

Partnership Board Meeting, Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site

16.11.2023

Apologies:

Kath Davies (Amgueddfa Cymru), Esther Roberts (Amgueddfa Cymru), Naomi Jones (Parc Cenedlaethol), Gary Robinson (Prifysgol Bangor), Gwyneth Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd).

Present:

Yr Arglwydd Dafydd Wigley (chair), Cyng. Nia Jeffreys, Kate Roberts (Cadw), Ashley Batten (Cadw), Michael Bewick (JW Greaves), Elen Roberts (Amgueddfa Cymru), Ceri Williams (Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol), Dafydd Gwyn (Govannon), Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Roland Wyn Evans (Cyngor Gwynedd), Hannah Joyce (Cyngor Gwynedd), Tom Simone (Cyngor Gwynedd), Lucy Thomas (Cyngor Gwynedd), Dan Amor (Cyngor Gwynedd), Gareth Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd, Zoom), Sian Rees (ICOMOS, Zoom).

<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies noted, everyone welcomed by chair. 	
<p>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation panel, Abergynolwyn: matter is closed. • Review of WHS-related academic work, Bangor University: project discussed informally by relevant members of the board and Conservation sub-group. • Education and Learning sub-group: to be discussed at next Benefiting sub-group meeting. 	<p>DA: add to next Benefiting agenda</p>
<p>WHS Update</p> <p>Conservation sub-group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Conservation meeting will be early in the new year, with a focus on the built environment. • ICOMOS, key views: to be prioritised during the following Conservation meeting. Sian Rees as the ICOMOS representative could then be invited to that following meeting. • We need to ensure our mechanism monitors impact on settings but doesn't restrict us. • Key views do apply to the Castles WHS, could we apply principles to Slate Landscape WHS. We need to consider key views. Intervisibility an important component of the WHS. • Concern regarding settlements in WHS, a delay in activity understandable but we must not abandon altogether. 	

- Key views need to be incorporated into planning process. We could monitor how many planning decisions have considered key views / effect on WHS. But one view might mean different things to different people.
- We need a robust methodology with which we can use in reporting to UNESCO
- Are we assessing impact of key views effectively, are there any gaps? We need to ‘pull together’, all agreed this is the way forward. **Key views to remain a live item on the Conservation group agenda.**
- Informal advice sessions have been taking place, with a focus on LUF projects at Parc Padarn.
- A pause on **designation work** – conservation and development projects taking up most of AB’s time.
- Pause on **local management plans** – although useful prior to inscription, feedback suggests they do not now always meet the needs of landowners, are not ‘live’ documents.
- We could refer to LMPs when asked, when there is urgent need.
- **Designation update:** Dinorwig will be one large scheduled area rather than a series of smaller areas. This will be taking place soon. Process can’t be rushed as this could lead to future complications (e.g. revision of scheduled area’s boundary).
- Zipworld are onboard with the idea of a Local Management Plan.
- It was suggested contacting Zipworld with a view to piloting a new LMP format and that a proactive approach by landowners will be prioritised.
- We could make use of heritage partnership agreements if needed. Of benefit when ongoing maintenance of an asset is required. This makes sense in theory, if implemented correctly.
- It was agreed a masterplan / vision is a good idea and referenced placemaking plans. Can Zipworld be encouraged to make greater contact with councillors in the area?

DA: add to next Conservation agenda

Benefitting sub-group

- Do we need a discussion on declaration of interest regarding the Ambition Board Funding for Llechwedd? Board doesn’t currently foresee a conflict of interest.
- Informal planning advice sessions have been beneficial to participants, a good way of bringing the Conservation and Benefitting groups together.
- Business event planned for Spring (working CG Local Business Support Officer).
- We need a meeting with CG on tourism, but capacity is proving to be an issue.
- Hub, Blaenau Ffestiniog – a good partnership group is coming together, good mix of the private and public sectors looking to commission an options appraisal for creating a WHS Interpretation Hub.
- Management Plan Theme 5 (Learning, Education) – will be discussed at the next Benefitting sub-group meeting.

Informal advice sessions

- These take place prior formal planning process. Three meetings since we last met. Teams to remain available for LUF projects. We need to ensure all parties engage in discussion, a ‘joined up’ approach to meetings. We need more coordination. Consider consistency of visitor experience, visitor journey.
- Museum needs to maintain a dialogue with Gwynedd tenants. Llyn Padarn Railway would like greater involvement in the process. Invite **EC to future meetings.**

ER: invite EC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum now in a better position to explain the nature of the project and Cyngor Gwynedd’s role therein. We need to make sure community councils are better represented at these meetings. • We need to bring Gwynedd tenants into the conservation, ensure stakeholders feel part of the process. • Consultation phase will happen next. Project is progressing. We know what we can move forward with. • There is ongoing work to ensure different projects are brought together. • If further clarity is needed, address this matter of urgency, before planning enters formal process. Important these matters are addressed so we don’t run out of time. • The Hospital is an important part of the story and is part of the overall plan. • It was agreed we need to track progress of funding (LUF, Lottery etc.,) • How do we let how communities know what difference these various programmes are making to communities? CG: this will form part of the team’s work on Sustainable Tourism – impact, do communities feel the effects of projects. <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Llewyrch o’r Llechi projects (LUF) • During informal planning advice sessions, it would be beneficial make more time to discuss issues (Parc Padarn). • Lafan have been awarded the public art tender. • Dyffryn Ogwen: work has started at Porth Penryn on the improvements to Lon Las Ogwen. Hen Bost: work expected to start April. Neuadd Ogwen: sound proofing nearly done. • Blaenau Ffestiniog: planning decision (Antur Stiniog): end of November. • We’re supportive public art but we need effective community engagement. • Not confirmed yet but we have the chance to state out case for LUF extension. • Update on Lottery projects. • Wellbeing Programme pilot activities a great success. • Various commissions are progressing well. • This group needs to approve the next Lottery application before it is submitted. • Letters of support (partners) also required. • Chairs of WHS Groups will sign off the final application and documents. • SPF: support for projects in Tywyn, Porthmadog, Penygroes. 	<p>LT: circulate papers Group and chairs: to approve submission</p>
<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Tourist Economy: operational strategy in place by February – we’ll cover this during our next meeting. • Llechi Cymru Communications Strategy: approaching completion. • Finish and submit social media policy. 	<p>DA: finish social media policy</p>
<p>Date of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd February 2024. 	