

BRIEF NOTES OF MEETING

**“The Festival of Architecture 2016: Education, Community and Place-Making”
At the Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 4 on Tuesday 21 April 2015 at 5.30pm**

Our Ref: EM R10 Festival of Architecture Mtg Minutes 2015-04-21

PRESENT

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| Ross Aitchison | |
| Karen Anderson | Architecture + Design Scotland |
| Marjorie Appleton | Apple Forth |
| Alison Blamire | ARCADE Architects |
| Peter Burman | Centre for Stewardship |
| Hilary Constable | Centre for Stewardship |
| Jocelyn Cunliffe | Gray, Marshall & Associates |
| Karen Cunningham | The Festival of Architecture 2016 |
| Linda Fabiani MSP | The Scottish Parliament |
| Jodie Gordon | Bellenden |
| Mike MacKenzie MSP | The Scottish Parliament |
| Akiko Kobayashi | Kobayashi Studio |
| Ann Laird | Friends of Glasgow West Built Environment Forum Scotland |
| Euan Leitch | Built Environment Forum Scotland |
| Gloria Lo | OiSA Designs Chartered Architect |
| Kenny Lumsden | Centre for Stewardship |
| Jim MacDonald | Architecture + Design Scotland |
| Drew Mackie | Drew Mackie Associates |
| John MacLean | J M Architect |
| Ingval Maxwell | COTAC |
| Eileen McCormack | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Cathy McCulloch | Children’s Parliament |
| June Milne | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Eugene Mullan | Smith Scott Mullan Associates |
| Hamish Neilson | Landscape Institute Scotland |
| John Nicholls | Children’s Parliament |
| Ann Packard | RSA |
| Bill Pagan | Built Environment Forum Scotland |
| Morag Phillips | Space Solutions |
| Jude Quartson- | |
| Mochrie | RCAHMS |
| Robert Steedman | Centre for Stewardship |
| Craig Stirrat | Grampian Housing Association |
| Christina Stuart | Centre for Stewardship |
| Ninian Stuart | Centre for Stewardship |

Andy Summers Oliver Chapman Architects

APOLOGIES

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| Nick Allan | RICS Scotland Board |
| Dr Keith Baker | Sustainable Urban Environments Research Group |
| Nicola Barclay | Scottish Futures Trust |
| Jim Chapman | R James Chapman Architect |
| Eric Dawson | Planning Aid Scotland |
| Julia Frost | Planning Aid Scotland |
| Gill Henry | Cruden Homes |
| Stephen Hodder | RIBA |
| Jack Hugh | |
| Damian McAfee | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Drew Smith MSP | The Scottish Parliament |
| Janice O'Sullivan | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Graham Ross | Architecture + Design Scotland |
| Annabelle Goldie MSP | The Scottish Parliament |
| Ian Appleton | Apple Forth |
| Paul Morsley | Iglu Studio |

1.0 WELCOME

Linda welcomed all present to the meeting.

2.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE MEETING THEME

Presentation by Karen Cunningham – Co-Director of the Festival of Architecture 2016

Karen is a freelance cultural and media consultant.

She joined the Festival team in February with specific responsibility for planning and delivery of the core programme; staffing, funding oversight; media relations, PR and marketing.

Formerly she was Head of Libraries and Cultural Venues in Glasgow and founder and director of Aye Write! Glasgow's Book Festival.

She is director of Future NEWS, an international conference for aspiring young journalists.

Presentation Summary: Karen commenced her presentation by announcing that the branding for the Festival of Architecture has officially been launched today and is reflected in her presentation slides. The Festival of Architecture forms part of the Scottish Government's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016. This also coincides with the centenary of the RIAS. The aims of the Festival are to:

- Celebrate an art form central to Scotland's cultural identity.
- Opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of good built environment to all our lives.

- To engage all those living or visiting Scotland.
- Transform our relationship with architecture.

It is anticipated that the Festival will make a difference in the following ways:

- Catering for widely differing tastes, educational levels and interests.
- Hands on educational and entertaining.
- Accessible and appealing across Scotland.
- Externally focused and relevant to all.

There are currently over 60 organisations signed up to support the event in a variety of ways, such as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Herald & Tribune Media Group.

Some of the projects are as follows:

- Digitising the RIAS Building Guides.
- A world cities expo, held in Edinburgh.
- The Ideal Hut Show.

The RIAS are currently awaiting confirmation from the Scottish Government of the level of funding which the Festival will receive and will obviously have an influence on the nature and scale of the programme.

3.0 ENGAGING CHILDREN IN THE FESTIVAL

Presentation by Cathy McCulloch – Director of the Children’s Parliament

Presentation by John Nicholls – Community Programme Manager, Children’s Parliament

Presentation Summary: The Children’s Parliament started 20 years ago based around a built environment project. It works with children between the ages of 8 and 14 and often vulnerable or ‘at risk’ children.

John highlighted that the Children’s Parliament is Scotland’s Centre for Excellence for Children’s Participation and Engagement. They work creatively through projects, consultations and training programmes to improve communication between children and adults and to build relationships based on mutual respect and understanding. They provide children with opportunities to share their experiences, thoughts and feelings so that they can influence life at home, in school and in the community through change at a local and national level.

John highlighted the UN Charter on Rights of Children.

“When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.”

John highlighted the benefits of participation, the outcomes that have been evidenced and the way in which this relates to the National Curriculum for Excellence.

Cathy McCulloch explained three specific programmes which the Children’s Parliament hosts and which ideally will form part of the Festival of Architecture 2016.

Random Towns: this is a one day exercise using a series of model squares as part of a city.

Children construct models of an area of the town with the only restriction being connecting points between the squares. At the end of the exercise, all the squares are joined together creating a random town and forming the focus of discussions on the physical form of our towns and cities.

Streets ahead: this programme involves working with children from a specific neighbourhood and asking them to tell adults what it is like to live in this community. The children work with an artist to produce a mural (often as large as 24 x 6 feet) which reflects the issues from their perspective.

EcoCity: this project involves consideration of urban design, ecological design and children's rights. The children work with a group of professionals who are there to support, encourage, challenge and question the children's proposals. A large model is constructed of the particular area and this is presented to local people and elected representatives by the children. The proposed model undergoes "the Hedgehog Challenge" testing the sustainability of the proposals.

4.0 WHAT THE FESTIVAL CAN DELIVER AT COMMUNITY LEVEL AND HOW IT COULD ENHANCE PLACE-MAKING IN SCOTLAND

Presentation by Karen Anderson – Chair of Architecture and Design Scotland

Karen is a founding partner of Anderson, Bell Christie Architects, Glasgow. Karen has worked throughout rural and urban Scotland on a diverse portfolio of projects in most sectors including health, housing, education and community buildings as well as regeneration, urban design and master planning.

Karen is currently chair of Architecture + Design Scotland, was previously a Royal Fine Art Commissioner. She is past Convenor of the Saltire Housing Design Awards Panel.

Presentation Summary: Architecture + Design Scotland are on the Festival of Architecture 2016 Steering Group and one of the event partners. Many of A+DS programmes will form part of the Festival. Karen suggested that a great outcome for the Festival would be the people of Scotland talking as confidently about place as football!

A+DS are very optimistic about the outcome of the Festival and the opportunity to inform politicians and clients about the social and economic benefits of good design.

Karen outlined a number of projects which A+DS have been involved with that actively address the community and placemaking aspects such as the Leg-A-See Run 2014, the Made in Stirling shop and the Inverness Public Realm Improvements.

Karen noted that the more informed people are in relation to design and place, the more capable they are to challenge decisions and assumptions and more likely to demand good quality which reflects their pride in their place.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 There was an engaging discussion about a range of aspects such as:

- Digitising of the Buildings of Scotland publication.

- The involvement of house building industry in the Festival.
- The role of the RIAS chapters in creating a series of regional hubs.
- Ensuring access for all to events and conversations.
- Acknowledging the requirement to have practical, deliverable events using the resources available in an equitable and transparent way.
- Suggestions that children should be writing the architectural guides for children.
- The opportunity for significant communications strategy tapping into the networks of the 60 partner organisations.
- The opportunity for a connection with the Venice Biennace with the possibility that this exhibition may return to Scotland.

6.0 CLOSE OF MEETING

Linda thanked the speakers for their insight on the meeting topic and all present for their contributions to the discussion.