1. Welcome, apologies, and introductions

*Chair: Ian Baxter (IB)*

*BEFS attendees: Euan Leitch (EL), Ailsa Macfarlane (AMac)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Andrew Hopetoun (AH) | HH |
| Andy Milne (AM) | SURF |
| Ann Packard (AP) | MCICH |
| Graeme Purves (GP) | BEFS |
| Ian Baxter (IB) | Conf Inst |
| Rachel Tennant (RT) | LI-S |
| Simon Gilmour (SG) | SocAnt |
| Janine Ballantyne (JB) | NTS |
| Rob Lennox (RL) | CIfA |
| Kate Houghton(KH) | RTPI |
| James Garry (JG) | Cockburn |

*Apologies:*

*Christa Gerdwilker ICON*

*Craig McLaren RTPI*

*Eila Macqueen AS*

*Raymond Young Gen Trustees CoS*

*David Robertson Gen Trustees CoS*

*Jocelyn Cunliffe AHSS*

*Sarah Pearce HTN*

*Stuart Beattie SCT*

*Susan O’Connor SCT*

*Calum Maclean RIAS*

*Iain McDowall BEFS*

*Jim Macdonald A&DS*

*Sean O’Reilly IHBC*

*Martin Robertson AHSS*

*Jo Robertson AHF*

*Bill Pagan BEFS*

*Diarmid Hearns NTS*

*Tyler Lott SPAB Scotland*

1. Approval of meeting note November 2019 and matters arising.

*All actions complete and further details and corrections provided in the approved note.*

*All HEWG papers can now be found at:* [*www.befs.org.uk/hewg*](http://www.befs.org.uk/hewg)

1. Consultations overview:

For discussion:

**NPF4**

<https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/get-involved/>

* <https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/NPF4-SPP-Roundtable-Report.pdf>

Slides for the discussion can be found here: <https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NPF4-SPP.pdf>

There was a wide ranging discussion in relation to this topic and a separate paper will be produced.

**ACTION: AMac to make available on HEWG page by 17/03/20** *[www.befs.org.uk/hewg](http://www.befs.org.uk/hewg)*

*EL mentioned**Ironside Farrar report for the Scottish Government can be found*[**here**](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2019/10/research-project-adoption-scottish-planning-policy-local-development-plans/documents/research-project-adoption-scottish-planning-policy-local-development-plans/research-project-adoption-scottish-planning-policy-local-development-plans/govscot%3Adocument/research-project-adoption-scottish-planning-policy-local-development-plans.pdf)**.**

*The Planning Policy columns (as seen on the BEFS slide) can be found at the following site:* <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/resources/>

*then* *click on the Scottish Planning Policy + tab*

*this also has the handy spreadsheet of local policies collated by Ironside Farrar labelled “the Effectiveness of Scottish Planning Policy – Database”*

**Housing 2040**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-2040/>

***AMac*** *stated that a BEFS response, based around many other policy responses submitted will be made. No draft was available at the time of the meeting.* ***Link above now provided.***

**AP** (Ann – please clarify/amend as necessary) mentioned Glasgow University New Homes, Health, Data project – part of: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/ourresearchenvironment/prs/uofguofedinphdstudentships/futurecities/>

For noting - consultations submitted since November 2019 HEWG:

All can be found at: <https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/consultations/>

* [https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BEFS-**Transient-Visitor-Levy**.pdf](https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BEFS-Transient-Visitor-Levy.pdf)
* [https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-**Local-Energy-Policy**.pdf](https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-Local-Energy-Policy.pdf)
* [https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-**PublicBodiesTacklingClimateChange**.pdf](https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-PublicBodiesTacklingClimateChange.pdf)
* [https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-**Circular-Economy**.pdf](https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-Circular-Economy.pdf)
* [https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-**PDR**.pdf](https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-PDR.pdf)
* [https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-**EU-Structural-Funds**-1.pdf](https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-EU-Structural-Funds-1.pdf)

[https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/**Planning-Performance-and-Fees**.pdf](https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Planning-Performance-and-Fees.pdf)

1. Policy Issues monitoring

* Built Heritage Investment Group & ‘Prioritisation’ Development

*Consultation to be launched by HES on behalf of OPiT March 2020. Event in January helped to refine the questions and tweak existing documentation. Report on event found here:*

<https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/BEFS-Workshop-Report-30012020.pdf>

*The BHIG plan structure will also be consulted upon at the same time.*

* OPiT Climate & Skills update

*HES Climate Action plan launched.* <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/what-we-do/climate-change/>

*Climate work being more connected throughout OPiT groups.*

*Skills Manager (Catherine Cartmell) in place for SIP, meeting in mid-March.*

* Tenement Maintenance

***EL*** *updated the group. Full details can be found here:* [*https://www.befs.org.uk/policy-topics/buildings-maintenance-2/*](https://www.befs.org.uk/policy-topics/buildings-maintenance-2/) *The Government response to the recommendations has been positive. All 3 have been referred to the Scottish Law Commission for examination. 2025 was seen as challenging, but not dismissed. Concerns remain around who will action any recommendations – Local Authorities who are not resourced for such actions and enforcements.*

[**GP** left the meeting]

* CofS Report release & Ecclesiastic Conference

*BEFS report for the Church of Scotland General Trustees was released in early 2020 and can be found here:* <https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/publications/well-equipped-spaces-in-the-right-places/>

*It has been well received and will inform the actions put to the General Assembly later in the year in relation to the Church estate. Whatever changes take place, and some already have in the examples of Orkney and Aberdeen disposing of 50% of their churches, this will be an increasingly important issue for civic Scotland.*

*BEFS Ecclesiastical Conference is being planned. It was for April but there is an interested keynote speaker from the Netherlands BEFS would like to secure. September now seems more likely having checked diaries for availability.*

* WEAll Wealth of Nations 2.0 Conference - <https://wellbeingeconomy.org/>

***EL*** *updated that the WEAll Conference was recently held in Edinburgh, and opened by the First Minister. BEFS have been involved from a Place perspective and met with Doreen Grove in relation to developing this strand. The report from the Infrastructure Commission, and their recommendations informed one of the break-out sessions. WEAll is an amplifier and connector of those working towards a well-being economy. A well-being economy is one based on more than GDP. Inclusive growth (also post-growth) principles apply. The First Minister is working with New Zealand and Iceland in relation to the realignment of economic thinking for the enhancement of public wellbeing and wider benefit.*

*Whilst sometimes the ‘actions’ are unclear from the WEAll discussions,* ***AM*** *was clear that this is an important part of the changes ongoing from a policy perspective.*

* HES Policy Forum

*Managing Change and related documents update forum.*

* *It’s Your Heritage*
* *Working on/near Scheduled Monuments – out or consultation soon.*

*Near future:*

*Cultural Significance, Climate Change, Accessibility, Underwater Heritage.*

*Listed Building Consent further develop prior to any consultation– bigger piece of work.*

***AM*** *- HES is set to become one of SURF's key delivery partners, to jointly promote the role of heritage in achieving wider regeneration outcomes.*

***SG*** *and* ***RL*** *questioned how the Scottish Government considered the documents.* ***EL*** *mentioned data analysis done by a BEFS intern. The Managing Change documents are mentioned by Reporters and are where the details are found.*

*Questions were raised as to the purpose of the meetings more widely. (Project Manager is no-longer in place.) Those invited to the meetings may feel that their knowledge and expertise is not being best used.*

*These ‘policies’ are being reviewed separate to other policy areas – which leads to a disconnect around review periods and an understanding of wider policy concerns. Eg. Micro-Renewables advice being considered for review in a few years, when Permitted Development Rights legislation (containing Micro-Renewables) is currently undergoing change.*

* Place Standard 2.0 - <https://www.placestandard.scot/>

*Iterative process as intended. Two sections are having changes made – from Social Contact to Social Interaction and from ‘Facilities and Amenities’ to ‘Support and Services’ More images – handwritten headlines etc, a friendlier approach.*

* Conservation Areas AHSS/HES Event – BEFS facilitating

*April 30th Engine Shed – details to follow – BEFS will promote the link as soon as it is live. Event to enable Planning Authorities to explain how the sector can aid their work; what constraints are in place; what challenges are faced.*

*Reality & Resources*

*Places*

*Policy & Practice*

* Home Nations Update. *HE, HA, CADW, Northern Ireland Heritage Directorate, HES, BEFS – teleconference every quarter.*

*Immigration Policy – good to see the reduction in salary limit from £30K - £25.6K as many heritage roles (skilled or otherwise) do not pay £30K.*

*However* ***RL*** *detailed some of the concerns that remain:*

*High levels of bureaucracy necessary to employ someone; very few archaeological employers are signed up as visa sponsors.*

* *Concern that the short time-frame for Government implementation may mean that some potential ‘simplification’ may not be ready by 2021. Conversely, short time frame may mean that the Shortage Occupation List (with archaeology on it) may stand.*
* *Concerns that major infrastructure projects could be halted due to lack of archaeologists.*
* *The pay aspect is challenging from how the sector will adapt, but there is the potential for pay levels to rise to be able to fulfil the visa requirements.*

*ACTION COMPLETE -RL has provided:* [*CIfA Position Statement, Archaeology and Immigration.*](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfA%20immigration%20briefing%20-%20February%202020_0.pdf)

*AH mentioned FT article in relation to where labour force impacts may occur with a points based system -* <https://www.ft.com/content/56c95706-54c4-11ea-8841-482eed0038b1>

*Related recommended short article as to what the new immigration system means* <https://www.fragomen.com/file/beyondbrexit-plansforanewimmigrationsystemafterbrexit-feb2020v9pdf>

*VAT – UK wide effort to address the VAT issue continues. Further information on the work of the Heritage Alliance in relation to this can be found in their* [*Manifesto document*](https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Manifesto2019.pdf)*.*

[*Heritage Counts*](https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/) *from Historic England on behalf of HEF also has papers in relation to this matter.*

Additional update: The [Culture Strategy](https://www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-scotland/) has been released.

*NTS briefing in relation to the Strategy (briefing released before Strategy publication) – including survey results around current public interaction with various forms of ‘cultural activity’* <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/overcoming-barriers-to-experiencing-scotlands-culture>

1. HEWG Administrative Procedures

***AMac*** *thanked those present for being part of the new trial procedures and acknowledged some teething troubles. It was confirmed that whilst it may take a little time to get used to the new processes,* ***Members were happy to continue with****:*

* *Invitations issued via a calendar invitation*
* *Web page as the permanent repository for HEWG papers (past and forthcoming items, such as the Agenda) -* [*www.befs.org.uk/hewg*](http://www.befs.org.uk/hewg)

*BEFS are a small team and these changes have been suggested to make the administrative processes less burdensome on staff time.*

*Earlier in the meeting* ***EL*** *had questioned whether an online ‘discussion board’ as a place to critique and comment on specific policy documents would be useful. There was no disagreement with the idea and BEFS will examine methods used by other organisations to see what might be best for BEFS Members.*

**COMPLETED Action: RL to send AMac details of processes used by Heritage Alliance.**

1. AOB

***SG*** *raised that there are many senior personnel changes happening within the sector more widely. Examples included:*

*New Chief Executive for National Museums Scotland*

*New Chair for National Museums Scotland*

*New Director being sought for National Trust Scotland*

*New Chair (Mark Jones) for National Trust for Scotland*

*Next spring Barbara Cummins will retire from HES*

*With changes such as this it is imperative that the sector understands what we ‘do’ from a policy perspective.*

***SG*** *also mentioned that the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland are a nominating body for the* [*REF 2021*](https://www.ref.ac.uk/) *Assessment panels (multiple panels related to heritage/historic environment), and that Scottish members for these panels would be positive given their current makeup.*

*The nominations page with guidance and information for nominating bodies and nominees, setting out the requirements for each panel and with a link to the online nomination form can be found here:* [*https://www.ref.ac.uk/panels/nominating-panel-members/*](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ref.ac.uk%2Fpanels%2Fnominating-panel-members%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cdjm7%40leicester.ac.uk%7C3e25893bc8d34d52e0a708d7b94ae6c9%7Caebecd6a31d44b0195ce8274afe853d9%7C0%7C0%7C637181603657703362&sdata=qwuztn%2BP7rHEaj%2Fg7cOULgjC%2BxxI9C1Fftx1PlSoXZc%3D&reserved=0)*.  This page also has final meeting dates for the assessment phase for all main and sub-panels, updated to include any changes arising from the panel meetings.*

***IB*** *brought information from wider UK organisations to the group:*

*Historic England finally have go-ahead for a tender for the feasibility of a Heritage Observatory* [*https://in-tendhost.co.uk/historic-england/aspx/ProjectManage/1365*](https://in-tendhost.co.uk/historic-england/aspx/ProjectManage/1365)

*The* [*Power of Place*](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/power-of-place/) *is to be reviewed.*

*The AHRC has a new* [*Centre for Cultural Value*](https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/centre-cultural-value-1) *(IB noted that heritage now has a place within this – after being noticeably lacking previously.)*

**Subsequent HEWG meeting: Thursday 21st May – 10:30-12:30 at BEFS**