

Urban Design Group

AGM 2013: Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of the Urban Design Group was held at 7pm on Monday 24 June 2013 in Room FB, 70 Cowcross Street, London.

The meeting was chaired by Amanda Reynolds, member and former chair of the Urban Design Group Executive Committee.

1. Welcome & apologies for absence

All present were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from UDG Chairman Paul Reynolds (who was away on honeymoon) as well as Riccardo Bobisse, Philip Cave, Andrew Dakin, Graham Smith and Serena Yao.

2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM

The minutes of the 2012 AGM (held on 20 June 2012) were agreed, being proposed by Barry Sellers and seconded by Colin Munsie.

3. Annual Report and Accounts, 2012-13

UDG Treasurer Colin Pullan provided a brief report on the UDG financial position. The accounts for 2012-13 illustrate that it has been a difficult year, with the UDG funds significantly down on last year's totals. To some extent this was only to be expected with subscription rates remaining unchanged for nine years, expenditure continuing to increase and some significant investments being made over the past 12 months. However steps would be taken over the coming year to redress the downward trend (see item 5 on Membership Review).

Amanda Reynolds summarised the other areas covered in the annual report which illustrate a far more positive picture. The year has seen a full programme of highly popular events at Cowcross Street, a hugely successful national conference looking at 'The Value of Urban Design' in Oxford in October 2012 and another excellent study tour to the Spanish Conquistador Towns led by Alan Stones.

The Urban Design Awards have gone from strength to strength and the presentation event in February was a tremendous occasion, particularly memorable for a special presentation made to John Billingham who has retired from his involvement in the UDG and was thanked for his immense contribution over the past 30 years.

The past year has also seen intensification in UDG regional activity under the guidance of Vice-Chair for the Regions Colin Munsie; particularly significant progress has been made in Wales and the Solent area, with the Scottish branch of the UDG continuing to run regular well-attended events. Steps have also been made to strengthen the UDG's international links and the work of the UDG Education Group continues at a steady pace.

The Editorial Board was congratulated on its consistently excellent output in the journal and significantly this year the publication of the new Urban Design Directory, edited by Louise Thomas, which provided a snap-shot of urban design skills, services and projects. It featured a record number of 48 subscribing practices, 14 new and familiar education courses, plus a section for 20 smaller practices / independent designers. It is the largest and most profitable edition of the Directory so far and was distributed to almost 5000 individuals and organisations, including developers, house-builders and local authority contacts.

The Annual Report & Accounts were accepted, being proposed by Alan Stones and seconded by Ben van Bruggen.

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4. Election of Executive Committee & Officers

Paul Reynolds will continue for his second year as Chair of the Urban Design Group and Colin Pullan will be co-opted onto the Committee for another year as Treasurer.

There were four new elections to the Executive Committee for 2013-14: Stefan Kruczkowski, a long-standing member and Recognised Practitioner, involved in much UDG activity over recent years and based at Nottingham Trent University; architect and urban designer Jeremy Hernalesteen, currently writing a report on the value of urban design for business and working to develop UDG links in Europe; and finally Azar Djamali (Vice Chair 2004-6) was welcomed back to the Executive Committee.

Existing committee members Philip Cave, Andrew Dakin, Sebastian Loew, Colin Munsie, Katy Neaves, Amanda Reynolds, Barry Sellers and Alan Stones were all re-elected. Ben van Bruggen, Duncan Ecob and Graham Smith, as well as Serena Yao and Treasurer Colin Pullan, all agreed to continue their invaluable work for the UDG and they will be co-opted to the Committee at its first meeting in July.

Finally sincere thanks were extended to Riccardo Bobisse who stepped down from the Committee after two years.

The full list of members elected to the Executive Committee is as follows:

<i>The following members have been nominated to join the UDG Executive Committee for 2013-14</i>	<i>The following members will be co-opted to the UDG Executive Committee at its first meeting in July 2013</i>
Paul Reynolds (Chair) Philip Cave Andrew Dakin Azar Djamali Jeremy Hernalesteen Stefan Kruczkowski Sebastian Loew Colin Munsie Katy Neaves Amanda Reynolds Barry Sellers Alan Stones	Ben Van Bruggen Duncan Ecob Colin Pullan (co-opted as Treasurer) Graham Smith Serena Yao

The new Executive Committee was duly appointed, being proposed by Katy Neaves and seconded by Colin Munsie.

5. Review of Membership Categories, Rates & Benefits

Over recent months, a sub-group of the Executive Committee – led by Paul Reynolds – had conducted a review of the UDG membership categories, subscription rates, packages and benefits. The proposals so far, including an subscription increase of £10 for UK standard individual and concession members (rising to £50 and £30 respectively), were summarised and will be implemented over the coming months. Changes to practice rates and benefits are yet to be finalised; full details of any changes will be announced in due course.

6. Any other business

No other matters were raised for discussion

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