

# CROSS PARTY GROUP on ARCHITECTURE and the BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## Notes of Meeting and AGM

“Brexit”

Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 6pm  
Committee Room 1  
The Scottish Parliament

**Present:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mr	Scott	Aitken	Scottish Parliament
Mr	Keith	Baker	Glasgow Caledonian University
Mr	Neil	Baxter	RIAS
Mr	Christopher	Dingwall	
Mr	Nick	Domminney	Hoskins Architects
Ms	Linda	Fabiani	MSP
Ms	Kelly	Forbes	Institution of Civil Engineers
Me	Andrew	Haley	Ministerial Advisory Group (NI)
Mr	Stewart	Henderson	RIAS President
Ms	Carol-Ann	Hildersley	RIAS
Mr	James	Hobson	Buro Happold
Mr	Sam	Ibbott	Association for Consultancy and Engineering
Mr	John	Inman	The City of Edinburgh Council
Mr	Neil	Kelly	Macroberts - Speaker
Mr	Euan	Leitch	Built Environment Forum Scotland
Ms	Gloria	Lo	OISA Designs
Ms	Nikola	Miller	Homes for Scotland
Mr	Eugene	Mullan	Smith Scott Mullan Associates
Ms	Gina	Netto	Heriot-Watt University
Mr	Miles	Oglethorpe	Historic Environment Scotland
Mr	Bill	Pagan	Built Environment Forum Scotland
Mr	Peter	Riddoch	Peter Riddoch Architect
Mr	Mike	Russell	MSP - Speaker
Mr	Alistair	Scott	Smith Scott Mullan Associates
Mr	Les	Scott	Scottish Government
Ms	Clare	Sorensen	Historic Environment Scotland
Ms	Karen	Stevenson	RIAS
Mr	Charles	Strang	

## Apologies:

Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation
Dr	Peter	Burman	BEFS
Mrs	Jocelyn	Cunliffe	Gray, Marshall & Associates
Mr	Angus	Gilmour	Argyll & Bute Council
Mr	Robert	Gray	Aberdeenshire Council
Mr	Nick	Groves-Raines	Groves-Raines Architects
Ms	Gill	Henry	Hart Builders
Ms	Rebecca	Hughes	Landscape Institute
Mr	John	Lawson	City of Edinburgh Council
Mr	Rob	Pedersen	Dundee City Council
Ms	Gwen	Raez	Visit Scotland
Mr	Dennis	Rodwell	
Ms	Deborah	Spratt	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Mr	Simon	Winstanley	Simon Winstanley Architects

## Welcome

Ms Fabiani welcomed the speakers and all those in attendance.

### ***(AGM - Chaired by Mike Russell MSP)***

#### **1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last AGM were read out by Linda Fabiani MSP. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Christopher Dingwall and seconded by Euan Leitch.

#### **2. Financial Report**

The Financial Report was circulated to the group. It was proposed by Nick Domminney and seconded by Eugene Mullan.

#### **3. Office Bearers 2018**

The Convenor of the Group, Linda Fabiani MSP, was re-nominated for this role and the meeting was unanimous and positive on her continuing in this capacity. Tavish Scott MSP was nominated for the role of Vice Convenor and again there was unanimous agreement.

It was agreed that Craig McLaren's offer (in absentia) to continue to serve as Group treasurer was welcomed.

As Neil Baxter had stepped down as Secretary of the RIAS, the meeting nominated the RIAS' Karen Stevenson for this role as Group Secretariat and she was duly elected.

### ***(Remainder of the Meeting - Chaired by Linda Fabiani MSP)***

#### **4. The Group welcomed Neil Kelly, Partner, MacRoberts LLP**

Neil spoke of the legal impact of Brexit on the Scottish Construction Industry, although unsure of the outcomes and where Scotland will sit. He believes we must maintain free movement of people and goods as he fears skilled workers may not come as rights for workers are "watered down". He believes that the documents produce by the Government are aspirational rather than guidance. He further stated, the cost of construction in Scotland may increase as an indirect effect of Brexit. Constructors must plan ahead. There is no idea of scale/size of the impact. In conclusion "the Brexit clock is ticking".

**5. The Group welcomed Mike Russell MSP, The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe**

Mike Russell believes that there are three key areas which could severely damage Scotland – People, Money, Regulatory- resulting from Brexit.

There are four freedoms which are essential: goods, services, capital and people. The Scots depend on migration. A continuation of the single market is essential.

Among the issues Mike raised were:

Direct/indirect tariff barriers - would be a major problem.

Investment – may impinge on ability to provide affordable housing, health and economy.

Procurement – replacement unknown.

Recognition of qualifications – not guaranteed.

European investments banks' lending/funding – there will be funds but unsure what they will be.

Historic environment – continuation of EU funding unknown.

He highlighted a need for campaigning, assertion with EU colleagues, as the issues need to be known. 9/10 Scottish businesses have not yet consulted with their banks. Only 500 days until we leave the EU.

**6. Discussion**

There were a number of comments/questions from the floor. Mostly expressing concerns around academic funding, mutual recognition of qualifications, single market etc.

The 58 sectoral papers were discussed. It was agreed that these were not deep examinations of the sectors and didn't really tell us much. Some felt they were purely aspirational.

It was noted that some of the bigger contractors are moving out of Scotland and therefore the smaller consultants are picking up these projects, however they are less resilient.

Mike Russell reiterated the need for discussions and campaigning to continue. There must be consistency through the industry.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Committee Room 1 - Topic: TBC.

The Group is supported by:-

**Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland**

**Royal Town Planning Institute**