

LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE COUNCIL MEETING: 13.02.2014

REPORT FOR LIS BRANCH BY RACHEL TENNANT

BRANCH REP MEETING

Present other than LI Branch reps:-

Ian Phillips – Vice President
Helen Tranter – Hon Secretary
Phil Mulligan – LI CEO
Chris Sheriden – LI Education
Simon Odell – LI Technical

Note

Branch reports were issued to all prior to the meeting which includes the full activities of LIS

1.0 Education / Closure of Courses

- Discussion on branch activities engaging with educational institutions, schools, career offices. LIS to forward interactive DVD to branches
- Request for LI to update its careers information and make available to branches to distribute at grass level. Use of Green Day should be used as a tool to encourage wider interest in environment – information available on LI website
- *Environment* as a word seems to attract young peoples interest as a career path rather than *Landscape*
- LI have new Education officer whose remit is to look into this and will contact branches individually

2.0 Branch Funding

- Only 6 branches requested funds from the LI last year. Highest funded were Scotland, N Ireland and London, Some branches are sitting on money and don't feel they can ask for more money. Others are inactive and others seem to have private funds
- Lack of understanding expressed for what funds go to devolved nations are for

3.0 Communications

- Branch Websites – frustration expressed by Wales as to its inflexibility. They are now using a space on Talking Landscapes to organise and communicate events
- Dotmailer is not working for many branches. CEO comment was LI has not the resources to update. LIS stated that it was working now because of persistence by the branch to ensure the information was updated.
- Call for LI to ensure LA's are tracked from graduating
- CPD /Webinars or should be available online – IEMA are doing this
- Skype meetings should be explored more for communications with dispersed membership

4.0 Advocacy / Promotion of LI:

- Yorkshire Branch Branches organising joint lectures with other professional institutes – this has the double benefit of networking, raising the profile of Landscape Architects to other professionals and attracts funding
- London branch have prepared a sponsorship brochure that has been agreed by the LI – it shows the benefits to companies to sponsor branch events. Discussion regarding appropriateness of sponsors in terms of ethics and not undercutting what the LI was achieving with sponsorship

MAIN COUNCIL MEETING

1. CEO REPORT – PHIL MULLIGAN

- 01 Re-staffing to replace and create new roles. (Phil Mulligan, Simon Odell, Chris Sheriden plus new finance office) New staff structure
- 02 Offices –LI will likely move this summer as lease ending on Charles Darwin House
- 03 Property – sale of Bernard Mews. Money will be invested.
- 04 Membership –decline in numbers. New staff member Chris Sheriden is reviewing.
- 05 Finances – 60k surplus plus HLF for Capability Brown Birthday project

2. PRESIDENTS REPORT: SUE ILLMAN

- 01 Very busy month in relation to current issues over flooding – blue infrastructure
- 02 Provided advise and news to the environmental specialist of BBC
- 03 Letter to PM re flooding and dredging
- 04 Joint letter to PM with other environmental professions/ groups on flooding.
- 05 Call to ensure that Landscape Architects are up to speed on any masterplanning issues associated with drainage and flood management – otherwise work will go to engineers
- 06 Good practice examples of this - large scale drainage catchment areas were sited where LA's involved – work by LUC is an example. President also emphasised LA's play a role in large scale to small scale and retrofitting.

3. POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Full report will be on LI website under Council minutes. Items of interest are:-

- 01 Existing Themes of Blue and Green Infrastructure / Public Health/Housing will be maintained and reviewed every 2 years
- 02 New policy will be issued on Landscape Planning and Land Use
- 03 Ian Phillips, Vice President, is the LI rep on GI on IFLA
- 04 Landscape Futures series will be posted on the website

4 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Full report will be on LI website under Council minutes. Items of interest are:-

- 01 BREEAM –progress is being made on a number of items including the inclusion of a landscape report as part of BREEAM report
- 02 Resolving the rift with ecologists over 'native and non native'
- 03 Fee Guidance Complete – development of new fee graphs may be a future consideration

5.0 EDUCATION AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Full report will be on LI website under Council minutes. Items of interest are:-

- 01 P2C examination overseas is being considered (Atkins in China)
- 02 Senior practitioner route is being piloted through Natural England. A number will take exam in November 2014
- 03 University of East London – New Landscape course has been accredited
- 04 Careers package being refreshed
- 05 SCHOLA (Heads of Landscape Schools) are being consulted

6.0 LICENTIATE AND STUDENT REPORT

- 01 Ideas on engaging and ensuring there are future members of the profession. Can P2C candidates or students on courses be asked to go back to their secondary schools to offer talks / advice?
- 02 Suggestion that Code of Conduct should incorporate additional requirements for members under CPD to disseminate knowledge and information to encourage young people into the profession
- 03 LI should update information on Landscape Architecture as a careers path
- 04 Celebrate new CMLI's via an event
- 04 SLIC conference not taking place this year but smaller and shorter events are being considered that is more cost effective

7.0 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF LI

- 01 New 3 year framework presented by CEO based on the results of the Conversation, Council summer meeting and the Board away day. Broad objectives for the LI in next three years
 - Increasing the impact of our work by ensuring the dissemination, promotion and take up of our outputs rather than focusing on their production
 - Ensuring landscape issues are fully considered in the development process, for example with forthcoming infrastructure, energy supply, and housing projects
 - Promoting 'liveability' to ensure that landscape issues are fully considered in water management, public health, community cohesion, and the provision of green infrastructure
 - Ensuring a proper understanding of landscape issues by all professionals involved in the natural and built environment so that LI members secure more work and are treated well by clients, architects, engineers, planners, contractors and others in the 'supply chain'
 - Ensuring the competence of the profession by responding to the needs of members in the way training and support are provided
 - Increasing the LI's offer so that membership can grow from a wider range of interested parties without compromising on standards
 - Increasing the resilience of the LI by strengthening our financial position through the growth of new income from a range of sources and the careful management of resources
 - Ensuring effective governance of the organisation so that effort is focused on delivering the mission rather than internal processes
- 02 Council approved to take to the next stage of Operational Plan

8.0 BUDGETS

- 01 Practice registration fees set to rise as general opinion was that things are picking up in all areas across UK. LI wants 'more money to do more for its members'
- 02 Increase in staff funding to just over 40% of income of LI
- 03 **Branch Funding**
 - CEO has commented on the perceived 'unfairness' in branch funding – those that shout loudest get funding. This year's budget is £63,900.00 which between 12 branches amounts to £5325.00. Last year LIS were awarded £15,000.00 but only 6 branches claimed funding.
 - Branches were encouraged to submit requests for funding using a proforma prepared by The CEO at the beginning of the 2014/15 financial year. The LIS can submit in a format already prepared
 - CEO is not happy making the decision on the allocation. A committee will be formed to review proposals in relation to best value and fit with LI's goals. They will be made up of CEO, new Finance Officer, 3 Council members (not branch reps). Money will be awarded in 2 phases – initially 70% of total budget and another tranche of 30% later in the financial year
 - The CEO stated that requests for commitment to funding beyond one year will not be agreed. However later on confirmed that
 - IT was recognised that branches have different needs and different levels of committee commitment

9.0 GROUP DISCUSSION

01 The Council were divided into 3 groups to debate the following issues.

- The future of landscape architecture teaching
- How can the LI engage and encourage more members to become involved
- Major Infrastructure projects – what is the LI position?

The results were discussed and further work will be carried out on the future of landscape architecture teaching

10. NEW GOVERNANCE PROCESS

01 New procedures being prepared

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd July 2014

LUNCH TIME NOTE

- John Stuart Murray can possibly film the David Skinner Memorial lecture in house
- Unaware of the issue with the role of the LIS in student awards / prizes not being promoted by ECA.
- Mark Turnbull to contact – he is writing books so catch him before he embarks on his latest one