

Report on	Northern Ireland Heritage Stakeholder Group Membership
Date of Meeting	7 th March 2023
Reporting Officer	Sarah McNamee, Conservation Planning Officer
Contact Officer	Dr. Chris Boomer, Service Director

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Members of the Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division's request to reaffirm membership to the Historic Environment Stakeholder Group by completing the ' <i>Confirmation of Organisational Membership and Contact Points.</i> ' Annex A
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) Planning Conservation Officer has attended the Historic Environment Stakeholder Group since its inception in June 2016 through a voluntary role as Secretary of Institute for Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) Northern Ireland Branch. In 2020, Tony McCance and Mary McKeown joined as representatives of Mid Ulster District Council's Tourism, Arts and Cultural Departments.
2.2	The Stakeholders Group is an informal forum for discussion and sharing of ideas, it does not adhere to Civil Service and Local Government governance and accountability mechanisms.
2.3	That said the Historic Environment Stakeholders (HES) Group agreed new governance arrangements on 24 th November 2022. Annex B contains the new governance arrangements and background to the formation of the Group. Annex C contains draft minutes of HES Group on 24 th November 2022.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	MUDC Planning Department welcomes DfC HED request to confirm membership of the HES Group, as do MUDC Tourism Development under Mary McKeown.
3.2	To date MUDC has welcomed the opportunity to attend the established Historic Environment Stakeholders Group and to take part in proactive and positive conversations regarding the future sustainable management, maintenance, and

	monitoring of Northern Ireland’s Historic Environment within the wider NGO and local heritage networks.
3.3	Previous agreed work programmes included a written response to the draft Programme for Government (25/01/2021) and a significant role and membership of the DfC Culture, Arts and Heritage Recovery Taskforce (Report November 2021).
3.4	The HES Group has already been consulted on the preparation of the DfC CA&H strategy and eagerly await further consultation on the first draft. The HES Group 2023-2024 work programme will include providing direct advice, guidance and constructive feedback to DfC officers commissioned to draft the Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy for Northern Ireland.
3.5	MUDC Planning Department was the only local planning authority that actively participated in the preparation of <i>DfC HED’s Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland</i> . Convened as <i>‘The Way Forward for Archaeology in Northern Ireland’</i> the document states <i>‘the collaborative product of four cross-sectoral working groups, co-ordinated by a steering group, and involved people from a wide range of disciplines working in or related to archaeology.’</i>
3.6	Annex C contains draft minutes of the HES Group meeting on 24/11/2022 that provided an update on this project. As stated in Section 2 of the Archaeology 2030 document a Project Board and eight working groups are in place. As the only local planning authority involved from the beginning it would be prudent and useful to send representatives to be part of the relevant working groups that have been established.
3.7	The Planning Conservation Officer has volunteered to represent MUDC Planning Department in sub-group focused on <i>‘Placemaking and Sustainability’</i> this sub-group has met once via Zoom.
3.8	Membership of HES Group provides direct access to all parts of Northern Ireland’s Heritage Sector from the statutory body, Government Departments, Arm’s Length Heritage Bodies, Non-Government Organisations focused on Culture, Arts and Heritage and a wide variety of heritage focused bodies that have access to financial support through funding, grants and loans for local community and voluntary groups.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Existing Staff Officers – Mary McKeown Tourism Manager and Sarah McNamee Planning Conservation Officer (MRTPI)
	Risk Management: N/A

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendations
5.1	The Planning Committee notes the information contained in Annex A, B and C and agrees that identified Council Officers attend the Historic Environment Stakeholders Group on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Annex A: Historic Environment Stakeholder Group Confirmation of Organisational Membership and Contact Points
6.2	Annex B: Historic Environment Stakeholder Group Governance Arrangements 2022
6.3	Annex C: Draft version of Historic Environment Stakeholder Meeting 24/11/2022

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT STAKEHOLDER GROUP

CONFIRMATION OF ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND CONTACT POINTS

Name of organisation	
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We have read the Governance Arrangements document as agreed in November 2022, and wish to reconfirm our membership of the Stakeholder Group. We agree to support and champion the Vision and Mission set out in the document as agreed sectoral statements, and to work as part of the broader sector to seek to achieve this ambition.

We confirm the following point of contact (and deputy as appropriate) for the Group, and recognise that communications will be with the named contact points, although alternate members will be welcome to attend Group meetings. We will provide any changes to contact points as they occur.

Primary contact point name	
Position in organisation	
Email	
Secondary contact point name (optional)	
Position in organisation (optional)	
Secondary contact point email (optional)	

This has been agreed by my organisation:

Signed	
Name	
Position in organisation (CEO or equivalent)	
Date	

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT STAKEHOLDER GROUP

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. Introduction

Work to engage in a focussed way across the historic environment sector has developed following an initial meeting in June 2016. Since then, quarterly stakeholder meetings have been held, and a Core Group has progressed matters between those meetings. This has – by general consent – created greater coherence in the sector and allowed greater coordination.

In 2017, the historic environment sector proposed a number of commitments to nine PfG delivery plans; these were gratefully received. Building on this, two sectoral Delivery Plans have been developed, one covering the period June 2018 – December 2019; and the next commencing in early 2020. The latter contained 11 key and 8 supporting actions which, between them, would support the delivery of nine of the PfG Outcomes. The PfG itself, however, currently has very limited explicit connection to the historic environment, meaning that further work is required.

The sector has also made progress – through focussed efforts – in terms of explaining the value of heritage to the present and the future. It is important to build on the progress to date, and use a range of channels and material further to embed this activity. The use of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 as a springboard for further progress was an important element, as was the publication of Heritage Delivers in 2018 and Heritage Statistics in September 2020. The sector maintains a website (www.niheritagedelivers.org). There remain concerns however at the continuing loss of heritage assets, the increase of heritage assets listed on the Heritage at Risk register, and the cumulative impact of losses; this highlights that significant work remains to be done to explain the range of benefits that the historic environment delivers for places and for people.

We held a number of discussions in the Core Group and Stakeholder Group in 2021 and 2022, as we prepared for re-emergence after the pandemic restrictions. This enabled us to work through how to organise ourselves more effectively, building on the progress we have made to date, and to influence the development of the Culture, Arts and Heritage strategy which is being taken forward. The discussions confirmed that the purpose of the Group is at two levels. The first is to provide a forum for network, association and mutual support. The second is to get traction for delivering on the benefits of the historic environment, particularly with policy and other decision makers, and doing this in a prioritised way through setting challenging but realisable ambitions with the resources we have available.

2. Vision, Mission and Objectives

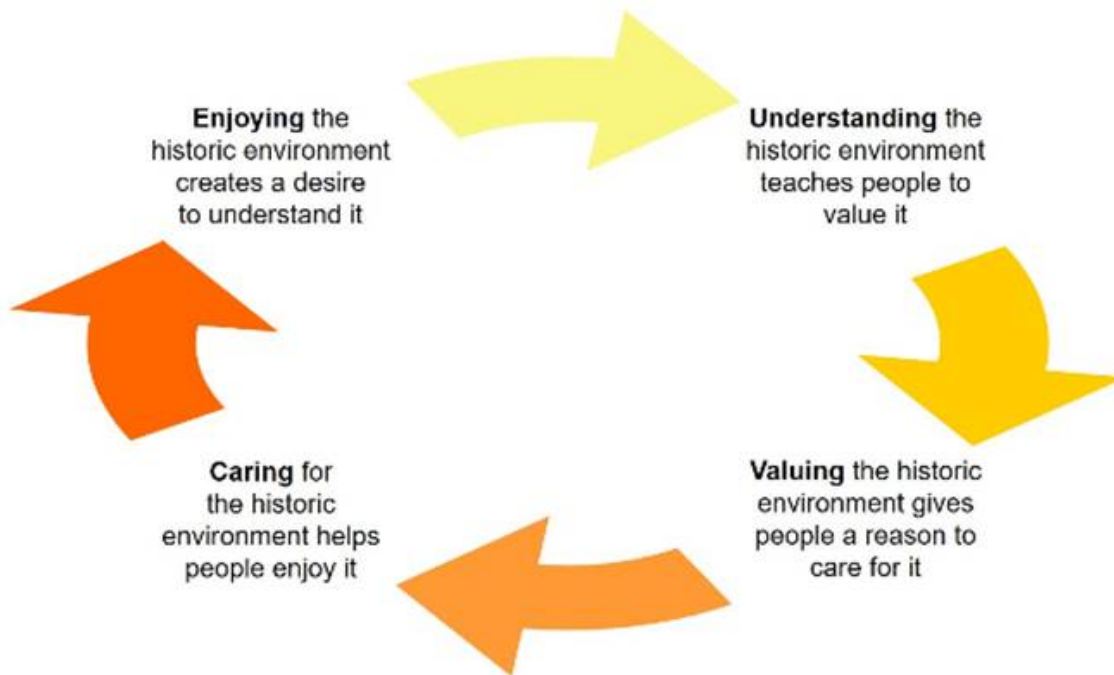
What we can do as a sector:

Vision: *Northern Ireland's rich and diverse historic environment is protected, valued and recognised so that it can benefit everyone through the role it plays in shaping our identity, supporting our prosperity and strengthening our society.*

What we can do as a group:

Mission: *To champion the protection, preservation, regeneration, understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment for present and future generations.*

This will help deliver on the virtuous circle below:



Based on a diagram in "Making the Past Part of Our Future" (English Heritage Strategy 2005–2010)

Supporting text:

Northern Ireland has over 51,000 recorded historic environment assets including archaeological remains, historic architecture both rural and urban from cottage to big house, industrial, maritime and defence heritage, inland waterways, loughs, lakes and river corridors, the ancient landscapes that constitute our unique place. These assets are a precious and irreplaceable inheritance which, when well-managed, are a valuable source of prosperity, wellbeing and community cohesion.

Heritage is as much about the future as the past. By treasuring it, and by using it as the foundation of our societal development, we unlock its potential and enrich our future. The historic environment sector is committed to working collectively, creatively and collaboratively with others across the public, private and third sectors to protect and enhance our historic environment, supporting the outcomes of the Programme for Government and Community Plans to tackle the challenges of climate change, improve our wellbeing and economy, and renew our sense of place.

Our historic environment enhances the values that are most important to our lives: a sense of place and family roots, health, happiness and life satisfaction. This has been strongly reaffirmed during the pandemic, when many of us have reconnected with local heritage and, through doing so, have been able to address endemic issues of loneliness and exclusion.

When we invest in our historic environment we learn to understand each other and become the society we want to be; it enables us to live in places that exude atmosphere and character. Investment in heritage supports business growth, along with domestic and international tourism, and acts as an incentive in attracting new businesses and creating jobs. Investment in our historic environment is therefore a down payment for the future, a vital ingredient in sustainable development and regeneration. Failure to invest would carry great costs: we would not fulfil our economic potential; our children would grow up with a diminished identity; our whole community would lose its pride and character.

Our historic environment is our authentic voice and distinctive character. It is the basis for our confidence, our prosperity and our health. It binds us together, attracts investment, and improves our quality of life. It supports our prosperity, strengthens our society and shapes our character.

Objectives

Our four objectives are that as a sector:

1. We will work collaboratively to demonstrate value
2. We will raise awareness of how the historic environment can provide prosperity and progress for people
3. We will seek to maximise resources and support for the historic environment
4. We will promote placemaking that celebrates the built heritage environment and the stories of our people

3. Current areas for focus

We have agreed the following six areas for our focus in 2022-23. Sub-Groups will be established reflecting the six areas. They will be populated and then develop work plans and success measures.

1. Strategy and purpose, including clear plans. This develops the Core Group into a Steering Group, and we will widen its membership to sufficiently broad and inclusive representation. This group will be crucial in helping mobilise and coordinate the sector to input to and influence the development of the Culture Arts and Heritage strategy.
2. Advocacy and communications – including case studies, key coalitions to build, consultations, web and social media presence including Heritage Hub etc, deciding and targeting priority audiences. Advocacy and communications brings in community connections and empowerment, Council liaison including Community Plans and liaison with Executive Departments and Local Development Plans.

3. Funding, resourcing and resilience – sources of funding, helping organisations to be ready to access the different types of funding, clarity of focus and purpose, income generation, staff, governance and volunteering – building on work of Resourcing T&F Group.
4. Placemaking interventions – engaging in city centres, urban, village and rural settings to promote heritage as a prerequisite for successful placemaking – delivering better places to live, work and visit across NI
5. Data, evidence, research and measurement –if others are doing research, does the Stakeholder Group need to do this? We feel we need to lead on some of this but also work with those who are already active in this area, but that proposals may need some further discussion by the Steering Group. Reflecting on previous discussion our specific research focus could be as listed below, and will need to include a clear view of the current baseline that we are building from:
 - a. Updated research looking at the economic, environmental, social and cultural value of heritage in NI – underscoring the triple bottom line
 - b. Case studies showing impacts, building on Heritage Delivers
 - c. Consider research into ‘cultural capital’ or a substantial review of economic impact
 - d. Taking a leading role in the updating the Heritage Statistics document
 - e. The potential uses of the Heritage Index
6. Sustainability - to include climate change mitigation and adaptation – a huge issue and one the Stakeholder Group can’t ignore

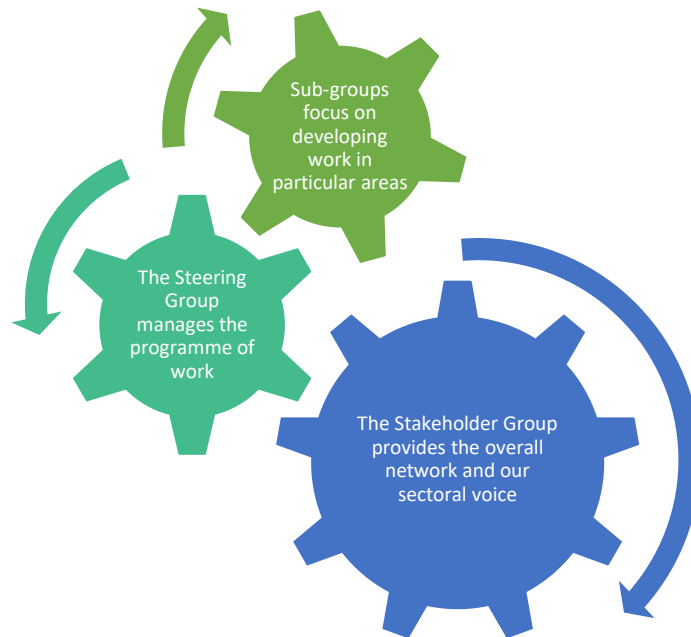
The Stakeholder Group will retain connections with a range of other work in and connected to the historic environment sector. This will include, for instance, the work of Archaeology 2030, the work on heritage skills, and the work of the Culture Heritage and Tourism Leadership Group.

4. Membership

We recognise that the historic environment sector – and the wider historic environment community – is broad, and we are keen to maintain and encourage broad connections. We will therefore continue to support broad membership of the Stakeholder Group. Achieving this will require a certain degree of structure to our activities, but it will be important not to make such structure unduly cumbersome or inflexible. This paper sets out a structure which aims to strike a balance between focus and flexibility.

The diagram on the next page sets out a structure for engagement; the following sections then set out membership and terms of reference for the various groups.

This document will generally be reviewed annually.



4.1 Historic Environment Sector Stakeholder Group

The Group will consist of organisations in the historic environment sector¹, and interested parties from outside the sector where this is agreed to add value to the discussions. This will support the co-design and co-creation, within and beyond the sector, of activity and thought which allow the value and benefits of the historic environment to be realised and promoted.

To manage the balance between breadth and focus, organisations which are members of the Group will normally be involved in activity across a range of assets and locations, and/or will be involved in significant levels of expenditure on heritage activities. Smaller or more focussed organisations will normally be represented on the Group through umbrella organisations (for instance NIEL and HTN).

There may be some types of organisations where a subset of the total number of organisations is included in the Stakeholder Group. Such organisation types currently include district councils and heritage trusts. Where such types of organisations exist, an appropriate mechanism for membership of the Stakeholder Group will be agreed with the relevant group of organisations, including how to achieve two-way engagement with the wider group of organisations.

Member organisations will be expected to support and champion the Vision and Mission set out in this document as agreed sectoral statements, and to work as part of the broader sector to seek to achieve this ambition; whilst respecting that member organisations are independent bodies.

¹ Our work will largely be focussed on tangible heritage, along with the interlinked intangible heritage; our view of the sector's scope will reflect this, but we will take a broad view, recognising the benefits of making and building connections

The function of the Group will be to bring the sector together to review progress in realising the benefits of Northern Ireland's historic environment, sharing information and insights and developing collective solutions, and considering and agreeing further activity which could be undertaken to do so. In so doing, the Group will consider resourcing implications and ways in which these could be addressed. The agenda for the Group's meetings will generally include a review of progress on agreed activity and success in explaining and demonstrating the economic and community value of the historic environment, and considering further initiatives or activities which could make further progress in this regard. Conclusions of the Group's deliberations will generally be taken as a sectoral view and will form the basis of action by the sector.

The Group, currently chaired by HED, will generally meet quarterly, with organisations being invited to send a representative to each meeting. To ensure currency of membership records, all organisations listed as members of the Stakeholder Group will be written to periodically (no less than biennially) to confirm that they wish to remain members of the Group, and to confirm their lead point of contact and (if they wish) deputy. Alternate members will be welcome to attend meetings of the Group if asked to do so by the member organisations, but communications will be with the nominated lead member and deputy. Recognising the range of work and connections of HED, all members of HED's Senior Management Team will be invited to Group meetings.

As at October 2022 [prior to the reconfirmation of membership], the organisations which are members of the Group are:

- Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Architectural Heritage Fund
- Belfast Buildings Trust
- Belfast City Council
- Belfast Civic Trust
- Cathedral Quarter Trust
- Community Relations Council
- Derry City & Strabane District Council
- Federation of Ulster Local Studies
- Historic Buildings Council
- HEARTH
- Historic Environment Division
- Heritage Council
- Heritage Trust Network
- Historic Houses
- Historic Royal Palaces
- Historic Monuments Council
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- Irish Georgian Society
- Libraries NI
- Linenhall Library
- Londonderry Inner City Trust
- Maritime Belfast Trust
- Mid-Ulster District Council
- Ministerial Advisory Group on Architecture and the Built Environment
- National Churches Trust

- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- National Trust
- Newry Mourne and Down District Council
- NI Chamber of Commerce
- NI Environment Link
- NI Local Government Association
- NI Museums Council
- NI Protected Areas Network (currently represented by Mourne Heritage Trust)
- NI Tourism Alliance
- National Museums NI
- Public Records Office NI
- QUB (Schools of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (HAPP) and Natural and Built Environment (NBE))
- Royal Society of Ulster Architects/ Royal Institution of British Architects
- Royal Town Planning Institute
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Ireland
- thrive
- Tourism NI
- Ulster Architectural Heritage
- Ulster University
- The Waterways Community

Organisations can choose to withdraw from the Group's membership at any time; requests for additions to the membership will be determined by the Steering Group.

4.2 Historic Environment Sector Steering Group

The Group will coordinate – and where necessary speak for – the sector, and will prepare the agenda and content of the Stakeholder Group meetings. It will develop and monitor progress towards success measures for the sector.

The Group will consist of 8-12 representatives of organisations in the Stakeholder Group. These will be the organisations' nominated lead representative to the Stakeholder Group, in addition to the chairs of all active Sub-Groups. The members will be appointed as individuals and not as representatives of any organisation, and will work together to develop a strong sectoral voice to champion the value of the historic environment. Deputies will not generally be invited to Steering Group meetings but alternates may be nominated.

The membership of the Steering Group will be designed to be broadly representative of the wider Stakeholder Group. Its membership will include, in addition to its chair:

- A representative of HED
- A representative of government departments and Arm's Length Bodies
- A representative of district councils
- A representative of the academic sector
- A minimum of two representatives of voluntary organisations
- A representative of funding organisations

Consideration will be given to factors such as geographic spread of Steering Group membership, but the key consideration will be the value that members can bring to the wider discussions to further the sectoral vision and mission. Membership of the Steering Group will be agreed annually by the Stakeholder Group, with the aim of balancing continuity and fresh insights, and of balancing representation from the various parts of the heritage sector. Membership at [November 2022] is

- *To be inserted*

The Group, currently chaired by HED, will generally meet at least once between Stakeholder Group meetings.

4.3 Historic Environment Sector Sub- Groups

These Groups will be formed as considered appropriate by the Stakeholder Group and/or Steering Group. The governance and arrangements around them, and monitoring of their work against agreed success measures, will be undertaken by the Steering Group, which will also ensure that updates are provided to the Stakeholder Group (including notification of the closing down of any group). Members may be drawn from individuals connected to any Stakeholder Group member organisation, not just lead members and deputies – thereby allowing the knowledge, experiences and skills of the sector to be brought to bear on the topic under consideration.

A list of the current Groups, and Groups under consideration, will be maintained by the Steering Group, which will appoint the Chair of each Group.

As a general rule, governance of these Groups will be kept 'light touch' in recognition of their finite lifespan and specific tasks.

The Advocacy and Communications Sub-group will have a lead responsibility for management of the sectoral website, bringing relevant matters to the Steering Group.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Summary of Stakeholder Meeting

Zoom, 24 November 2022

- Attendees:**
- Iain Greenway (Chair)
 - Ciaran Lavelle (National Museums NI)
 - Claire-Rose Canavan (HTN)
 - Diane Ruddock (National Trust NI)
 - Rita Harkin (AHF)
 - Keith Lilley (QUB)
 - Jonathan Dalzell (NIMC)
 - Sarah McNamee (IHBC)
 - Claire Woods (Historic Royal Palaces)
 - Kerrie Sweeney (Maritime Belfast Trust)
 - Noreen Cunningham (Newry Mourne and Down District Council)
 - Margaret Henry (NLHF)
 - Paul Mullan (NLHF)
 - Joanne Curran (IHBC)
 - Martin Carey (NI Protected Area Network)
 - Shane Kelland (Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council)
 - Paul Harron (UAH)
 - Fiona Bell (Thrive)
 - Tony Monaghan (Derry City & Strabane District Council)
 - Jessica Hoyle (Tourism NI)
 - Leah O'Neill (NI Environment Link)
-
- Brian McKervey (HED)
 - Anne Menary (HED)
 - Catherine Devine (HED)
 - Fionnuala Elliott (HED)
 - Rhonda Robinson (HED)
 - Manus Deery (HED)
- Apologies:**
- Ciaran Fox (RSUA)
 - Jim O'Hagan (Libraries NI)
 - John Anderson (UAH)
 - Craig McGuicken (NIEL)
 - Rob Lister (RSUA/ RIBA)
 - Helen Quigley (Londonderry ICT)
 - Sophie Hayles (Crescent Arts Centre)
 - Ross Hickey (MEABC)
 - Claire Flynn (NLHF)
 - Shane Quinn (BBT)
 - Stephen Scarth (PRONI)
 - Roisin Donnelly (MAG)
 - David Flinn (Belfast Civic Trust)
 - Roisin Willmott (RTPI)
 - Brenda Turnbull (The Waterways Community)
 - Julie Andrews (Linenhall Library)

Gavin Mackie (Historic Houses)
Susan Picken (Cathedral Quarter Trust)
Leonie Hannan (QUB)
Marcus Patton (HEARTH)
Ian Doyle (Heritage Council)
Peter Tracey (HBC)
Tony McCance (MUDC)
Karen Smyth (NILGA)
Brian Johnston (Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council)
Primrose Wilson (Follies Trust/ Irish Georgian Society)
Elizabeth Crooke (UU)
John Dooher (FULS)
Eimear Henry (BCC)
Mary Kerrigan (SPAB Ireland)
Heather McLachlan (National Trust NI)
Olwen Purdue (QUB)
Nigel Mills (National Churches Trust)
Carole Long (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council)
Dawson Stelfox (RSUA/ RIBA)
Karen Phillips (Derry City & Strabane District Council)
Aine Kearney (Tourism NI)
Joanne Stuart (NI Tourism Alliance)
Andy Patterson (Newry Mourne and Down District Council)
Audrey Gahan (HMC)
Ann McGregor (NI Chamber of Commerce)
William Blair (National Museums NI)
Jacqueline Irwin (NICRC)
Rory McNeary (HED)
Jim Caldwell (HED)

Iain welcomed everyone, in particular members attending their first meeting of the Group.

1. Planning for 2023

Diane chaired this session, and asked for key events or themes to which we should connect. The following were mentioned:

- NLHF strategy refresh – announcements are due in March, so would be good to include in a meeting in March or early April, to ensure connection to it
- CAH strategy – come together around emerging themes and issues, and to take a sectoral view (and seize opportunities)
- Climate action plan and work in the sector – possibly at the next meeting
- QUB MSc in climate change to start in 2023; geography and archaeology, and including heritage
- European Association of Archaeologists conference hosted by QUB in August/ September
- Titanic Belfast significant investment in 2023 – possibly connect with other maritime investments including Ebrington museum
- QUB placemaking conference in April
- PRONI 100 years

- BCC – Belfast Stories
- DCSDC Heritage Development Officer and Heritage Plan
- 30 years of work on Heritage at Risk
- AHF report on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – connects to work by NT and NIEL, and QUB theme on decolonising
- Cultural Heritage Tourism Leadership Group – feeding back in early 2023; links to other TNI themes
- Local elections in May – new councillors
- One Young World 2023 Belfast Summit 2-5 October

The Core (Steering) Group will build these into our planning, and is open to offers for hosting meetings (which we will aim to schedule further in advance, to allow members to manage diaries).

2. Governance Arrangements

Iain spoke to the document which had been circulated. It was agreed as an approved version, noting that member organisations will be asked to reconfirm membership and contact points; and that the Steering Group would review its membership and make proposals for filling the gaps against the sub-sector list in the Governance document.

3. State of the sector

Paul reflected on the position as his team are aware of it. He mentioned the closure of Nottingham Castle as an attraction, after a £30 million refit; and the closure of one NI NLHF funded organisation. Many organisations contacting NLHF are experiencing a level of stress; and are having to re-evaluate outcomes and income projections. The fundraising climate is very difficult; and many organisations have lower numbers of volunteers. All of this is leading organisations to work through how to do things differently, including the use of technology.

The following points were made in discussion:

- Increases in insurance costs – for visitor attractions and for thatched properties
- The funding challenges in councils being likely to lead to a need to focus on core services; many local museums are operated by councils and so are caught up in this
- HRP positive experiences with volunteering, particularly for outdoor tasks
- Heritage Alliance programme around cost of living support – Manus would share details

4. Updates

Archaeology 2030

Rhonda provided an update on this project, with the Project Board and eight working groups now in place. The groups would shortly be seeking members, alongside the first Archaeology 2030 newsletter. Web pages (on the same site as Heritage Delivers) will go live shortly. A suite of four standards and guidance documents are nearing completion.

Rhonda mentioned the communication and advocacy elements of the project; she and Diane will speak about how to connect this to the Group's advocacy work.

CAH Strategy

Margaret reported on a positive first meeting of the re-formed Task Force last week, under the chair of Rotha Johnston. Catalyst Groups for central and for local government are also being put in place. There is a sense of momentum and purpose, recognising the need to speak with an holistic voice but to recognise the differences within and across the sectors.

Subgroups

Iain mentioned the two currently un-formed groups on Sustainability, and on Funding, Resourcing & Resilience, and asked for any volunteers for either of these groups to contact him.

Diane provided an update on the Comms and Advocacy Group, which has met twice, ably supported by Leah. The group is agreeing the key opportunities and actions, having agreed to keep a sharp focus on a manageable set of actions.

Margaret reported that the Data, Research, Evidence and Measurement group has met twice, and agreed to focus on updating the Heritage Statistics document, including updates on the last set of contents and some new material. They are also looking at how to communicate contents, using videos etc. They are keen to be aware of research different organisations are planning. NIMC has joined the group. Diane mentioned that NITA is developing an annual tourism data report.

Kerrie reported that the Placemaking group has met once, and confirmed that it is a Task and Finish group that would review progress and remaining tasks in March/ April. There is a good range of experience amongst group members, and they are seeing to add council regeneration, private sector and RSUA to the mix. It was suggested that sustainability would be incorporated in the group for the time being. They are keen to get material onto the web, including approaches and case studies; and are also considering whether it is feasible to deliver a small number of pilot projects.

4. Member Updates

Iain reported that HED has let a contract for new databases, with Flax & Teal uses the Arches standards. HED's current databases are far from resilient; their replacement will assist all users of HED data.

Johnathan reported on an NIMC/ NI Science Festival climate change tour 6-16 February, and would welcome contact from other organisations willing to be involved.

Jessica mentioned TNI programmes, including the Enterprise Development Programme (open to all), and the Kickstart Programme phase 2 which is currently open for applications.

Paul mentioned a recent UAH publication of Architects of Ulster 1920s-1970s by Paul Larmour, and commended it.

5. Close and next meeting

The Steering Group would develop a 2023 meeting programme, aiming to plan in advance.

Iain thanked all attendees and participants for such a lively and useful discussion.