

**Minutes of meeting held 5 November 2009, 33 Great Portland Street, London W1W 8QG**

**Attendance**

Policy Committee

Clare Brockhurst (CB)  
Annie Coombs (AC)  
Richard Copas (RC)  
Noel Farrer (NF)  
Ian Phillips (IP)  
Val Kirby (VK)  
Jane Knight (JK)

Staff

Alastair McCapra (AM)  
Paul Lincoln (PL)  
Stephen Russell (SR)

Apologies

Sue Evans (SE)  
Paul Tiplady (PT)  
Peter Wilder (PW)

Item	Report	Action
1	<p><b>Attendance/apologies</b></p> <p>As above</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held 28 May 2009</b></p> <p>2.1 <u>Landscape Institute Awards</u></p> <p>IP asked how matters had progressed with regards the potential for a new category of award; 'mature landscapes'. PL and CB responded that the planning process for the 2010 awards would commence in December and that the issue of landscape management, and in particular the low number of entrants to this category, would be considered.</p> <p>2.2 <u>Outstanding actions from previous meeting</u></p> <p>(i) Sign up to Talking Landscape (ii) Communication of green infrastructure agenda to local authorities as part of Community Infrastructure Levy charges (iii) Ensure all previous consultation responses are place on the corporate website (iv) Enhance Policy Committee section of corporate website with information relating to key partnerships and projects as well as Committee papers</p>	<p>All SR/PL</p> <p>SR</p> <p>SR/PL</p>
3	<p><b>Green Infrastructure Position Statement update</b></p> <p>3.1 SR expanded upon the written report submitted which outlined the impact of position statements to date. Notably this including the recent meeting between the LI and the Shadow Defra Team, working for Shadow Environment Minister Nick Herbert, where the GI Position Statement was presented and used as a basis for discussion and informing civil servants.</p> <p>3.2 SR reported that Anne Jaluzot, Senior Enabling Advisor at CABI Space, had recently stated that where she works with local authorities to advise on green infrastructure strategy and implementation, she regularly refers these organisations to the LI's position statement for guidance and a clear introduction to the subject.</p> <p>3.3 Following on from the success of the free London GI seminar, PL updated the</p>	

3.4	<p>Committee on the development of further seminars, supported by WRAP, due to take place in December 2009 and early 2010.</p> <p>PL reported to the Committee that the LI had been invited to take part in Ecobuild in March 2010 and that our involvement has the potential to take a variety of forms, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Involvement in the main lecture series, fielding speakers etc</li> <li>(ii) Fringe conference organised by the LI, including dissemination of the GI and Housing Position Statements</li> <li>(iii) Possible presence at an LI stand/exhibition</li> </ul> <p>Action: Update to Policy Committee on progress, seeking speakers and subjects to be covered</p>	PL/SR
4	<p><b>New Government</b></p> <p>4.1 Before moving on to item 5, NF highlighted the importance of considering the wider issues a potential new Government would be focussing on in 2010/11. This would likely focus on domestic issues and, particularly, finance. Subsequently, the value of landscape in monetary terms would need to be articulated in the LI's public-facing work.</p> <p>4.2 In order to be able to respond quickly to a changing political environment it was agreed that, upon receiving information/requests from SR, the Committee would respond within a certain timescale and that agreement of 6 members of Committee would be sufficient in order to take action on particular pieces of work.</p>	
5	<p><b>Development Plan and 2010/11</b></p> <p>In introducing this item, NF outlined that the Committee should consider both the overall priorities for the LI and the priorities for Policy Committee.</p> <p>5.1 <b>(i) Priorities for the Landscape Institute</b></p> <p>5.1.1 <u>GLVIA</u>  NF acknowledged recent debate surrounding the revised version of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA). Whilst not being responsible for the production of this document, a number of Committee members expressed concern at the lack of progress. In response, PL reported that a scoping document had been prepared for both a writer and the new sub-group which would be assembled to provide the technical input. AC reported that at a recent Planning Inspectorate (PI) stakeholder event, at which she represented the LI, she had spoken to a PI delegate on the subject of funding towards the revised edition. This was referred to PL.</p> <p>Action: Develop initial contact made with Planning Inspectorate</p> <p>NF offered to represent the GLVIA sub-group at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>5.1.2 <u>Cross-cutting themes and strategy</u>  SR suggested that a priority for the LI should be to ensure that those themes being tackled by the Policy Committee (e.g. climate change, green infrastructure</p>	PL

	<p>and housing) also feature as key work streams for the other standing committees. For example, stances adopted by the organisation as part of the development of position statements should be complemented by technical guidance, via Technical Committee, in order to advance members' learning. In addition to this, the Education and Membership Committee could look at ways of developing the course content with accredited schools so that students are educated on the current themes being developed by the LI as a whole. Policy Committee unanimously supported such an approach.</p> <p>In support of this, VK suggested that each Position Statement be accompanied, for internal consumption, by an action plan for the LI which clearly sets out the vision for dissemination, training and advocacy.</p> <p>Action: Preparation of memo, to be circulated to Policy Committee beforehand for comment, for Board of Trustees and other standing committees. This will outline this recommendation for consideration and possible incorporation into the Development Plan for 2010/11.</p>	SR
5.1.3	<p><u>Professional Practice Committee</u> It was suggested by IP that a Professional Practice Committee be established in order to support members in practice</p> <p>Action: AM to refer this matter to the Board of Trustees</p>	AM
5.2	<p><b>(ii) Priorities for Policy Committee</b></p>	
5.2.1	<p><u>European Landscape Convention (ELC)</u> The ELC features prominently on the list of subjects to be addressed by Policy Committee. As work on the Housing Position Statement is well underway, consideration of the next issue of importance to the Committee was required. VK presented a background to the ELC and its value. She outlined how it could be used as an case for making landscape-orientated arguments in policy/advocacy work, as the current Government has expressed the view that it is already compliant with its main aims and articles. She also presented her thoughts on how the LI might wish to address the treaty in its work, which consisted of four options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do nothing</li> <li>2. ELC 'proof' current business activities and summarise online</li> <li>3. Convert current business activities into an Action Plan and publish</li> <li>4. Critically review current business activities, looking for gaps and focussing on these in the Action Plan</li> </ol> <p>After the group exercise (see 5.2.3), it was decided that option 4 should be undertaken by the LI, with the assistance of VK, PT and Gary Charlton (Natural England employee and LI member).</p>	
5.2.2	<p>Action: Development of scoping document setting out benefits, necessary resources and aims of the work of the LI with regards the ELC.</p> <p><u>Council of Europe (CoE) Landscape Award in the UK</u> Alongside the Committee's work on the ELC, PL outlined the LI's wish to run the CoE Landscape Award in the UK for 2010, which the organisation was recently invited to bid for by Defra. It was agreed that, should the bid be successful, the production of an LI Action Plan on the ELC would take on even greater significance, in addition to possible monetary value of running the awards itself.</p>	SR/VK/PT

5.2.3	<p><u>Thematic objectives (for Policy Committee and, where appropriate, wider LI</u>  NF introduced an exercise to gain the views of the Committee with regards the issues of major importance for 2010/2011. Members were invited to outline their views on which subjects should be tackled, followed by a group scoring exercise. The results of this exercise (highest scoring to lowest) are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ELC Action Plan – with successful bid for CoE Landscape Award (see 5.2.2)</li> <li>2. ELC Action Plan (see 5.2.1)</li> <li>3. Money – the economic advantages of investment in landscape</li> <li>4. Good client guidance</li> <li>5. Health</li> <li>6. Schools</li> <li>7. Water</li> <li>8. Community engagement – possibly for Technical Committee?</li> <li>9. Urban design – possibly for Education Committee?</li> <li>10. Antisocial behaviour/civic pride</li> <li>11. Sustainable landscapes</li> <li>12. Play</li> </ol> <p>Action: Development of publishing brief (contents, benefits and reosources) for 3. Money and 4. Good client guidance for circulation to Policy Committee for comment.</p>	SR/PL
<b>6</b>  6.1	<p><b>Housing Position Statement update</b></p> <p>NF updated the Committee on the progress to date on the Housing Position Statement, explaining the purpose, structure and the case studies that had been selected to appear in the final document. He explained that the first draft had been delayed but that it would be circulated shortly to Policy Committee for comment. Initial suggestions from Committee for consideration in the development of the document included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bibliography</li> <li>- Reference to Garden Cities movement</li> <li>- Historic legacy</li> </ul> <p>Action: To ensure that Policy Committee suggestions at meeting, and during consultation, are adequately considered and reflected in final document, as appropriate</p>	SR/Housing Working Group
<b>7</b>  7.1	<p><b>Board of Trustees update</b></p> <p>AMc provided feedback on the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees</p>	
<b>8</b>  8.1	<p><b>Advisory Council update</b></p> <p>AC presented her report to the Committee (attached)</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Policy Committee structure</b></p>	

9.1	<p>NF updated the Committee on recent changes to the membership of Policy Committee. In recognition of the need to ensure representation of all devolved nations, the two spare places that are currently available should be offered to Wales and Northern Ireland. Details have been sent to the chairs of these branches for nomination of representatives to take up the spare places. The chairs have been given until 13 November to respond.</p> <p>Action: Reminder to chairs of Wales and Northern Ireland of the need to select Policy Committee representatives.</p>	Claire Jeffs
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10.1</p>	<p><b>Update from members</b></p> <p>n/a</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>11.1</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>IP stated that it was important that the issue of a Committee being quorate be clarified. He also raised the issue of Terms of Tenure, and how long a member could take part in a standing committee.</p> <p>Action: To clarify current Terms of Tenure</p>	SR/AMc