

FOR INFORMATION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1. 1. A High Line for London Competition

Our High Line for London competition attracted 170 entries and has yielded a 6—page feature in the Architects' Journal, references in about 400 web pages, and postings on blogs and twitter in several languages, including Italian and Japanese. In total our web pages were referred to in more than 200 tweets and in more than a dozen articles and blogs. The launch of the competition produced our biggest ever twitter spike with 79 direct retweets and the announcement of the shortlist produced 59. As this is an idea which has very much caught people's imagination we will devise ways of maximising on its impact in coming weeks.

1. 2. London Open House

21 landscape schemes were featured in this year's London Open House on 22 and 23 September (<http://events.londonopenhouse.org/Venues?q=&programmeThemeIds=2>). We will have feedback in due course, but it is already known that 2012 was the largest Open House ever.

1. 3. Procurement

The APPG on Excellence in the Built Environment to which I gave evidence earlier in the year has produced its report, entitled 'A Better Deal for Public Building' (www.appgebe.org.uk/). The report makes a number of welcome suggestions which were reported in Landscape online.

1. 4. Autumn Statement

Several Council members replied to my request from the Construction Industry Council for ideas to be put to the Chancellor for his autumn statement. The main idea we submitted was to make all OS data freely available to users. Other proposals were to encourage local authorities to make better business use of their woodlands and to act on the procurement recommendations set out in the APG report 'A Better Deal for Public Building'.

1. 5. BIM Task Force

The BIM Task Force held its first members' meeting in Solihull as reported in Landscape Online. Forty-one members attended. Members of the Task Force also gave presentations at the national BIM Academy seminar on BIM, Landscape and Public Realm at Northumbria University. The programme of members events will continue to roll out across the through the autumn and early Spring. I met the government's Chief Construction Adviser, Paul Morrell, together with the CEOs of RTPI and CIHT, to discuss the impact on BIM on landscape, transport infrastructure and the planning system. Over the summer a simple self-assessment questionnaire was published to enable practices to find out what their current BIM level is and a number of resources and guides have been added to the BIM Open Project web pages. At a national level RIBA is leading on a new uniform plan of work for the construction sector which will be used on BIM projects, and we will have an opportunity in due course to comment on the drafts. The implications of BIM in terms of liability and insurance are not yet clear, but this will emerge over the next six to nine months.

It is clear from recent events that clients and lead contractors are telling LI members that they can only work on a particular project if they use 'BIM software', and this is starting to become a problem for some practices. In response to this the BIM Task Force is drafting a note to send out to practices to advise on appropriate ways to respond to this requirement. The group is also bringing forward its work on development of a standard format spreadsheet for data exchange on landscape elements, which will be needed earlier than anticipated.

1. 6. Privy Council

I wrote to the Privy Council Office on 3rd September with our request for a chance to our By-Laws. They have acknowledged receipt and I am waiting for a substantive response.

1. 7. Olympic Learning Legacy Task Force

The final OLL event is to be held in Glasgow on 10 October and is fully booked. A series of interviews with practices has been filmed and will go online shortly. www.landscapeinstitute.org/olympics.php

1. 8. Make Parks a Priority

The LI has supported a campaign led by Horticulture Week called 'Make Parks a Priority' which is campaigning for a parliamentary Enquiry into cuts in park budgets <http://www.hortweek.com/makeparksapriority>

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3 October 2012