



Discussion Notes

Miriam McDonald

Summary of discussion

Good that the meeting could happen to discuss what happening throughout the sector. The vision was there and the key stakeholders were well represented in the room.

Who should take a bold vision forward?

Education and adult learning and Inventive Scotland were part of the picture as much as the Policy Review currently being undertaken by Historic Scotland about the built environment in general. What we understand as 'Cultural' means that there is no barrier to industrial heritage being as 'current' as family history or fine art.

The lack of respect for materials and how it is created is a problem generally because we live in a world of passive consumption. The promotion of active consideration of industrial heritage's involvement in creating the landscape in which we live and the thought-world we all inhabit should be a goal.

We all have to promote, defend and industrial heritage in a language that other people will understand and the commonality about what we are trying to achieve.

It was agreed that policy in the broadest sense sets the framework but others like STICK etc. provide the joy of the serendipitous nature of the subject.

The Business Archives Data Mapping Project links archives globally and makes connections never before possible with records of businesses as are other archives using the web to link together like collections information across the piece. The meeting also considered those records we do not know about such as material held by collectors and enthusiasts, be it artefacts or paper records, there is much comparable information out there for which we have no basic signposting for what survives.

Machinery too - from the viewpoint of the general public to whom we need to appeal more, it is not of much interest or makes much sense if it is not working, or is working completely out of context. The 'Eye of the Beholder' aspect of industrial heritage is a difficult nut to crack. The link between industrial 'stuff' that many of us in the room go dewy-eyed over, needs to link to people. If cannot make this link, then industrial heritage is doing itself a disservice and will wither on the vine.

- We need to record the people who articulate what the value of the material is.
- We need to persuade the non-believers, not preach to the converted.
- We need to list and audit to understand the totality of the material evidence of the industrial past.

There needs to be advocacy amongst the public/politicians and curatorial sectors need to be convincing non-specialists why industrial heritage is important - more than or as important as fine art and that the industrial developments in 18th century Britain and subsequently had a profound impact on the world, the aftermath of which we still encounter in our everyday lives.

The perennial question of how to assess and identify the gaps in museum collections illustrating Scotland's industrial development and live industries which need to be recorded now. It was agreed that working with other collectors to identify the totality of industrial artefacts surviving in Scotland was also a desirable goal, but difficult. Funding specialist collection enhancement in all museum sectors a challenge.

What STICK members want to get involved in:

- Themed Years – using hooks to
- Online projects – expansion of Canmore?
- International links
- Local history groups – find a way to capture their enthusiasm
- Further Education
- Heritage bodies working with industry
- Education/ skills sharing – Curriculum of Excellence, influencing policy, re-skilling, skills demonstrations
- Positioning as equal to creative industry
- Explaining the culture of working people

Projects and Initiatives (votes)

- "Map Your Industrial Heritage" – an industrial Doomsday Book (20)
- "If I had a Hammer" – hands on skills development for schools, practical skills (18)
- Forth Rail Bridge – celebrating its history beyond the Bridge. (15)
- Coordinated education initiative –with Education Scotland (3)
- Young people – engineering clubs, apprenticeships (3)
- Cabinet Secretary – think about an inventive Scotland encompassing engineering and manufacturing (2)
- Speakers to visit schools / enthusiastic amateurs to work with communities

