

**Partnership Board World Heritage Site of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales**

**10.2.2023**

**Apologies:**

Naomi Jones (Eryri National Park Authority), Kath Davies (National Museum of Wales), Sian Rees (ICOMOS-UK), Gareth Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd),

**Present:**

Lord Dafydd Wigley, Cllr Nia Jeffreys, Dafydd Gwyn (Govannon), Roland Evans (Cyngor Gwynedd), Kate Roberts (CADW), Hannah Joyce (Cyngor Gwynedd), Gwyneth Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd - Taking the Minutes), Ashley Batten (Cadw), Michael Bewick (JW Greaves), Ceri Williams (National Trust), Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Christopher Catling (RCAHMS), Andrew Edwards (Bangor University), Elen Roberts (National Museum of Wales), Esther Roberts (National Museum of Wales), Jonathan Cawley (Eryri National Park Authority), Lois Owens (Cyngor Gwynedd), Lucy Thomas (Cyngor Gwynedd), Sarah Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd)

<p>The apologies noted above were received.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b>          The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.</p>	
<p><b><u>1.</u> WHS Update</b>  <b>Conservation Sub-group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview – Kate (Chair)</li> </ul> <p>Kate reported that the Group was currently working on the UNESCO periodic report.</p> <p>At each meeting of the Conservation Sub-group, the members reviewed the management action plan.</p> <p>Kate reported that Planning Officers had held training for new Local Members.</p> <p>Gareth/Jonathan/Roland and Hannah to meet to discuss how to respond to any request for advice. Offered for them to attend the Planning Sub-group or the Interests Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection – Ashley</li> </ul> <p>A progress report was received from Ashley.</p> <p><b>Interests Sub-group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview – Michael</li> </ul> <p>It was reported that there were now New Members on the Interests sub-group - namely,</p>	

Always Aim High and Snowdonia Attractions.

Reference was made to a Tourism Company from Japan that was very eager to create a travel pack around World Heritage sites.

The idea of having evident specific key staff on heritage sites was discussed, who would be able to respond to visitors' enquiries about the heritage site.

It was noted that Zip World, Llechwedd and Dorothea had submitted a plan for discussion at the Interests Sub-group. These organisations were adapting their schemes and intended to attend a meeting of the Interests Sub-group once this had taken place.

- Financial applications - Hannah

Hannah reported that the application to the Levelling Up Fund had been a success. Grant conditions had been limited to three postcodes - therefore, there would be activities in the areas of Llanberis, Bethesda and Blaenau Ffestiniog.

- Redevelopment of Gilfach Ddu site - conservation work and remodelling spaces
- Bethesda – Neuadd Ogwen
- Redevelop Yr Hen Bost to create a heritage centre, business units and creative space
- Cycle and walking path to link Bethesda and Penrhyn Quarry.
- Parc Padarn – improve connectivity and paths within the Park, toilets, resurface the car park, re-purpose historical buildings including the return of the Fire Queen to Parc Padarn.
- Redevelop two empty shops in Blaenau Ffestiniog as a community hub
- Refurbish Aelwyd yr Urdd to be an interpretation and exhibition space and community/youth activity centre
- Cycle and walking path to link Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llechwedd Quarry

Funding available to undertake town centre improvements that include public art, interpretation and minor infrastructure improvements.

Funding available to undertake conservation work on historical assets in the three areas.

The Shared Prosperity Fund was alongside the Levelling Up Fund - an application had been submitted for communities that were not part of the Levelling Up Fund in order to make similar town centre improvements.

Members of the Board were incredibly grateful of the financial support that had been received.

Work on a communication plan.

Roland thanked Lord Wigley for the support.

Lord Wigley enquired about the timetable of the Slate Museum in terms of a Museum redevelopment in north Wales. Roland noted that a meeting was needed soon between Carwyn Williams, Leisure Resources Manager, Cyngor Gwynedd and the National Museum of Wales so that everyone was clear of the timetable and any implications of either project on the other. It was noted that there was a need to brief Llanberis Local Members about the plans.

<p>Cllr Nia Jeffreys referred to the Council’s financial position. It was difficult to know where funding sources would come from in future.</p> <p>Sioned referred to a discussion at the previous meeting about funding and targeting funding from several sources, along with the variety of partners. As a Council, we are looking at funding from the Local Authority towards slates in general but we can confirm that we can commit to a Coordinator post on a joint basis with CADW. There is a commitment via the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project officer during the development phase. A Levelling Up Fund application included funding for a core resources team officer. A paper would be received from Sioned at the next meeting noting resources. The risk would involve funding posts beyond the period of the grants. Plan so that we have core resources to keep the agenda going and then take advantage when opportunities arise.</p> <p>It was resolved that it would be an idea to send a note of thanks to Baroness Olivia Bloomfield. There would be a need to be clear in whose name the note of thanks should be sent - the Steering Board or the Council.</p> <p>Lord Wigley, Hannah, Roland and Sioned were thanked for the support in terms of Levelling up and SPF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretation – Hannah</li> </ul> <p>Review of the interpretation scheme in place, Headland company appointed.</p> <p><b>Cross-cutting themes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Language - Gwenllian / Roland</li> </ul> <p>Roland would invite Dr Sara Parry, Bangor University to give a presentation at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cynog Prys, School of Welsh, Bangor University was currently piloting initial research on the impact of the designation on the Welsh language and people's feelings on receiving the designation.</p> <p>Invite them to attend the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor economy - Roland</li> </ul> <p>Roland reported that a draft visitor economy scheme would be submitted to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet in February 2023.</p>	
<p><b><u>2.</u> Unesco Periodic Report - Kate</b></p> <p>The Board's input was needed on how to respond to the two questions in the UNESCO periodic report, as well as any example we felt that showed a good example within the WHS of protection, conservation or management.</p> <p><i>Please rate the impacts of WH Status of the property in relation to the following areas:</i></p> <p><i>13.1.4 Quality of life for local communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Not applicable</i></li> <li>• <i>Negative</i></li> <li>• <i>No impact</i></li> <li>• <i>Positive</i></li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Very Positive</i></li> </ul> <p>A discussion was held on how to respond to the questions. The majority were of the opinion that this question should receive a 'positive' response. Some were of the opinion that we should not be too ambitious in this round and respond more positively in the next round in five years. Some Board members felt that a high score should be given. These responses would be our baseline for the future.</p> <p><i>Are key indicators defined and in place for the following principal assets of the property?</i></p> <p><i>10.3.6 Capacity Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Not applicable</i></li> <li>• <i>No indicators</i></li> <li>• <i>Indicators have been defined but are not in use yet</i></li> <li>• <i>Indicators are in place and in use since the last Periodic Reporting Cycle</i></li> </ul> <p>Esther noted that it was important to gather the data so that data was available to help to answer the questions in future.</p> <p>It was resolved that Chairs of the Slate Groups would sign the UNESCO periodic report before the end of March and bring a copy before this Board. A draft copy would be shared with Board Members before the end of March.</p>	
<p><b><u>3.</u> Workshop and presentation by Lucy</b></p> <p>The purpose of the workshop was to identify target audiences for the Lottery project, and to also identify the difference we wanted to see in the area as a result of receiving Lottery funding.</p> <p>In our successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the development period (2022-23), the points in the discussion paper were noted as i) the main purpose of the project, ii) the people or groups who would benefit from the project and iii) the results we would have aimed to deliver at the end of the five-year delivery period (2024-30). As we developed the application for the delivery period, members were asked to consider whether or not these were still relevant and our priorities or was there a need to revise them?</p> <p>Board members were asked to send their observations on the questions to Lucy by mid-March.</p>	
<p><b><u>4.</u> Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Slate Museum photography competition - an exhibition would be launched in May - National Harp Festival over Easter at Galeri, Caernarfon.</p> <p>Dafydd Gwyn was wished good luck when receiving his honour.</p> <p>It was resolved to send a letter of thanks to David Anderson, National Museum of Wales, as he was leaving his post.</p> <p>International Collaboration (Roland) - Roland noted that the meeting to be held with Dafydd Gwyn to discuss this would need to be rearranged. Everyone was reminded that</p>	

<p>collaboration took place between Bangor University and Michigan State Technical College. Professor Andrew Edwards noted that he was very supportive of the continuation of the collaboration project.</p>	
<p><b><u>5.</u> Date of the next meeting</b></p> <p><b>21 April at 11:00am – Presentation from Dr Sara Parry</b></p> <p><b>Paper from Sioned re: finance</b></p>	