

## Landscape Institute Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held 28 May 2009, 33 Great Portland Street, London W1W 8QG

### Actions summary following meeting

Item	Subject	Action	Who	Deadline
2	Minutes of last meeting: Talking Landscape	<i>Talking Landscape</i> Sign up to Talking Landscape – using email address and LI membership number	All	22 June
		<i>Mature Landscapes</i> Possible redefining of landscape management category	Awards Committee, via Sabina Mohideen or Paul Lincoln	22 June
3	Appointment process for new Chair of Policy Committee	Written confirmation of wish to remain on Policy Committee required	All – to Paul Lincoln	22 June
4	Communications and sign-off protocols	Academic peer reviews to form content of Landscape Journal	Paul Lincoln to raise with Editorial Advisory Board	Ongoing
		Investigate additional consultation responses which may not have been uploaded onto corporate website	Stephen Russell	22 June
		<del>Selection of Chair for Housing Position Statement</del>	<del>Housing Working Group and Stephen Russell</del>	<del>12 June</del>
5	Green Infrastructure Position Statement	Urban case studies for inclusion on website	Stephen Russell	Ongoing
		Suggestions for recipients of position statement to Stephen Russell	All	22 June
		Branches to be sent particular request for dissemination at local level	Stephen Russell	26 June
6	Recent policy developments	<del><i>Flood and Water Management Bill</i></del> Consideration of draft joint policy statement with comments to Stephen Russell	All	<del>3 June</del>
		<i>National Policy Statements</i> Circulation of consultation details of each of the NPSs upon launch for all to consider relevance	Stephen Russell	Ongoing

7	Policy Committee programme for the year ahead	<p><i>Housing</i> Scoping document to be prepared for Housing Working Group alongside timetable for completion of Position Statement</p> <p><i>Community Engagement and Healthy Living</i> Discussion on format and content of these two subjects</p> <p><i>European Landscape Convention</i> Liaise with Gary Charlton regarding Natural England's ELC Action Plan work to publicise and to discuss the merits of LI Action Plan internally</p>	<p>Stephen Russell</p> <p>Jane Knight and Stephen Russell</p> <p>Stephen Russell</p>	<p>12 June</p> <p>mid-July</p> <p>Mid-July</p>
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## **ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES**

### **Apologies**

Roger Butler (RB)  
Annie Coombs (AC)  
Noel Farrer (NF)  
Martin Kelly (MK)

### **Attending**

Clare Brockhurst (CB)  
Richard Copas (RC)  
Sue Evans (SE)  
Val Kirby (VK)  
Jane Knight (JK)  
Jon Lovell (JL)  
Ian Phillips (IP)  
Paul Tiplady (PT)  
Peter Wilder (PW)

Paul Lincoln (PL)  
Stephen Russell (SR)

## **ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 27 JANUARY 2009**

### **Relationship with Natural England**

IP asked if, in the light of Merrick Denton-Thompson's departure from the Natural England Board, whether the landscape profession was represented at this level of the organisation. VK responded that there were several members of the NE Board who understood well the landscape agenda and that, though available spaces are made public, she would let Stephen Russell know when the next vacancies were due to arise. It was also noted that Merrick Denton-Thompson was now a member of the Landscape Institute's Editorial Advisory Board.

### **Future plans for policy and communications**

JK asked about the case studies section of the new corporate website and if additions to the database were to be an ongoing request. PL confirmed that this was the case and that new case study suggestions should be sent to Lesley Malone, Head of Library and Information Services.

### **Talking Landscape**

SR emphasised the need for all members of Policy Committee to sign up to Talking Landscape in order to respond to issues raised by members on the subject of policy and how decisions are made with regards the direction of the Landscape Institute's policy activity.

### **Action: All to sign up to Talking Landscape**

### **AOB – 'Mature Landscapes'**

IP asked whether any consideration had been given to his previous suggestion of an awards category on the theme of 'mature landscapes'. CB responded that the Awards Committee had considered this and felt that there was a consistent problem with the Landscape Management category in that it received so few entrants; therefore it would not be sensible to introduce another category which was similar in nature. IP suggested therefore that maybe there was a need to redefine the category.

**Action: Awards Committee, via Sabina Mohideen or PL, to consider redefining the category for the 2010 awards.**

### **Item 3 – Appointment process for new Chair of Policy Committee**

The new governance arrangements now in place were outlined by PL. The responsibilities of the new Chair of Policy Committee within this structure were explained, in particular the place that the Chair has on the new Board of Trustees, subject to approval of the new Appointments and Selections Committee.

All of members of Policy Committee, including those not present, were given an opportunity to express a wish to stand for the position of Chair. NF was the only member who wished to stand as Chair, a position he expressed prior to the meeting, a result of him being unable to attend.

In light of the new Governance arrangements and the establishment of the new Appointments and Selection Committee, NF was recommended as Interim Chair of the Policy Committee by JK, SE and PT. This recommendation was then supported by all members present (x9). Upon the establishment of the Appointments and Selections Committee, this proposal will be made formally. The decision was that Policy Committee's recommendation to this committee would be for NF to become Chair.

There was also discussion about the need for all Policy Committee to outline their wishes on continuing their involvement with the Committee.

Both Ian Phillips and Martin Kelly are standing in the elections. Therefore, it was decided that the decision of who should be the Policy Committee representative to the Advisory Council should be delayed until the outcomes of the election process are known.

**Action: All to write to PL by Monday 8 June confirming their wish to either remain on Policy Committee or to stand down.**

### **ITEM 4 – COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE AND SIGN-OFF PROTOCOLS**

PL outlined the recent communications developments which are now in place. These included the revised Landscape Journal, the new Landscape Journal Online (replacing Vista and eVista), the corporate website and Talking Landscape.

PT and VK raised the issue of academic peer review and whether there was a place for this kind of item in the revised Landscape Journal. PL responded that the intention was for the journal to become more academic and this was certainly worth considering.

**Action: PL to raise this issue with Editorial Advisory Board**

IP commented that some older public policy consultation responses were not placed on the new corporate website.

**Action: SR to investigate and place any previous consultation responses on the corporate website.**

IP asked what plans there were for the website in terms of technical guidance. PL responded that this currently being developed by Technical Committee with the support of the Head of Library and Information Services, Lesley Malone.

In light of comments received by AC in advance of the meeting, which suggested that a Chair for future working groups be selected in order to sign-off final versions of position statements, a discussion took place about the process of finalising work emanating from Policy Committee. It was decided that AC's recommendations become part of the process of position statement development and that the design ideas for future position statements be circulated to all of Policy Committee by the Director of Policy and Communications for comment. It was noted that strict deadlines would have to be applied in order to avoid delays in what is already a lengthy process.

**Action: Housing Working Group (NF, PW, CB and SE?) to select a Chair who will liaise with PL on the production of the document.**

#### **ITEM 5 – UPDATE ON GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE POSITION STATEMENT**

SR provided an update on the recent publication and feedback was provided by members of Policy Committee which was generally very positive. PW commented that there was a lack of urban examples, the inclusion of which would have helped convey the message that GI is equally applicable to both urban and rural environments.

**Action: SR to seek urban examples for inclusion in the case studies section of the website.**

**Action: SR to circular recipient-to-date list to all of Policy Committee for additional suggestions of those who might be interested in receiving the document.**

**Action: SR to circulate request to all Landscape Institute branches for dissemination at a local level.**

#### **ITEM 6A – RECENT POLICY DEVELOPMENTS: FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT BILL**

PL outlined the recent developments of the Inter-Institutional (ICE, RIBA, RICS, RTPI, LI, CIWEM) joint policy activity on managing urban flood risk. Though this work had recently been on hold, a recent meeting took place which sought to finalise the joint policy statement currently being developed. There is an opportunity for Policy Committee to add their views. It was also suggested that a member of Policy Committee attend the next meeting alongside either PL or SR.

**Action: All to consider the text of the draft joint policy statement and respond to SR with suggested amendments by 3 June 2009.**

**Action: SR to circulate dates of next meeting to PW and RC in order to enable their attendance.**

#### **ITEM 6B – RECENT POLICY DEVELOPMENTS: PLANNING ACT (2008)**

SR presented a discussion paper on the Planning Act (2008) and asked Policy Committee to consider how best to respond to a range of provisions contained within it.

##### Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC)

The Committee noted AC's written comments that if a position is developed on this then it would have to be done soon as the IPC will be operational from September. It was suggested that the Sir Michael Pitt, who has already been appointed Chair of the IPC, should be sent a copy of the GI Position Statement by Neil Williamson, and inviting further discussion.

**Action: SR to ensure distribution of GI Position Statement to all relevant individuals who are part of the establishment of the IPC.**

##### National Policy Statements (NPSs)

The Policy Committee noted SR's recommendation, supported by AC, that we need to be ready to respond to public consultation on the content of the NPSs.

**Action: All to consider, upon receipt of notice from SR, the importance of each of the NPs. SR to also ensure that adequate notice is provided to all members via Talking Landscapes, Landscape Journal Online and the corporate website.**

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Should the CIL be implemented, it will be local authorities who will be empowered to apply any charge on new developments in their areas to support infrastructure delivery. IP suggested that it would be sensible, at the right time in the schedule for CIL, that the LI send copies of the GI Position Statement to all local authorities.

**Action: SR to look into the timetable for CIL delivery and, as appropriate, send notice of the GI Position Statement to all local authorities.**

## **ITEM 7 – POLICY COMMITTEE PROGRAMME FOR THE COMING YEAR**

### Future meetings and position statement development

Due to financial constraints and the need to focus efforts of Policy Committee members on the specific subjects of Position Statements, it was agreed that it would be best to for entire Policy Committee meetings to take place no more than twice per year. SR stressed therefore the importance of all members of Policy Committee in signing up to Talking Landscape to enable private discussion within the Policy Committee Online Group.

### Housing

It was accepted that recent events, coupled with the focus of attention on GI, meant that work on this Position Statement had been delayed. However it was noted that the initial Housing Working Group (consisting of NF, JL and PW) had met in February to discuss initial ideas. With his departure from Policy Committee, JL stated that though he would no longer be on the Housing Working Group he would be more than happy to provide input upon consultation with the wider membership. CB stated that she would sit on the Housing Working Group, with SE stating she would like to provide the Scottish input required.

In addition to the areas for inclusion in the position statement, Policy Committee members suggested the following aspects of housing which should be incorporated:

- Play
- Landscape character
- Renewable energy

SR asked for guidance on using the Egan Wheel principles as a way to present the role of landscape in housing and sustainable communities. It was agreed that this should idea be presented in more to the Housing Working Group for consideration.

**Action: SR to initiate work of the Housing Work Group by preparing scoping document based upon initial discussions and which allots specific aspects of the document to each of the Housing Working Group members. SR/PL to produce a timetable establishing milestones in the document's development and launch.**

### Community engagement and healthy living

It was agreed that these do not represent the content of position statements but should be developed via a programme of case studies and associated guidance.

**Action: SR to liaise with JK on both community engagement and healthy living to discuss content, participants and timetable for the development of this work.**

### European Landscape Convention (ELC)

VK outlined the work that had been undertaken by Natural England on developing its guidance for organisations wishing to develop an ELC Action Plan. SR stated that he had been involved in the development of this guidance as part of the ELC Expert Panel. VK suggested that the Landscape Institute might wish to complement its current online coverage of the ELC by including details of the Action Plan upon its completion and also by undertaking its own Action Plan in due course.

**Action: SR to liaise with Gary Charlton at Natural England on the development of the Action Plan guidance and to discuss the merits of the Landscape Institute conducting its own Action Plan with PL and Alastair McCapra.**

VK stated that Natural England had recently held discussions with its devolved nation counterparts to discuss the Council of Europe Landscape Award. Following agreement on the exact requirements, VK stated that there would then be discussions with the Landscape Institute to debate its involvement.

#### Public procurement/investment in landscape

This issue was originally raised at the last meeting of Policy Committee and it was decided to include it this time for further discussion. It was suggested by IP that the issue was more suited to 'Professional Practice' rather than policy, and that it might be worth contacting CIPFA to discuss further? ? ?

#### Operating in a new political landscape

SR presented a paper asking Policy Committee to consider the impact of a potential change from a Labour to Conservative Government.

It was decided that many of the issues the Conservative Party are currently debating, particularly housing, the environment and climate change, would mean it was sensible to develop relationships with key individuals and refer to our position statements. SR stated that this had already been undertaken with some Shadow Ministers, but there was scope for widening this further

**Action: SR to look into developing contacts with Conservative Party MPs and their staff to widen the messages communicated by the Landscape Institute.**

One concern was the Conservative Party's pledge to remove regional governments and, subsequently, regional spatial strategies. VK stated that this was of some concern to Natural England and that the Landscape Institute would be a useful platform for expressing concern in the future about cross-boundary working.

### **ITEM 8 – UPDATE ON POLICY ACTIVITY, CONSULTATIONS AND EVENTS**

SR presented paper on recent policy activity undertaken.

VK raised the recent work undertaken by Natural England on two policies which would be consulted upon shortly – protected landscapes and the historic environment.

### **ITEM 9 – MEMBER UPDATES**

No papers were received however members provided verbal updates under Item 10, AOB.

### **ITEM 10 – AOB**

Sue Evans

- NPF 2 to be published in June 2009
- Stepped down from role with Scottish Natural Heritage
- CSFT conference 30 September

Richard Copas

- Regional landscape characterisation work with Natural England

Ian Phillips

- British Standards Green Roofs committee. Suggestions from Policy Committee that Nigel Dunnett be approached.

Peter Wilder

- Involvement in Sustainable Water Industry Group (SWIG) as an observer at present but with greater involvement in due course.

**Date of next meeting – to be confirmed**

Stephen Russell  
15 June 2009