

Landscape Institute Northern Ireland

Landscape Institute Branch Forum meetings:

July 2014 to May 2015.

During the last twelve months there has been several Landscape Institute Branch forum meetings covering a range of topics and discussions to enhance, promote and improve the Landscape Institute for its members.

Dates of Landscape Branch Forum meetings during 2014/2015

- July 2014 attended by David Watkiss
- November 2014 attended by David Watkiss
- February 2015 attended by David Watkiss

LINI Landscape Branch forum meetings pertinent issues discussed;

Decline in University courses.

During the previous session 2013/2014 an issue of concern was highlighted around the declining numbers of university courses within the UK. At the time Chris Sheridan (Head of Education and Membership, Landscape Institute) advised the Landscape Institute are planning to improve the quality of educational data supplied to all branches. He noted this will ensure as a minimum, a pre arranged template of a presentation that could be adapted where required to suit 'local' issues and would be readily available for members to use accordingly in schools and at careers events.

During a recent conversation with Chris Sheridan (prior to our Advisory Council meeting in February 2015 the template for the 'Presentation pack' is ongoing.

Communication

After a considerable amount of time the LI have updated their Dotmailer lists, but during our last meeting, it was evident this was not something that could be achieved in one review. It was agreed LI would carry out ongoing updates to ensure all members were informed of events and ongoing debates. It was also agreed that the onus was on all members keeping their contact details upto date and inform the Institute of any changes to their current details.

Membership

1. LINI members raised concern regarding the Practice Fees which enabled organisations the opportunity to display their Practice and works on the Landscape Institute Website, whilst Sole Traders do not have the same opportunity or benefits, leaving them omitted from the List of Professional Practices.

It was agreed the Landscape Institute Committee would look into this issue to improve on increased exposure of Sole Traders on the Landscape Institute Website.

2. There was discussion with all branches as to how best to engage a wider group of members into volunteering and increasing their role in preparing for and taking part in events, instead of the same few people always undertaking the works themselves. It was agreed this was not a sustainable occurrence for LINI or the other branches in similar circumstances.

Pathway to Chartership

There was discussion within the branch forum to recognise the success of all members who are successful in gaining their Chartership. Ongoing discussions centred around a one off event to mark the occasion for all successful candidates. To date an event has not been agreed or finalised.

During the Advisory Council Meeting 12 February 2015 we undertook a series of votes (See attached appendix). One area of concern I have at present is a most pertinent vote that could affect LI Governance in the long term future. Please refer to the Item 7.5.1

The Advisory Council debated the merits of raising the threshold to call an EGM to 5%. Currently an EGM requires 3%). Our vote was based on a discussion whereby we were informed similar organisations such as RIBA, RICS and RTPI currently required 5% to call for an EGM. Based on the merits of this information the vote cast resulting in the following.

7.5.1 *'Increase the threshold required to call an EGM to 3% ("this should read as 5%" if our discussions were to be accurate)of voting members.*

For	16	Against:	5	Abstentions:	1
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Post meeting note: *over 50 membership organisations are being contacted regarding their EGM requirements to provide context and the 3% figure could possibly be amended.'*

This vote now allows the LI to progress with plans to explore increasing the % required to call an EGM. As you will see below, the information we were presented on the day is far from accurate and I believe that if we were presented with the actual figures to call and EGM at one of the these organisations the vote would have potentially been cast very differently.

In summary, Numbers of Requisitioners required to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- **RIBA** one percent
- **Institute of Structural Engineers** two percent or 250 members
- **Royal Town Planning Institute** 50 Chartered Members
- **Institute of Civil Engineers Bylaws:** sixty Corporate Members
- **Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors:** 3 per cent
- **Institute of Chartered Foresters:** 20 corporate members, of whom eight must be fellows
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RIBA one percent

10.4 Special General Meetings

*(a) The Chartered Members may requisition a Special General Meeting, provided that the request has been signed by at least **one per cent of the Chartered Members**, and the reason for calling the meeting has been specified. The Council shall then convene a Special General Meeting for a date within three months of the principal executive officer receiving the request.*

(b) If the Council fails to convene a Special General Meeting within this timescale, at least twenty-five of the signatories may then convene the meeting themselves, to take place at the Royal Institute's main office, at a time of their choosing, provided that sufficient notice is given to the general membership.

Source RIBA Charter Byelaws (November 2009)

http://www.architecture.com/files/ribaprofessionalservices/professionalconduct/constitution/charter_byelaws.pdf

membership 28,000 chartered members

<http://www.architecture.com/FindAnArchitect/Workingwithanarchitect/FAAhome.aspx>

Way Forwards

In general I would like to hear your views on any subject or issue you feel we should be raising as part of LINI and take forwards to the Advisory Council Meetings and would appreciate your feedback on this particular regarding the EGM and any of the other votes promptly.

Kind Regards

David Watkiss

LINI Branch representative to the Advisory Council