

IN CONFIDENCE

HISTORIC MONUMENTS COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE 145th MEETING HELD IN
THE BARRACK ROOM, ENNISKILLEN CASTLE**

ON

WEDNESDAY, 25TH JUNE 2008 AT 1.30PM

PRESENT:

Mr R Black, Chairman
Mrs R Evans
Mr D Flinn
Mr I Hill
Mrs H Lanigan Wood
Mr J Moore
Dr K Muhr

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr B Williams, EHS
Ms C Foley, EHS
Mr J O'Keeffe

Mr C Francey, Secretariat

HMC VISIT TO ENNISKILLEN CASTLE

Ms S McHugh, curator of the Fermanagh County Museum and Mr M Scott, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Regimental Museum welcomed members to Enniskillen Castle. Ms McHugh informed members that the two museums had come together to carry out a refurbishment project which aimed to clarify the chronology of the Castle's site and help understand its history. Ms McHugh and Mr Scott gave members a preview of the work and the new settings for displaying the museums military exhibits. Members were impressed by the new arrangements and the interactive content of much of the material.

The Chairman thanked Ms McHugh and Ms Scott for giving Council the opportunity to see how the refurbishment project had progressed.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr T Canavan, Dr F McCormick, Mr B Black, Mr P Walsh, Ms A Moreno, Mrs L McShane, Mr J O'Neill and Mr C Mallon.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Caroline Barry, EHS to the meeting.

2. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

2.1 Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

The Chairman informed members that the new environment agency for Northern Ireland will be launched on the 1st July, at Carrickfergus Castle.

2.2 Ministerial Statement on Environmental Governance - 27th May 2008

The Chairman drew Council's attention to the Minister's statement on environmental governance. It was to be noted that the Minister recognised the valuable input by the SACs to the process and is therefore to reconstitute HMC next Spring. This process is underway.

3. MINUTES OF 144TH MEETING OF 23RD APRIL 2008

The minutes of the meeting of the 23rd April 2008 were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING REPORT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 144TH MEETING.

4.1 DEVENISH ISLAND

Dr Williams reported that the situation regarding the negotiations with the owner of Devenish Island had still to be resolved. It appears the matter was complicated because EHS had built a visitors centre building on the owners land without permission. The owner had also raised a query about the scheduling of the site. It was noted that Power of Attorney has been given to relatives of the owner. However, EHS did not believe that there was anything sinister in this and that access to the Island would not be affected.

Council was concerned that the land and management issues still remain unresolved and agreed that the Chairman should write to the EHS Chief Executive suggesting that urgent action be taken to settle the matter.

ACTION: Write to EHS Chairman

4.2 Boa Island

Mrs Lanigan Wood raised some concerns about the design of shelters for carved stone monuments. She believed that the temporary shelter covering for the Boa Island figure had proved successful but this should not be considered as a permanent arrangement.

Council recognised there were a number of issues in protecting vulnerable carved stones, many of which could be considered as monuments at risk. It was also noted that there are still issues with the protection of Donaghmore Cross and Ardboe Cross.

It was agreed that there should be a substantive agenda item about the protection of carved stones at a future meeting.

ACTION: Include as agenda item for future meeting EHS

5. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING NOT ON MAIN AGENDA

There were no other matters arising not on the main agenda.

6. PRESENTATION ON EHS STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Ms C Barry, EHS Strategy Unit, introduced the paper on the EHS State of the Environment Report NI. She outlined some of the background to the rationale for the Report and highlighted some of the key issues considered for its

content, which has 30 baseline indicators, 2 of which refer to the built heritage. Ms Barry explained the problems in identifying suitable indicators for the built heritage other than doing a count of monuments and listed buildings, particularly in how to measure the condition of monuments and listed buildings to give a better reflection of the state of the built heritage. It was important to ensure that appropriate indicators are established to deal with the key challenges of the future. Ms Barry outlined the next steps in identifying the information for future reports. She explained that NISRA is to produce an annual environmental statistics report and is undertaking an exercise to establish indicators and mechanisms for data. It will be doing this through meetings with various stakeholders.

In discussion the following points emerged –

- Members noted the lack of definitive indicators for measuring outputs of the built heritage.
- It would be useful to have the outcome of the CAMSAR review which covered the treatment of field monuments.
- There was a need to establish what data should be used in determining the outcome of the built heritage, for example, data should be gathered on protected monuments and those that are not protected so that the gap can be identified and problems addressed.
- between the two can be addressed. It was important that the baseline should recognise the gap.
- EHS was engaging with stakeholders in identifying cross – cutting issues.
- Baseline assessments should assist in determining if enough resources are available for built heritage functions.

The Chairman thanked Ms Barry for her presentation.

7. PROPOSALS FOR SCHEDULING for 2008-09 (HM 451)

In accordance with the requirement for EHS to consult with Council under Article 3(6) of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, Ms C Foley, EHS presented 12 sites, including some sites of industrial heritage interest, proposed for Scheduling in counties Down and Fermanagh . Dr K Muhr commented on the place-names relating to these sites.

Council endorsed the scheduling of the following sites:

County Down

DOW 011:032	Castle Espie, Shell Midden
DOW 011:501	Castle Espie, Brickworks, powder and explosives store
DOW 031:500	Castle Espie, Brickworks
DOW 024:031	Corporation (Killyleagh) ecclesiastical site, Killowen Church

DOW 031:002

Loughmoney, Portal Tomb 'Loughmoney Dolmen

County Fermanagh

FER 170:038

Farrancassidy, mound

FER 171:016

Rossmore, Round cairn 'Black Fort'

FER 172:028

Aghameelan, standing stones

FER 209:006

Corraderrybrock, stone circle

FER 228:036

Drumwillin, round cairn

FER 230:096

Derryharney, Barrow Cemetery and burnt mounds

In the case of a proposal for Carr, Mesolithic Occupation site, members felt that there should be some other form of evidence to corroborate the status of this site. Ms Foley undertook to investigate this and report back to Council.

ACTION: Investigate site and report to Council Ms Foley

8. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT STATE CARE MONUMENTS IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

Mr J O'Keeffe tabled a paper on the provision of information in multiple languages. He circulated a number of EHS publications about Carrickfergus Castle in various languages which are to be made available at the launch of the new agency, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Mr O'Keeffe explained that the rationale for the use of a number of languages in EHS publications was based on the increased population of immigrants from Europe and further afield and the recognition of government's position on inclusivity.

A number of views were expressed by members about the use of other languages. Some members felt that there was too wide a range of languages and believed that such a diverse number was not value for money. Other members commended EHS on its initiative to use other languages and promote inclusivity. They believed that this could impact on a long shelf life for EHS educational publications. However, members suggested that the politics of using multiple languages should be checked with the Minister.

Members noted that in a recent meeting EHS had with the UK Home Counties Liaison Group, they had discussed how heritage can be used for mutual understanding and recognised the contribution to be made by bilingual policies.

In conclusion, Council welcomed the EHS approach to a language based culture and the opportunity to make monuments more accessible to a diverse population, but Council was concerned about the practicalities and costs of introducing such a wide range of languages.

9. HMC REPORT

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the status of the HMC Report with PEPG and it has been established that HMC is to have an end-of-term report from now on. It was agreed that the current report should cover the period 2003-2009. The text of the Report is at an advanced stage and the Secretariat is to circulate a copy to members. When the text has been

