### **Matters arising**

##### Appointments

3. Council noted that the vacancies on HEACS had been widely advertised, including in the national newspapers.
4. The arrangements for the appraisal of members were noted.

##### Future resources for HEACS

5. Council noted that the new post of part-time Secretary had been advertised within the Scottish Executive. The Chair had been assured by Historic Scotland that she would be involved in the appointments process. Council noted that the annual budget had been increased from £60,000 to £100,000 with effect from 1 April 2007. The increase in staff and budget would, among other things, enable Council to devote more resources to the gathering of evidence. The allocation of resources to the various tasks under consideration would be assessed once the new Secretary was in post. The question of further resources was raised.

### Meetings with other agencies

6. The Chair reported that she was shortly to meet with Mark Adderley, the new Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland.

### Review of Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland

7. The Chair reported on progress of the Review of Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland.

### Sustainability and Climate Change

8. Council agreed that Peter Burman would provide the Chair's Group with a short paper on sustainability and climate change.

### Planning Advice Note on Community Engagement

9. Council noted the recent publication of the Planning Advice Note, PAN81, on Community Engagement.

### **Minister's initial response to the four reports**

10. Council noted the terms of the Minister's interim response to the four reports which had been acknowledged by the Chair. While the response contained a number of positive statements, the Minister had not supported a review of the legislation. Council noted that the Minister's position contrasted with the recently published DCMS and Welsh Assembly Government White Paper, *Heritage Protection for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and the associated Regulatory Impact Assessment. Council also noted a letter from BEFS on the Minister's initial response and also a paper from BEFS entitled Outline for a Review of Scotland's Heritage Protection Legislation.

11. Council discussed responsibility for monitoring the follow-up to the four reports. It was agreed that the Chair's Group would seek a meeting with Historic Scotland for an update on the consultation process which the agency was undertaking.

### **Current work**

#### Economic significance

12. Council noted that an invitation to tender for the scoping brief on the economic significance of the historic environment would issue shortly. It was recognised that the research project which would emerge from the scoping study was likely to be of such a magnitude as to require partnership funding. Council discussed the relationship between economic impact and the wider concept of economic significance.

### Infrastructure

13. Council noted the progress made by the Infrastructure Working Group.

### Ecclesiastical heritage

14. Council considered the note prepared by James Simpson of an informal meeting to consider how HEACS might tackle the issue of ecclesiastical heritage. It was suggested that Council should consider all faith groups and that Council should gather evidence from the rest of the UK and Europe. The ecclesiastical heritage was, from one perspective, part of a wider question involving redundant buildings. On the other hand, there were places of worship which should not be put to re-use. Council agreed that the topic should be taken forward by a Working Group comprising James Simpson (Chair), Peter Burman and Andrew Wright. The Group would produce a work plan which would include an assessment of what resources it would require.

### Young adults

15. Council considered the paper written by Evelyn Silber to consider how HEACS might tackle the issue of young adults. It was noted that there were examples of good practice in involving young adults in the historic environment and that the HLF had been influential in this area. It was noted that young adults should not be treated as a homogeneous group. HEACS should consider how it could engage with young adults. Council agreed that the topic should be taken forward by a Working Group comprising Evelyn Silber (Chair), Ian Johnson and Ross Noble. The Group would produce a work plan which would include an assessment of what resources it would require.

### **Consultation papers**

#### Enforcement of environmental law

16. Council noted its response to the consultation.

#### Culture Bill

17. Council considered the paper written by Evelyn Silber incorporating a draft response to the consultation on the Culture Bill. Mark Hopton declared an interest in so far as the discussion had a bearing on the RCAHMS. It was agreed that cultural entitlements should reflect the fact that the historic environment was part of culture. Creative Scotland should not be described as the body responsible for 'national cultural policy'. As it stood, the Bill could be taken to suggest that every cultural form outside of those covered by the *limited remit* of Creative Scotland was not creative. It effectively belittled the creative contribution played not only by heritage and environment based activities but also, for instance, by architecture and design. Evelyn Silber and the Secretary would refine the response to the consultation.

### Future consultations

18. Council noted that a number of documents were about to be published for consultation including several SHEPs (Scottish Historic Environment Policy) and an SPP (Scottish Planning Policy) on the Historic Environment to take the place of NPPG5 (Archaeology and Planning) and NPPG18 (Planning and the Historic Environment).

### Architecture Policy

19. Council welcomed the positive statements concerning the historic environment in the revised Architecture Policy.

### **Chair's Group**

20. Council noted the record of the meeting of the Chair's Group.

### Study tour

21. Council discussed the draft itinerary for the study tour.

### Conference

22. Council considered the arrangements for the annual conference which would take place on 25 September in Stirling. It was agreed that the theme should be the historic environment as part of culture. The arrangements would be taken forward by the Chair's Group.

### **Rural issues**

23. Council discussed a paper on the Scottish Rural Development Programme prepared by Ian Johnson. It was agreed that Council should retain its watching brief.

### **Budget paper**

24. Council noted the budget paper. Council also noted that a sum would need to be set aside to pay for the research on the economic significance of the historic environment.

### **AOB**

### Annual Report of the Scottish Information Commissioner

25. Council noted the Scottish Information Commissioner's Annual Report.

### HEACS Website

26. Council noted a paper setting out the statistics for the use of the HEACS website. The possibility of creating an area on the website for members to access briefing material was discussed.

### NHTG Skills Report

27. Council noted the publication of the NHTG Report which made positive reference to the work of HEACS in this area.

### **Date of next meeting**

28. The next meeting would take place on 23 June (venue to be arranged).

**HEACS**  
**March 2007**