



Scottish
Transport &
Industry
Collections
Knowledge
network

**Minutes of STICK meeting held at Aberdeen
Maritime Museum
10th May 2010**

Present	
Rowan Brown (NMS), Alexander Hayward (NMS), Georgina Ripley (MGS), Megan Combe (NMS), Catherine Gillies (Hope MacDougall Collection), Miriam McDonald (RCAHMS), Jenny Brown (Aberdeen City Museums), David Woodcock (Subject Specialist Advisor)	
1. Apologies	
Sean Curran and Justin Parkes (North Lanarkshire), Ellie Swinbank (Scottish Mining Museum), Karen Bell (Almond Valley), Kiara King (Ballast Trust), Niamh Conlon (Falkirk Museums),	
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting	
Minutes of 8 March 2010 were approved	
3. Matters Arising	ACTION
No matter arising	
4. Update on Effective Collections Scheme	ACTION
DW introduced 2 draft documents for discussion: Scope of Collections Review and Object Assessment Checklist.	
<p>Scope of Collections Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is material likely to be able to dispose of ethically as well as material useful for developing a “master catalogue” of domestic technologies across Scotland. This is also material that Tools for Self Reliance will accept, or can pass on to Work Aid (a similar charity with a broader scope). A full discussion of this document followed. RB questioned whether it was too ambitious for museums to review all these areas by June 9th and included potentially hazardous objects, such as items with asbestos components. CG suggested it may be easier for smaller museums as they are likely to have fewer items, as it will also be their first time considering disposal it is likely to be an exchange of ideas for them at this stage. <p>Object Assessment Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the checklist devised for use on the drop-in days. It is hoped that STICK will retain one copy, but the participant to take back to museum to begin disposals process. Larger items – details and images can be brought to the drop-ins or emailed directly to DW for an 	<p>1. DW to refine Scope document without heat/light/electrical items but retain “domestic technology” generally</p> <p>2. CG to make a list domestic items (eg. Butter churns) that small rural museums are likely to have, for DW</p>

<p>assessment. RB reported that there was a small budget for arranging central collection but local branches of Tools for Self reliance should be used whenever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JBr asked whether we should ask if the museum was Accredited and/or had a Disposals policy, CG agreed it was not intimidating to ask this. CG felt that as this will be new to a lot of smaller museums it would be useful to have packs containing disposals toolkits, help and advice for participants to take away. RB suggested we should ask if they have disposed before. CG will be encouraging participation locally before the Highland Folk Museum drop-in and preparing these museums for taking part. DW asked CG whether she thought collections in these museums would be documented, CG thought about half would be usefully documented but that a lot of knowledge would be invested in key individuals. MC thought the form should include an option to join the STICK email list. All felt we should encourage pre-event registration and ask for them to send the Acquisitions & Disposals policy before the event where possible. It was also felt we need to make it very clear that objects can not be left at the drop-in events venues. 	<p>3. DW to revise Checklist to include questions on Accreditation, Disposals Policies and previous disposals, and option to join STICK.</p> <p>4. Effective Collections Project team to assemble materials for information packs, look into duplication of Checklists and availability of digital cameras during drop-ins</p>
<p>Drop in workshops</p> <p>Drop in events should have a small selection of staged objects (star items and disposals) at the venue for discussion and publicity. JP will provide these for launch event. AH suggested that any star objects offered for disposal during the project should be offered to other museums first (it was hoped these items would not be disposed of). During drop-ins, MC will direct participants to STICK members present with a particular specialism. JBr asked whether it would be useful to have some key reference books on hand.</p> <p>RB reported that brief training on the checklist would take place before the launch event (around 9 am), STICK members should attend where possible.</p> <p>MC reported on the current rota for steering group members at each drop-in venue. All steering group members should try to attend the launch if possible – MM offered to ask JH and chase Historic Scotland and an representative from TICCHI to ensure a rounded attendance.</p> <p>MC showed examples of official invitations for approval. Agreed. Will also be trying to target specific groups through email such as the museums thinktank, rural museums network, museum fora, MGS connect and council museums. CG asked whether we could use facebook but it was felt that this raised too many access and security issues at present.</p>	<p>5. ALL Steering group members to email MC to confirm attendance at drop-ins and with details of their Specialisms and a note of any useful reference texts they could bring</p>

<p>Publicity RB reported she and MC had had a meeting with the NMS publicity officer. NMS will write the press release for the Launch, targeting sector publications, which will be circulated for bespoke adaptation for each venue. It was felt we should primarily target sector publications and internal communication networks for local authorities. Depending on the response, local history societies could also be targeted. CG offered to do some groundwork in the highland areas.</p>	<p>6. RB and MC to write and circulate press release to Steering Group</p>
<p>5. Conference 2010</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>MM reported that Kelvingrove has been booked for 16th October. MM and GR are trying to encourage Neil Ballantyne from Glasgow Museums to apply for an MGS small grant to cover the catering costs, in order to demonstrate Glasgow's support of STICK but this has not progressed for some time. It was suggested the SC could possibly apply instead, although it might be less successful. MM reported that Sir Neil Cossons is unavailable for the conference. AH suggested Nick Winterbottom from Birmingham's Thinktank. Other suggestions were Jim Arnold and Frank Little. It was felt that the speakers were coming together around the theme of "Innovative Solutions", allowing STICK to follow up points raised at the 2009 Conference such as sustainability of industrial sites, public engagement and adaptive re-use. CG suggested that a speaker from the Climate Change Fund (who have funding assistance for converting old buildings to be greener) would be good.</p>	<p>7. GR to follow up with Glasgow museums</p> <p>8. AH to forward contact details for Nick Winterbottom to Conference team</p> <p>9. CG to forward contact details for the Climate Change Fund to Conference team</p> <p>10. SC to do a flyer for the conference for inclusion in the Effective Collection info packs</p>
<p>6. WEB update</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>JP, NC and KK were absent. Mc reported that NC was looking into security and updating of the website. The Google Analytics was now working again, revealing a lot of hits in January shortly after the email to the membership. It was felt we should update the site more often to keep it useful. RB suggested a blog would be very good, especially if DW could contribute update on the Effective Collections project. DW was agreeable.</p>	<p>NC and KK to look into a blog</p>
<p>7. AOCB</p>	<p>ACTION</p>

