

Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee

Monday 27 July 2015

Present: Chris Bowles, Simon Gilmour, (*Chair*), Mike Elliot (*Minutes*), Rebecca Jones (RHJ), Eila Macqueen (EM), Rod McCullagh (RM), Karen Milek (KM), Robin Turner (RT)

1. Welcome and apologies: SG thanked everyone for attending. Apologies were received from Stephen Driscoll (SD), Mark Hall (MH), Peter Hinton (PH), Susan Kruse (SK), Alan Leslie (AL), John Raven (JR), Matthew Ritchie (MR), Simon Stronach (SS), Luke Wormald (LW),

2. Minutes of the March meeting and matters arising: No matters arising. SG and PH were thanked for their report. Thanks were extended to MR and ?? For sourcing the images used.

3. Consultation activities and summary: SG advised we have four weeks to turn around the Strategy. The Committee will need to read all of the responses.

Action point: consultation responses to be issued to the Committee by the end of this week.

SG requested that everyone consider responses to the responses for their areas/ sections. These will then be collated before being issued to ensure they are coherent. RHJ gave an summary of the consultation workshops. The responses at the consultations were an opportunity to highlight specific issues in their areas. Some had the feel of a group therapy session. One of the positive aspects to take out of it was the museums sector who were very positive in their responses. Museums Galleries Scotland were very helpful in their feedback. Workshop attendees were very grateful that they were able to attend workshops outside of the central belt and in or near their own areas. Also received a response from America. SG extended thanks to RHJ on behalf of the Committee for organising the workshops. It was requested that the typed up workshop notes be emailed out along with copies of the Consultation responses. The Consultation received 73 responses, which RHJ acknowledged was a very good response. SG suggested that, as one of the problems encountered was respondents not knowing who the Committee are, we have a list of who is on the Committee in the final document. The Committee had a look over the report, with a view to feeding back to ODS.

4. Consultation analysis draft report: SG proposed the word "stewardship" be included in the final document. KM suggested the word "legacy". Suggested that we avoid words such as "conservation" and "protection" as they have more heritage connotations. A general discussion took place. It was agreed that the document needs to be more aware of its audience. There was a complaint that the draft was felt to be too "top down". It was agreed to take that view on board when drafting the final version. It was noted that the final product will not please everyone and a degree of compromise will be required from the writers as well as the readers. SG proposed that everyone reread the

Strategy with a view of trying to make it more "bottom up" instead of "top down". It was agreed that wording will be tweaked slightly to make it more inclusive. RHJ will rewrite the view taking on board the 28 revisions and circulate to the Committee. It was agreed that there is room for reduction of the strategic priorities; between four and six points. It was suggested the last three points could be merged together. It was suggested that paragraphs may be numbered, but to finish drafting the document and see how it looks. In question three, it was agreed we need to recognise the nervousness of the sector with regards to such a review of voluntary sector practices. In question four, the museum liked the phrase "material culture" as they felt it was something they could engage with. It was agreed that the SSAC will find a mechanism for dialogue over issues with the TTU. It was agreed that the individuals responsible for their specific strategic priorities will rewrite the respective sections, and also to avoid duplication. There was a suggestion to merge point one and point four.

Action point: RHJ will have a look at question six and feed back to CB.

KM suggested using the word valuing instead of celebrating. CB suggested putting in "bursaries and sponsorship" into 3.18. It was suggested putting in the Skills Passport into the Strategy as it was recognised that there are some people who wish to go into archaeology but without doing a degree. It was agreed to put in "retention", with regard to skills retention in the Strategy. It was acknowledged that the Strategy is not just related to archaeology in Scotland, but also to reflect the fact the sector is aware of what is going on outside of Scotland. It was acknowledged that the Strategy will be an evolving document. We will need to work out how to reword the BRIA. Lisa Brown will be doing this in tandem with the SSAC. Acknowledged that we could say more about equalities.

- 5. Re-structure and next steps:** It was agreed that we will take a "small approach" to restructuring the Strategy, by merging one and four, also merge five and six, and priority seven to become priority one. We will also need to rewrite the vision. It was agreed to rewrite the implementation plan. This would allow the SSAC to save time.

Action point: RHJ to email the SSAC to let them know the actions that have been decided.

We will have an online version in time for 2 September. There will need to be some wording around the implementation plan to make our approach more understandable. It was agreed that we will need to have a full meeting of the Committee regarding the implementation plan.

- 6. BRIA and EqIA:** Item discussed above

- 7. Communications:** RHJ proposed we have an online launch on 2 September. The Cab Sec is now unable to attend in person. She may do a video. It was agreed a poster can be drawn up for the conference, which can be done in

house. We will be looking into press releases, also though RHJ cautioned we may not be in a position to be able to give it an engaging hook.

Action point: RHJ to look into the domain name for the website

8. AOCB: None

Close: There were no further items. SG moved the meeting to a close.