

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

22.09.2023

Apologies:

Kath Davies (Amgueddfa Cymru), Jon Cawley (Parc Cenedlaethol), Andrew Edwards (Prifysol Bangor), Ashley Batten (Cadw), Gareth Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd), Gwyneth Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd), Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Sara Scott (Cyngor Gwynedd), Kate Roberts (Cadw), Sian Rees (ICOMOS), Lucy Thomas (Cyngor Gwynedd).

Present:

Yr Arglwydd Dafydd Wigley (chair), Cyng. Nia Jeffreys, Michael Bewick (JW Greaves), Gary Robinson (Prifysgol Bangor, Zoom), Elen Roberts (Amgueddfa Cymru), Tom Simone (Cyngor Gwynedd), Esther Roberts (Amgueddfa Cymru), Ellen Bonner (Prifysgol Bangor), Ceri Williams (Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol), Roland Wyn Evans (Cyngor Gwynedd), Hannah Joyce (Cyngor Gwynedd), Dafydd Gwyn (Govannon, Zoom), Dan Amor (Cyngor Gwynedd)

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| <p>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies noted, everyone welcomed by chair. | |
| <p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel, Abergynolwyn – Community Council have kindly refused Cyngor Gwynedd’s offer of a second interpretation panel, and will be working with Cyngor Gwynedd to explore other interventions in the village to depict their slate heritage. Cyngor Gwynedd to update the member of the public who raised concerns about the first panel. Blaenau Ffestiniog bus route – send letter of concern to Transport for Wales regarding the change in the timetable. | <p>HJ HJ</p> |
| <p>3. WHS Update</p> <p>Action plan review</p> <p>Looking to streamline and amend existing MP actions to make them more meaningful and reflective of the WHS.</p> <p>Importance of tightening our reporting procedure noted. KR, HJ and DA have been updating the action plan. Current priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for Slate Landscapes document Briefs for Levelling Up Fund (LUF) conservation projects Risk register | |

- ICOMOS key views
- Recording housing developments

Theme 5 – Learning

- Concern has been raised that Theme 5 may not have been given as much of a priority as some other MP actions. Consideration on how to improve implementation of Theme 5.
- Agreed that ‘learning’ should include informal and vocational learning.
- An education officer (Lottery funding) could help pull this theme together.
- We need to draw upon the various teaching expertise partner members clearly possess and reconnect with the university.
- University students now taking part in recording work at Dorothea.
- **Agreed that the next Benefitting Group meeting will have an education/learning theme, and this may lead to an education sub-group being in place before next Lottery phase. Keep Theme 5 a live agenda item.**
- NJ: in particular, Ysgol Eifion Wyn, Porhtmadog and Youth Services in that area open to taking part in projects.
- **Agreed that GR and DG will look to create and maintain a list of academic works associated with the slate landscape / industry.**

DA, HJ

GR / DG

Annual meeting and report

- AM set for Thursday 16th November, Blaenau Ffestiniog. Cell B as possible venue. Entertainment or public walk could help attract more attendees.

Agreed summaries of Conservation and Benefitting group meetings to be used moving forwards

Conservation sub-group

- Local Management Plans – reconsidering if these remain fit for purpose in existing format. Looking to simplify them and ensure they are live documents..
- Cynlluniau Lleol / Cynlluniau Cynefin have been superseded by Cynllun Ardal.
- Importance / difficulty of recording baseline effect of WH site on Welsh language discussed. We need to be confident in how this is interpreted.
- LUF-related conservation briefs to be advertised next week.
- ICOMOS ‘key views’ – difficult to define within the context of our WH site and in terms of planning. **Keep as a live agenda item.**
- DW: concerned about LUF projects being delivered on time. Conservation group - confident we can deliver on conservation projects, AB is prioritising these.
- Heritage Crime – a North Wales group is being formed. DW: involve Liz Saville Roberts if the police don’t attend the next meeting.
- **Ask KR if alright to wait until north Wales resources are produced before circulating.**
- Periodic review – final submission sent to UNESCO July 2023, awaiting feedback on individual submission, and UK wide submission. Should receive feedback October 2023.
- Protection – AB (not present) still working on Dinorwig designations.

DA, HJ

DA

Benefitting sub-group

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are going well, attendance rising. Various developments taking place e.g. Llechwedd, Breedon, Slate Museum. Documenting architecture at Dorothea. • Lafan’s work on the traditional skills brief is encouraging (Lottery funded, currently at scoping stage). ER: this project is important to the museum. • Drop-in session on Maenofferen development well attended. • We need to start delivering now - many now aware of our WH status. • Concern regarding the Blaenau Ffestiniog hub – there’s need for a heritage officer to move things along. • Make next Benefits meeting education focussed. • Businesses event planned for spring. • MB: North Wales Economic Ambition Board funded projects (including green transport network) are in early stages. More diallage needed between NWEAB and WH site. NJ: Dyfrig or Alwen could facilitate this – future presentation to Benefitting group? • DA to circulate presentations from Benefiting group meeting. • Croeso Cymru: Gwynedd teams needs to focus on WH site but we need to clarify what we want. DW: not enough done at UK level to promote Wales. <p>Informal feedback on developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slate Museum have been in contact, date set for Parc Padarn. Zip World found the process useful. • DW: timescale for the Museum re-development is very challenging, urged the museum to raise any issues with the Board if needed. | <p>DA, MB, HJ, DA</p> <p>DA</p> |
| <p>4. Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TS summarised Llewyrch o’r Llechi activity. • DW urged TS to flag any risks to the project. . • NJ: good to hear about the public art project. • Action: HJ to brief NJ about the public art project • Slate Museum redevelopment: ER presented on recent progress • MB asked regarding commitment to making the museum a WHS hub HJ to provide additional information. <p>NHLF projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HJ summarised the various briefs currently underway. • LT to provide a more comprehensive report at a future date. • HJ mentioned Wellbeing Slate Stories event, 7th October 2023 at Plas Tan y Bwlch. See Llechi Cymru Facebook page for further details. DA to circulate flier with meeting notes. • DA to contact group regarding involvement with Young Slate Ambassadors project | <p>HJ</p> <p>HJ</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> |
| <p>5. Crosscutting themes</p> <p>Ellen Bonner, Prifysgol Bangor, presentation: Research: Welsh Language and the Sustainable Visitor Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What opportunities arise relating to Welsh language in terms of WH site? • Focus groups, Bethesda: concerns include: effects of tourism on the Welsh language, young people leaving the area to find work. | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DW: asked about relationship between community, language, tourism and young people ‘not seeing a future’. ‘Did this come through in the survey?’ • EB explained the sample for the project was small, caution needed when making assertions at present. • NJ asked EB and the board if more work is needed on this topic, that we frequently hear ‘tourism – kills language, benefits people’. • RE: ‘health warning from the small sample’, bigger piece of work would be very useful. Chimes with the forthcoming Sustainable Tourism Strategy. Scope for working with ARFOR? • MB: would like to see expansion of quantitative research to Welsh speakers in front line roles in tourism industry. There’s a friction we could address. • DW: this work is very important. Can it continue? ‘Lets have an informal chat to see if we can help’. • Can we encourage young people to work in the tourist sector? <p>Sustainable visitor economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Tourism Strategy launches on Monday 25th September 2023. • Overview during next board meeting. <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TS summarised the communication strategy he’s been working on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blog page on website - Make people feel part of the WH site - Let people know what we’re doing - Personal elements – e.g. more ‘slate people’ stories - Please give us any feedback or ideas • NJ: agreed regarding the value of the personal, face to face angle and agreed we need a communication strategy. | RE |
| <p>6. Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise arrangements for annual meeting. • 16th November, in conjunction with annual meeting • Entertainment, or a public guided walk (DG?) • Blaenau Ffestiniog | |
| <p>7. Date of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16th November 2023. <p>Agenda items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 5 (Education). • ICOMOS key views • Levelling Up Fund update | |