

## **LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE COUNCIL MEETING: 17.10.2012**

### **REPORT FOR LIS BRANCH BY RACHEL TENNANT**

#### **1. 1. Employment Initiatives Proposal**

To address unemployment situation amongst Landscape Architects it was agreed that a Working Group is set up to fully analyse the employment/unemployment problems. The group will include representatives of the public and private sector and unemployed. They will report at the February meeting a series of positive actions to improve employment prospects for Members especially younger members and those currently unemployed.

2 surveys have been undertaken of the membership. A separate survey of licentiate membership was reported on at the meeting which indicates that 50% of the respondents had been licentiates for 6 years and had not progressed with P2C. This was primarily as a result of uncertainty of employment or unemployment. Other areas of concern were transition from University to the work place

NB Practices have been asked by the LI to put their names forward to offer 2 week work placements and also for individuals to act as mentors in CV and portfolio reviews.

#### **1. 2. The Future of the Profession – A paper for discussion**

Landscape Architects are at yet another crossroad, do we as a profession want to confine our prospects to working in the main around architects and engineers with a minority working to a wider brief or are we prepared to work outside of our comfort zone, using our skills and knowledge to fully embrace the sustainability imperative? If we choose to remain where we are then the profession is unlikely to grow and it will have to accept increasing intrusion from other allied professions taking on the master planning role, with specific attention to the new opportunities cascading out of sustainable development and sustainable management of natural resources. If on the other hand we choose to engage with the wider brief there will always be plenty of work for the Landscape Architect within the Landscape Profession, working alongside Landscape Researchers, Landscape Scientists, Landscape Planners, Landscape Ecologists and Landscape Managers.

Scotland was been praised for its work in pushing and achieving government policy on GI. There was desire to learn from our example. Northern Ireland were also praised also for their influence on government in policy areas affecting Landscape Architects.

#### **3. Proposal to Establish an Advocacy and Communications Committee – A paper for decision**

To ensure the Institute communicates effectively and uses its finances wisely a proposal was discussed to set up an Advocacy and Communications Committee with overall responsibility to agree and implement the Institute's communications, strategy, direct staff, monitor the communications budget and review progress.

It was agreed that communication should now form part of the Policy Committee. Advocacy will be dealt with and reinforced at Branch level. Brian Cloustan has been nominated to speak to branches with a view to collating their advocacy strategies to feed into the LI overall strategy and have budgets allocated.

#### **4. Journal and Publications**

The contract for the journal has recently been re-tendered. A contract is being awarded to Darkhorse. A discussion took place on:-

- the content, format, distribution and frequency of the Journal - all agreed that it wasn't serving the members as well as it could. Content needs to be reviewed but frequency can not be increased due to cost. Agreed that cross fertilization of ideas was important – working with other publications such as AJ. This months publication will feature the LI Awards
- A yearbook – mixed reviews

1. **CEO Report** ( See attached) Also budgets discussed for next year. Priority areas included:-

- Website upgrade
- Policy officer for devolved nations
- Employment Initiatives
- Advocacy at branch level
- Working in collaboration with other organisations

1. **6. Other Issues discussed**

- The devolved nations will be a subject of the next Board meeting. Northern Ireland have been promised a policy officer and Scotland is being considered NI have expressed a wish to jointly work with Scotland and Wales - on conferences / events etc. This should be pursued as we will be more powerful a voice in the LI if we work together
- The Trustee position on the board recently advertised was raised as an opportunity to introduce a devolved nation member. This was not considered appropriate as none of the board members are allowed to have a specific agenda. However there is nothing to stop anyone applying from Scotland/NI/Wales and using their influence
- Scottish Conference heavily promoted in Council meeting and evening AGM. Suggestion that it should be supported more by Sue Illman endorsing it in a letter to members
- AGM to be moved around the UK especially devolved nations was promoted at AGM

1. **7. AGM**

Well attended and supported by Midlands Branch. All motions approved- accounts/ minutes of last meeting etc. Sue Illman gave an overview of the work carried out by the LI for the year. The Jellico lecture followed which I was unable to attend

LI COUNCIL 17.10.12