

Mapa Scotland

Inaugural and Formation Meeting

25 April 2010

15.00 Barony Castle Hotel, Eddleston

Present: Keith Burns; Roger Kelly; David Cameron; Dave Peck; Jim Barton; George Futers; Kieran Whyte; Krystyna Szumelukowa

- plus an audience totalling 31 attending the meeting as supporters (names and details attached).

Apologies: Nick Macdonald (trapped by volcanic ash in Mallorca), Tomasz Trafas Polish Consul General in Edinburgh (attending Katyn memorial event in Fife), Gordon Barclay.

Before the meeting, most audience members took the opportunity to visit the map. Łukasz Woźniak, with a camera crew, filmed the map and interviewed KB, DC, KS and RK for Polish TV. Sam Docherty showed a short film he made of the map from a helicopter flight in the early 1990s over the Barony Hotel.

1. Welcome & Introductions: RK welcomed those attending, introduced the steering committee and explained the purpose of the meeting, to formalise the establishment of Mapa Scotland.

2. Brief background: KB described his discovery of the map in the mid-1990s, and briefly outlined its history. He explained that Mapa Scotland needs to be formally constituted as a democratic body in order to be eligible for grant aid. RK emphasised the importance of connections both locally and overseas with Poland, Netherlands and Canada.

3. Support from De Veres Hotel Group: KW introduced himself as General Manager of the Barony Castle Hotel for the past 6 years. He explained that initial plans by the then owners were to fill in the map and convert it into a putting course. This proposal was discouraged and a mini-excavator was used to clear debris of 30 years from the map. The map, in its present condition, would be unlikely to survive without significant deterioration and he welcomed the initiative to restore it.

4. Fund raising: DP outlined several possible funding sources:

(i) EU grants required a very bureaucratic proposal procedure, and first time applicants were unlikely to succeed.

(ii) War Memorials Trust had been approached, but the map project did not fall within their remit, since it was not a memorial in the strict sense.

(iii) Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) funds community projects from a portion of landfill tax. The map project fitted their criteria, and an application has been submitted. The application has to be refined once Mapa Scotland is formally constituted as a democratic not-for-profit organisation.

(iv) Elise Kelly, an Arts Manager in contact with a Polish concert pianist, wishes to explore the possibility of a fund-raising concert which could be held in the Barony Hotel.

(v) The Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice has funds available for projects that promote contacts between young and old age groups; they have been approached and initial response is encouraging.

(vi) Scottish Borders Council's Community Grant has funds for 'heritage' projects; DP is to meet Linda Cornwall next month to discuss eligibility of our project.

(vii) The Memorial Heritage Fund is available as a last resort, in the case that no other bodies have been able to offer support.

5. Questions: RK invited questions from the audience.

(i) Do you have a tentative budget?

KB: Yes, we have prepared a budget for the WREN application within £50k. We costed our contribution of work in-kind (mainly through voluntary labour and management) as a comparable sum.

(ii) How long would the project take?

KB: As a rough estimate about two full frost-free seasons. He added that WREN would not allow the project start before funding had been granted.

(iii) Should the map not be recognised as an 'official' monument?

RK: It is our aim for the Map to be recognised as a vital relic of the Poland-Scotland connection. Gordon Barclay, a retired inspector of monuments for Historic Scotland who is expert in Scotland's wartime anti-invasion fortifications, attended the Penicuik Mapa Scotland exhibition and is working with us.

(iv) Wouldn't continued maintenance be needed to protect the restored map from damage in the longer term?

KB: We agree that maintenance would be essential after the immediate restoration was complete, and that Mapa Scotland would look to continue in this role. DC noted that he had organised a paint manufacturer to inspect the map, and would be available for technical advice. RK added that the map is symbolic of cultural connections between Scotland, Poland, Netherlands and Canada. Therefore its long term care and protection was important.

(v) Have you explored the potential to raise funds in Poland?

KB: We have made contact with the Jagellonian University in Crakow, and there is more to be done here.

(vi) Have you explored connections with universities here?

DC: I have contacted the University of Edinburgh's Geography Department, who were previously unaware of the map's existence. However, there was little prospect of universities providing funds, but the project might provide mutually beneficial experience for university students.

(vii) A final comment noted the importance of including General Maczek's daughter in the restoration project.

6. Proposed Constitution: KB had circulated the draft constitution to the meeting, and invited comments or questions.

One comment (Ewan Gowrie): In clause 10.2 on dissolution, it would be advisable for any remaining assets to be first offered to a successor body with similar aims.

The meeting unanimously accepted the constitution with the amendment proposed above.

7. Nomination and election of Officers: Current acting members of the informal steering group were proposed as below. These persons were now well known to each other and had

been working together informally for many months. Other nominations were invited from those attending. There were no other nominations from the audience; therefore the persons proposed in the Agenda were unanimously accepted as follows:

Chair: Nick Macdonald, MA, MIIA, MSSP, PGDip.
Vice Chair: Roger Kelly, BA, MRTPI.
Secretary: Keith Burns, BSc, C Eng, FIMechE.
Treasurer: to be appointed.

KB would make further enquiries regarding a suitable candidate for Treasurer. An appropriate person would be appointed as acting treasurer pending formal appointment under the requirements of the constitution. Meanwhile, the Secretary would undertake the role of acting treasurer. KB explained that the Steering Group would comprise the elected members plus members co-opted for their skills; these would be self-selecting for their willingness to help.

8. Communications: KB summarised the importance of group communication by email and the website. Suggestions were made of Facebook and Yahoo groups for wider coverage. KB has set up access for the steering group to an 'electronic office' for sharing project documents and planning via secure password entry.

9. Scotland – Poland linkage: Barbara Conboy suggested that we should involve the late General Maczek's daughter in the project; this was agreed. KS gave a vote of thanks to the steering group and also drew attention to the newly registered Scotland Poland Association established in Warsaw to form a network of networks to develop the historical relationship between the two countries. Mapa Scotland would be part of this new network group. DC proposed a toast, with Scotch whisky and a bottle of Polish Chopin vodka given to him by the late Kazimierz Trafas, designer and team leader for the construction of the 1975 map.

10. AOB: No further business; meeting closed 16.15.



Keith Burns, Secretary, 27/4/10