

CROSS PARTY GROUP on ARCHITECTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Notes of Meeting “Housing and Liveable Cities”

**Tuesday 11th September 2019, 6pm
Committee Room 2
The Scottish Parliament**

Present:

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Kirstin	Aitken	Smith Scott Mullan
Irene	Barkley	John Renshaw Architects
Gillian	Black	Architecture and Design Scotland
Dr. Kate	Carter	ESALA
John	Corbett	Saol
Gail	Corbett	Saol
Linda	Fabiani MSP	Scottish Parliament
Ruth	Forster	Unemployed
Sam	Foster	Sam Foster Architects
Jaromir	Gasiorek	Smith Scott Mullan
Colin	Gibson	Mathieson & Melrose Ltd
Frazer	Hay	Uniform November
Gill	Henry	Hart Builders (Edinburgh) Ltd
Alice	Hibberd	Morgan McDonnell Architecture
James	Hobson	BuroHappold Engineering
Frances	Hyslop	Oliver Chapman
Deryck	Irving	Central Scotland Green Network Trust
Lyn	Jardine	Viewpoint
Dave	Knowles	Rexel
Diarmaid	Lawlor	Architecture & Design Scotland

Glo	Lo	OiSA Designs Chartered Architect
Eleftheria	Maravelaki	Scottish government
Graham	Marchbank	Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland
Nicola	McLachlan	Collective Architecture
Paul	Morsley	Iglu Studio Ltd
Eugene	Mullan	Smith Scott Mullan Associates
Keith	Mullen	Morgan McDonnell Architecture
Peter	Riddoch	PeterRiddoch Architect
Alistair	Scott	Smith Scott Mullan Associates
David	Seel	Scottish Ecological Design Asc
George	Simpson	George W Simpson, Chartered Architect
Graham	Simpson MSP	Scottish Parliament
Gordon	Smith	GGs Architect
Rowena	Statt	statt design
Karen	Stevenson	RIAS
Chris	Stewart	Collective Architecture
Myles	Thompson	AECOM
Prof. Robin	Webster	RIAS

Apologies:

First Name	Surname	Organisation
James	Chapman	
Simon	Gilmour	Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
Cliff	Hague	Cockburn Association
Sandy	Halliday	Gaia Research
Pauline	Harris	Dundee City Council
Andrew	Hayley	Ministerial Advisory Group, Belfast
John	Lawson	City of Edinburgh Council
Bill	Pagan	BEFS
Sue	Roaf	Heriot-Watt University
Clare	Sorensen	Historic Environment Scotland
Dave	Sutton	
Steven	Tolson	CDLH
Steven	Young	

Welcome

Linda Fabiani MSP (LF) welcomed all those in attendance and Graham Simpson MSP (GS).

There were no further apologies received in addition to those above.

Notes from the meeting held on 19th March 2019

The notes of the previous meeting held on 19th March 2019 were approved as a true record.

LF reminded the meeting that a summary statement had been prepared for MSP's following the last meeting and invited GS to outline the matters he had raised during the conclusion of the Planning Bill through parliament. GS confirmed he sought an amendment that had been added to the Bill regarding Older Peoples Housing and would be considered further in Planning Bill Stage 4. GS provided further feedback regarding his focus to ensure people obtain more power through the Bill to ensure they can act to improve housing condition as a priority. GS noted points from the meeting as to whether the Building Regulations that underpin the planning legislation were fit for purpose and the costs of additional administration burden were being considered to support the Bill.

Presentations

The CPG considered further recommendations that could inform the Scottish Government's 2040 Vision for Housing programme.

The CPG was updated about the programme for an exhibition that is being developed for the public consultation on the Housing to 2040 vision and strategy that will be launched in the autumn.

The Scottish Governments [Housing Vision and Principles](#) document, published in July will provide the context for the consultation. These principles present just how important housing is for the wellbeing of sustainable communities and critical to creating liveable cities, towns and villages.

The meeting explored the different ways people are living and how these principles help to consider communities needs in a holistic way. The group considered how we encourage conversations about the future of housing and its impact on the liveability of the places we live.

The meeting heard from 3 speakers about the proposed public consultation and the ideas that have been developed to encourage conversations about the future of housing. (Chris and Kate are part of the team fronted by Collective Architecture, ESALA who have been appointed to lead on the Scottish Governments public consultation for the proposed Housing Policy, and Diarmaid representing A&DS who are championing the consultation on housing with a workshop series around Scotland).

Chris Stewart RIAS RIBA Architect/Director of Collective Architecture outlined the thinking behind the proposed interactive exhibition, some of the challenges and what they hope to find out. Chris confirmed he was seeking a 'holistic' outcome and emphasised that housing can't be seen as a separate part of cities, towns or villages and that we must consider people first. He set out that he believed that a key to housing in the future will be the concept of 'sharing' and that people will have to think about homes together with work etc and what this may mean for people and their homes. The team had looked at the way that we live now and considered the challenges that we are going to face with changes in traditional skills and industry affecting parts of Scotland in different ways.

Dr Kate Carter from ESALA confirmed the consultation would take a journey through Scotland looking at homes rather than housing and wider issues that affect homes or that housing influences. From her research work it was clear that there are 2 dominant issues, addressing an ageing population and single occupancy living. Both of these will require a shift in thinking around the concepts of sharing and what this will mean for people and their homes. She highlighted that the other giant agenda for homes will be affordability.

Diarmaid Lawlor Hon FRIAS, Director of Place at Architecture and Design Scotland outlined in more detail the ministerial tours facilitated by the A&DS team across Scotland. He reinforced the notion that people don't talk about details of a home, but their lives within it. Looking at an integrated experience was essential so that outcomes could be people focussed and accountability considered. He concluded the important point to come out was that the exhibition is only one part of the conversation. The national consultation is the major element and people are invited to participate. The roles used for the exhibition were discussed: attend workshops, promote, feedback. He outlined how these processes would influence parallel initiatives like building regs, low carbon agenda etc.

Discussion

GS and LF shared the chairing of the discussion and took questions including how the outcomes will be presented, would local character be a factor, would climate emergency and consideration of specific matters of mindfulness/wellness, poverty/ prosperity be considered. Targeting a range of ages and gender was considered critical to the success of the consultation. Solutions including consideration of japans modular approach, social housing models, the 'Glasgow Standard', building communities, learning rather than repeating mistakes and considering standards of quality for example, were suggested. There was recognition of the role of the new planning act and the Scottish Government net carbon and co2 targets in changing the approach to housing.

Conclusions

Four themes for planning homes/ housing in Scotland were concluded from the speakers and the discussion- holistic, sharing, affordability and connected.

In addition, the meeting concluded that there was a need to be more pragmatic and consider renewal, look at building intergenerational communities, enable control by communities, combine quality and numbers, consider whole life housing, focus on where we don't meet the standards (the performance gap) and focus on energy efficiency.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been changed -11th December 2019 + AGM

The Group is supported by:

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