

CROSS PARTY GROUP on ARCHITECTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Notes of Meeting

“Planning Review”

**Meeting on 31st January 2017, 5.45pm
Committee Room 1
The Scottish Parliament**

Present:

| Title | First Name | Surname | Organisation |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Mr | Ian | Alexander | |
| Mr | Keith | Baker | Glasgow Caledonian University |
| Mr | James | Batty | Shelter Scotland |
| Mr | Neil | Baxter | RIAS |
| Ms | Petra | Biberbach | PAS |
| Ms | Katherine | Brookfield | University of Edinburgh |
| Mr | Simon | Byrom | |
| Mr | Robbie | Calvert | Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland |
| Mr | Oliver | Chapman | Oliver Chapman Architects |
| Mr | Ivan | Clark | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| Ms | Jocelyn | Cunliffe | Gray, Marshall and Associates |
| Ms | Jane | Denholm | Scot Parliament |
| Mr | Nick | Domminney | Hoskins Architects |
| Ms | Pauline | Elliot | South Lanarkshire Council |
| Ms | Sue | Evans | CSGNT |
| Ms | Linda | Fabiani | MSP |
| Mr | Bill | Fraser | The Pollockshields Trust |
| Mr | Malcolm | Fraser | Halliday Fraser Munroe |
| Mr | Keith | Geddes | Pagoda Porter Novelli |
| Ms | Jodie | Gordon | Newington Comms |
| Mr | Tim | Gray | Holmes Miller |
| Mr | Sandy | Halliday | Gaia Research |
| Mr | Alan | Hampston | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| Mr | Cliff | Haque | The Cockburn Association |
| Mr | Stewart | Henderson | RIAS President Elect |
| Ms | Rebecca | Hughes | The Landscape Institute Scotland |
| Mr | John | Inman | The City of Edinburgh Council |
| Mr | Deryck | Irving | Greenspace Scotland |
| Mr | John | Lawson | The City of Edinburgh Council |
| Ms | Gillian | Lockyer | Studio 42 |
| Mr | John | Lord | Yellow Book |
| Mr | Jim | MacDonald | Architecture Design Scotland |

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|-----|----------|-------------|--|
| Mr | Gordon | Macdonald | MSP |
| Mr | David | MacLeod | Rybka |
| Mr | Stuart | MacPherson | Irons Foulner |
| Dr | Ann | MacSween | Historic Environment Scotland |
| Mr | Damian | McAfee | The City of Edinburgh Council |
| Mr | Ivan | McKee | MSP |
| Mr | Samuel | McKeever | Geddes Consulting |
| Dr | Alasdair | Mckenzie | Historic Environment Scotland |
| Mr | John | McKinney | FSS Ltd |
| Mr | Craig | McLaren | RTPI |
| Mr | Jonathan | McQuillan | Anderson Bell Christie |
| Mr | Stuart | Mearns | Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. |
| Mr | George | Morrison | The Morrison Partnership |
| Mr | Paul | Morsley | Iglu Studio |
| Mr | Gavin | Mowat | Scottish Land and Estates |
| Mr | Niall | Murphy | The Pollockshields Trust |
| Ms | Meg | Nelson | GVA James Barr |
| Ms | Gina | Netto | Heriot Watt University |
| Mr | John | Pelan | The Scottish Civic Trust |
| Mr | Scott | Restick | Energy Action Scotland |
| Mr | Peter | Riddoch | Peter Riddoch Architect |
| Mr | Steven | Robb | GVA James Barr |
| Mr | Kerr | Robertson | |
| Mr | Bob | Salter | Geddes Consulting |
| Mr | Alistair | Scott | Smith Scott Mullan |
| Mr | James | Simpson | Simpson and Brown |
| Mr | Neil | Simpson | Neil Simpson Architects |
| Mr | Aedan | Smith | RSBP |
| Mr | Paul | Smith | Scottish Parliament Researcher |
| Ms | Beverly | Smith | Moray Council |
| Ms | Rowena | Statt | Anderson Bell Christie |
| Mr | Kevin | Stewart | MSP |
| Mr | Ninian | Stuart | Centre for Stewardship |
| TBC | TBC | TBC | Planning Democracy |
| Mrs | Sarah | Thiam | ICE |
| Mr | Myles | Thompson | Aecom |
| Mr | Steven | Tolson | RICS Scotland |
| Ms | Nora | Uhrig | Shelter Scotland |
| Mr | Niall | Urquhart | East Dumbarton Council |
| Mr | John | Walls | |
| Ms | Marion | Williams | The Cockburn Association |
| Mr | Keith | Winter | Enterprise and Environment |
| Mr | Dorian | Wiszniewski | University of Edinburgh |

Apologies:

| Title | First Name | Surname | Organisation |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Mr | John | Angell | Falkirk Council |
| Mr | James | Chapman | R James Chapman Architect |

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|----|----------|---------------|--|
| Mr | Alex | Cole-Hamilton | MSP |
| Ms | Meabhhan | Crowe | Colliers International |
| Ms | Gillian | Henry | Hart Builders |
| Ms | Gillian | McCarney | East Renfrewshire Council |
| Mr | Michael | McGlynn | Community and Enterprise Resources |
| Mr | Eugene | Mullan | Smith Scott Mullan |
| Mr | Bill | Pagan | |
| Ms | Sue | Roaf | Heriot Watt University |
| Mr | Tavish | Scott | MSP |
| Mr | John | Spencely | |
| Ms | Fiona | Stirling | SNH |
| Mr | Ed | Taylor | |
| Mr | Gordon | Watson | Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. |

Welcome

Ms Fabiani welcomed the speakers and all those in attendance.

Presentations from Petra Biberbach, who sat on the Scottish Government's Review Panel and RTPI Scotland Director, Craig McLaren, set the scene for a lively and stimulating evening. Petra emphasised the care taken over the Planning Review and the consultative nature of the process. In addition to the professionals within the planning system and those affected by it, she focussed on the role of local community consultations. The Minister's contribution was refreshing and positive - emphasising the benefits of a visionary approach to planning.

1. **Craig McLaren, Director, RTPI - Context of Policy Background and Review**

Craig McLaren alluded to the continuing frustrations of red tape and bureaucracy and the tribulations of many players within a process where, inevitably, 'planners plan and others deliver'. Inevitably Craig was concerned to emphasise the RTPI perspective. His argument was that the planning system had become overly focussed on minutiae and the potential of visionary planning was, consequently diminished. The Planning Review, he felt, was an opportunity to put planning 'front and centre'. If a more pro-active notion of planning could be pursued this, he felt, could be very good for Scotland.

2. **Petra Biberbach, Chief Executive, PAS - The Review**

Petra gave an outline of the history of planning in Scotland subsequent to the 1947 Planning Act. The purpose of that Act, she explained, was to address issues of squalor and the health issues which followed upon the overcrowding issues which affected the urban poor in the UK at that time.

As Petra went on to outline the notion of public consultation became embedded in the planning process from the 1970's on. Successive planning legislative reforms have flowed since planning became a devolved responsibility. Currently the practical thrust of the Planning Review has been around new technologies, community engagement and, most importantly, facilitating the Scottish Government's ambitious housing targets.

3. **Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing - legislative content, programme and the way forward**

The Cross Party Group was grateful that the Minister for Planning, Kevin Stewart MSP was able to join the meeting. He was refreshingly honest. Mr Stewart emphasised the crucial role of planning to underpin Scotland's economic growth. He also raised the issue of social cohesion and how a sound, reformed planning system might contribute to that. Visually engaging submissions would, he felt, enable a much broader community to contribute meaningfully to the planning process. He emphasised that, while the system isn't broken, it can be improved - an area where he feels there is real potential to help Scotland deliver on its sizeable promise.

4. Discussion

The lively question and answer session which followed explored a breadth of issues. In addition to an understandable focus on specific case lore, other issues which were explored included the need to refocus planning on infrastructural 'bigger picture' issues.

5. Summing Up

The Chair of the Group, Linda Fabiani MSP, then delivered a masterly summing up, laced with her characteristic humour and concluding that the meeting had been one of the best from this particular Cross Party Group to date.

6. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

The Group is supported by:-

Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
Royal Town Planning Institute