

Heritage Link at the Union Chapel
Speaker's Session and Questions with Baroness Kay Andrews,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government
6th December 2006

Speaker	Transcript
Baroness Kay Andrews, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government	<p>It's an absolute privilege to be here. I know I'm facing a knowledge community in all its diversity and richness in this field and that's always intimidating. I wish I had had more time to spend with you today because there are many things I would like to learn from you.</p> <p>We've got music, woodlands, landscape, the built environment, so much of our culture represented here and I think it's a great credit that you've been able to provide not only this passion for learning and for spreading values, as well as information and trust in the heritage, but you've been able to represent this so amazingly well over the past few years and grown so powerfully this sense of community among the voluntary organisations and the huge army of people that are represented by you here. Sometimes you may feel like unsung heroes, but when I look at the work that you're doing and the value that the local community places on you, I hope that you feel that you really are extremely well valued by government as well as actually in the local community where people see your work at its most acute. That's obviously one reason why I wanted to come and talk and to listen to your views today.</p> <p>I also have to say I wanted to come back here because this is one of my favourite buildings in London and I think nothing could actually speak to the values of what we are collectively all about and knowing how passionate we can be about buildings which hold such memories and yet which actually represent potential for such change as well. Now I grew up in the Methodist Church and Methodism in the 19th Century was parodied by the established Church as being full of 'enthusiasts' - as a term of derogation - and I think Methodism's kept its enthusiasm as well. It also developed late in the 19th century an ability to split itself in the many different communities, not unlike politics and the idea of this building, which is probably the</p>

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

finest example of the Nonconformist dog kennel, because of course the Nonconformist tradition meant you could actually buy flat packed Nonconformist chapels, often made of tin.

This is an extraordinarily grand and functional building, I think everything is right about it: the sense of space; the sense that someone is actually listening to you, the eagle eye of the preacher, the acoustic, the memory of voices raised. I understand you're having an organ recital later on - I think that's absolutely wonderful and I think that really exemplifies for me how in 1806 they had a vision of what it meant to make a place and what was important to people. In 1877 when they changed, ornamental function came together in different ways and now - I should say before I talk about what's happening now, in 1887 the building was dedicated in a magnificent rolling Victorian phrase to be used for "religious, philanthropic, moral, intellectual or social purposes". So how could you find a more fitting building? Recently in fact sessions have been held here in aid of Mencap so you are following Noel Gallagher, Amy Winehouse and The Kooks. It all seems to point to a building which had never been anything other than at the centre of the community. I'm sure it has felt neglected for parts of its history, as many of our Nonconformist churches do, but I think the reinvention of buildings and places is why we are all here, what we are talking about in many different ways. Where do we take, how do we take, the community with us? How do we follow the community in their passions and enthusiasms for the local environment and for their own sense of belonging? And that's really, of course, where the Department that I represent comes in.

We've changed our name recently, so we are now Communities and Local Government. We recently published our White Paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*, and I'll talk a bit about that but there is a ferment of activity in this field, as you know better than most people. We have got the Heritage Protection

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

Review, I would be very pleased to share what we are doing on that; and we are in the midst of planning reforms which are taking us forward to a more transparent, more proactive planning system. So let's look at the context in which some of these changes have been made.

Yes, as Anthea said, we are, always have been, the Department for places. A notion of place is extremely elusive, but I think if you ask most people about the place they live and how to describe it they would probably say "well it's a place that I'm at home in, the space I call home" and that really is about another definition: sustainable environment; the place you want to bring your children up in. And when they talk about home they talk about the familiar landscapes and the familiar street scenes and their sense that they are all part of that. We were talking earlier about the heritage work that's been done on inclusion. What has been really, I think, very encouraging in recent years is the sense of what is happening all through the heritage industry, for want of a better word, whether it's the National Trust in Kedleston looking at the role of the two Indian princesses that once lived there, or it's Speke Hall in Liverpool looking for its way of connecting with the black community in terms of the slave trade. There is a really powerful sense that there are important ways now in which the community itself must make its voice felt in the redefinition of what we call collective heritage, whether it's rural or urban or suburban. It's all about this profound sense of place we have that connects us to our roots and it's also about going forward.

I don't know whether any of you have come across a Canadian report recently which was called *Restless Cities, Resilient Communities*. I thought it had strongly new and fresh language about how, if a place is to become a community, if a place is to become a 'place', it has to have a sense of its own culture and identity in order to form its character and to make it resilient. The problem is, it's very hard to protect or build resilience when everything's changing around you and that's

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

precisely why, at the forefront of my work in this Department, is how we make communities better places to live, whether they're new communities to house people who will need homes in the future or whether they are older, more traditional communities. I have got many personal examples I can give you, the things I've seen as I've gone round the country in the past year and I can tell you there's no greater privilege than being able to do this. But one site which I know very well, is the world heritage site at Blaenafon.

Blaenafon the crucible of the industrial revolution . A part of the country which has gone in 250 years from being entirely rural to being a concentration of industrial might, which has probably set it apart even from other parts of our industrial heritage. The coalmining industry which receded to vanishing point in the 1980s was particularly reflected in Blaenafon because of the loss of Big Pit, which was one of the biggest pits in South Wales that housed 1000 men. Now there are 8 men left acting as explainers and interpreters. What is important is that Blaenafon the World Heritage Site, Big Pit and the collection of buildings that are there, have become the fulcrum of great and very positive confidence and change in that community, not just as a tourist centre but as a way of the local people revaluing and building on their heritage. Blaenafon has become a book town, a threat to Hay-On-Wye if you can imagine. There are all sorts of new opportunities that are opening up across those valleys and a literal sense of people working through their history in new ways. I'm sure that each one of you has examples which would be equivalent to that but I have discovered in that sense a really very powerful new confidence in valleys which have felt very abandoned for two decades.

Yesterday I met with the Civic Society to ask what they were doing about regeneration and to my great delight some of their most enthusiastic activities in recent years have been about encouraging entrepreneurial activities in some of our most deprived areas, so the civic pride is not contained by the usual market towns

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

but really has something to say to reflect within some of our more inchoate and distressed communities. So all this about diversity and inclusion could not work unless we could count on what you do and through you how you enthuse, mobilise, train, equip, create confidence and put a value on the volunteers that work with you and the other professionals.

That, in a way, now takes me on to the Local Government White Paper because that is our latest expression of what we want to see. It is all about getting a bigger voice for the community, enabling local councils to talk, not to themselves as they all want to do, but to the town and the community that they represent and that means a new relationship, frankly, between the Local Government sector, the voluntary sector and the community. I think that is really underpinned by the work that we're doing on the Third Sector, the Third Sector Review which is going to put a new settlement in place with the voluntary sector. What we are saying throughout the Local Government White Paper is the things that you know: we need stability; we need more visibility; we need more resilience and we need more access between the voluntary sector and the Government and that can be encapsulated, for example, in the fact that we're going to make it clear through statutory guidance that the starting point for grant funding will be over three years, so that people are not continually chasing projects and grants and that will build capacity and that will build security.

As you know, there's a huge amount of work being done in heritage and regeneration together. I think that one of things that gives me pleasure is that now I don't have to say that at the heart of regeneration must sit our own sense of history and how we grow from that, and how in the new communities, whether it's North Stowe in Cambridge, which is literally a brown field site, or the Thames Gateway, we have to build in a sense of belonging from the beginning. That's where organisations like you come in, and it was the sort of thing I was talking about

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

yesterday with the Civic Society. And I'd like to highlight, for example, the Architectural Heritage Fund's excellent work over recent years, £73 million has gone to Building Preservation Trusts and other charities; the saving and the economic revitalisation of over 1000 buildings; their leaflet *A Future from the Past*, four projects alone which they've been involved in, new homes, new businesses. The voluntary sector works because it's got terrier like qualities, it doesn't give up, it gets an issue by the scruff of the neck and presents it to ministers and shakes it up at the same time. That's really what we need, because I believe that if we're going to involve people in making and shaping their places and in taking charge of their heritage, we are working with something very natural and passionate in people themselves.

A million people turned out for Heritage Open Days. I thought I would drop in and see the cells under Lewes Courts because I'd never been there - I couldn't get in! There were queues around the building and in the middle of it was a wonderful exhibition by a local historian of some of the female villains of the 19th century, complete with gigantic hats and villainous expressions, people loved it. It made me realise actually just how enthusiastic people are.

One of my growth areas which I champion is Northampton. I knew very little about the history of Northamptonshire and I was in Northampton admiring their bus station which has been listed as the worst bus station in England. I was also diverted to Derngate which was also strangely the home of Charles Rennie Mackintosh for a while. In the middle of this rather strange but beautiful medieval centre, thanks to the wife of one of the leaders of the community, Derngate is now a tiny, perfect museum of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, absolutely magnificent, but would never have been there if it hadn't had been for the passion of one individual.

Well, how does all this relate to planning reform? I have to talk about planning

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

reform eventually rather than talk about how enthusiastic I am about the voluntary sector. Planning is part of the solution. It's certainly often seen as part of the problem but it really is part of the solution because it offers us one of the best tools we have for delivering the communities we want and what we've done in recent years, since 2004, is to try to raise the profile of planning so people don't see it as a thousand ways of saying no, but as offering them an opportunity themselves to make the system less reactive, more creative. We've set out in our planning policy, Statement One; delivering sustainable development, our overarching aim which makes it absolutely clear that planning should facilitate the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. Underneath that arch are these Doric columns, if you will, of Local Development Frameworks which include and have a capacity to include policies for the historic environment both in area action plans and development plan documents. But the portals now are the Statements of Community Involvement, through which I hope the light of the community will shine because people want to be part of those decisions. We're very serious that the Statements for Community Involvement should be serious in themselves and one of the things that I'm very pleased about is the Royal Town Planning Institute has committed itself to wider and deeper consultation and to helping people get the best out of any consultation process. They set out guidance last year, 22 guidelines including key principles, calling for a reduction in jargon, calling for a simpler, more accessible system and that, of course, is where your own consultation fits in.

Making Consultation Matter, I thought, was a most successful document, and I wasn't surprised by one conclusion: that heritage groups are satisfied with the consultation process when they are directly approached by their planning authority, because when that happens you feel that is a serious invitation to you to contribute. Conversely you get disgruntled with planning authorities when they clearly indicate that they either don't believe it's necessary or that they consult you at such a stage

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

where it's very hard to do other than appear defensive and obstructive, now that is clearly actually the wrong way to do things. Local Authorities have as many different views as individuals about perceptions and taste and so on but Statements of Community Involvement are going to be able to help that along and I would really welcome your opinions about how you think that can happen best.

Before I get on to a few concluding remarks about the Heritage Protection Review and so on, I think I should probably comment on the Barker Report, the review which was splashed all over the Evening Standard last night. I would urge you please to ignore the headlines. Barker has not recommended building all over the Green Belt, it's an independent report and she's made it very clear how very valuable and necessary is planning. She also concludes that the context for planning is becoming more challenging and therefore we have to build on what we know works through the plan-led approach to get sustained growth and get the proper, appropriate best return out of our resources and our land. It does make two suggestions which have an impact on the heritage sector, one is that the Government should take a step by step approach by merging the various consents that exist and should set a timetable for doing so. Also she suggests that the merging of listed building consent and scheduled monument consent is the first step in that. Second is that the Government should consider partial listing of a building where only part of the building is of interest. Now let me just absolutely reassure you that both these recommendations require careful consideration on our part and it is very much an independent report. I am very clear that any measures proposed are not going bring any diminution of the historic environment's status within planning. The second suggestion in particular does raise some very practical issues we would have to address, even if we agreed with them, but we'll set out in a White Paper in Spring our proposals which respond to this.

Now that brings me on the Heritage Protection Review itself. As you know, the

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

intention of the White Paper is to make it a simpler, more robust, more transparent, more fit for purpose arrangement. Through the unification of consents the links to the planning system are going to be more overt, it's going to be much clearer for the public to understand how they can interact with the system and what's required from them too. I think that greater transparency brings a greater sense of stewardship amongst communities to help preserve and enhance the historic environment, and that fits well with planning reform, but we want to make it easier for people to understand what is it we try to preserve and why, and how we try to accommodate change.

A merged listed building and scheduled monument consent will make life easier for owners of buildings with both designations. It will make them simpler to explain. The potential merger of conservation consent with planning permission and at the same time addressing the issues of partial demolition which the Shimizu judgement raised, that again is going to make this system simpler, more efficient but robust. It doesn't lower the importance placed on the historic environment at all, it will bring greater transparency on listing decisions and there will be consultation on those decisions and again that will bring greater local ownership. Now I know that one of the concerns expressed has been about training and skills and capacity. I think one of the things that we really are looking to do is with merged consents. We have an opportunity for the first time to bring the wealth of skills represented by archaeological profession, by the conservationists, by the planning profession, together. I think there is a cross disciplinary imperative and also I think we're going to get huge added value out of those people sharing their knowledge and expertise in a much more cross-fertilized way. So I think I'm optimistic about that.

Our starting point is very much to recognise that Local Authorities do deliver their duty of stewardship but they do it in different ways, and historic circumstances and local circumstances are determined by the nature of the local environment so some

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

are better at it than others, some have more experience than others. We've been looking, with our partners in Local Government and professional associations, at the nature of the current provision and the likely impact of the reforms we're proposing. That is going to inform the content of the White Paper, obviously. But it will also - I think it must - help to shape the capacity of building initiatives that are being delivered through HELM and therefore, as it were, through English Heritage.

So, I know a particular concern is about skills and capacity. That again brings me back to the Local Government White Paper because that is so crucial in setting up what we want from Local Government in the future: through Local Area Agreements, a much more robust sense of partnership, of visible partnership where services will be delivered actually by services working together, whether it's health and social services or whether it's heritage and planning. The Local Strategic Partnerships which are going to be tied into that, on which your voluntary bodies will be represented I hope, will have a much more explicit role to play. The Local Development Frameworks will sit alongside the Local Area Agreements as the visible representation of how the community views itself and visualises its future. So that will actually I think bring an added engine to this whole process of protection and regeneration, and a catalyst with the community.

Finally I think it's important to say that there are some improvements that don't have to wait on the Heritage Protection Review or indeed any other legislation and there's one thing that we've been bothered about, particularly I think of interest to you, and that is enforcement. When we carried out research in the beginning of 2004 it suggested that prosecutions for listed buildings offences were not happening at anything like the rate they should have been. We thought it was due primarily to a lack of confidence among some planning authorities in taking forward some prosecutions, and a lack of confidence in the outcome, and therefore problems with justifying the resources. There were some cases, obviously the

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

notorious Greenside case - and I know that the Twentieth Century Society put a great deal of work into that case and I think they should be commended for that. We looked at the recommendations of the Grover Report and they were for guidance to be produced for Local Authorities on taking forward a prosecution and therefore I'm very pleased that I can announce today that we are launching best practice guidance on listed buildings prosecutions, which will take people from the beginning to the end of the process, give case studies, best practice, more reassurance, a clearer sense of process. It's aimed at Local Authorities obviously, but it needs to make use of your knowledge and expertise and I think that can be invaluable in preparing a case.

To finish where Anthea started, which was to raise the question of whether in fact the Government places enough value on the voluntary sector: I hope that you do feel from what I've said, but more than that actually, from the way we've taken the Heritage Protection Review forward; from the involvement that David Lammy has in so many aspects of your work; from the central role that I see you having in regeneration as well as in creating the new communities of the future; far from neglecting your contribution, I don't think we can do anything without it. Government can't reach very far, we have to rely on other people to carry the honest messages we try to give, and I hope very much actually that you will see the continuing years, as we go through these changes, as very much a partnership. I would like to commend what you do and say that my door is always open if you think that we can do things better.

Thank you very much indeed.

Crispin Truman
Churches
Conservation
Trust

From the Churches Conservation Trust. Thank you for a very eloquent expression of the importance the heritage plays in community regeneration and the work of your department, which many of us feel very strongly, and also for saying how important it is for Government and voluntary sector to work together. My question

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

is about the practical difficulties in doing that, often because voluntary sector organisations are very small and Government is very big. Ours is a small, thinly spread organisation but with a national remit and with 340 buildings across the country. When we try to talk to DCLG the message is "oh that's DCMS business", or at best "go and talk to the regions". When we talk to the regions, which is difficult when there are 9 regions and we've only got 5 regional staff, we are just too small to feature on their radar. We've done so in North Stowe where interestingly we have an empty medieval building close to, over the ditch from the North Stowe growth area. There are too many grand schemes and other ideas around that overshadow the work of the voluntary sector. So the question is, how might it be better in engaging this communication on a practical level?

Baroness
Andrews

Thank you Crispin, that was a really important question. Can you write to me about North Stowe? It's exactly the sort of information I'd like.

To start off North Stowe by building Civic society first, the first thing that happens in a community hall.

I suppose this is not just the conservation societies which find this issue of scale. To begin with I think one of the things that Ed Miliband's been doing in the Third Sector Review is to be very, very conscious of the small nimble voluntary organisation which can get under the radar but which by definition therefore loses out on some of the big funding opportunities and so on.

All I can say is that it's exercising us a great deal on how we can do that better. Whether the representation itself offered by the voluntary sector itself represents the small organisations effectively; whether the local strategic partnership, for example, should look to a small organisation to represent the interests of the larger ones rather than the other way round. In terms of whether you come to DCLG or DCMS, I think and I know the CCT in fact I've debated the Archbishop of

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

Canterbury about this in passing in recent months. I mean we are supporting as and when we can, some money obviously going into it. I think we need to know what you can offer in each case. That sounds very instrumental but it's a partnership, so if it's a question of something to do with growth or regeneration or community buildings, I would love to hear from people. David Lammy obviously has another parallel agenda but we spend a lot of time, David and I, talking about these matters of joint interest, when we appear on platforms together. Take heart from the Third Sector Review because I'm sure it will address this in ways that have not been done before.

Ian Lush,
Architectural
Heritage Fund
and Heritage
Link Trustee

Well I'm still blushing so thank you very much for your kind words about the Architectural Heritage Fund, which were very unexpected and very welcome. My question is about community ownership of assets. Though we welcome very much the Government's initial thoughts on giving communities more access to taking on the management and ownership of public assets, we're slightly concerned that the heritage sector has not thus far played a very full part. I was on the original ODPM work group, but I'm not on the subsequent DCLG work group and my question is really how we can ensure that the DCLG engages fully with the heritage sector, where after all, as you've alluded to, there are many organisations with the experience to take on, manage, restore and own formerly public assets. How can we ensure that the heritage voluntary sector is fully involved in this? Thank you.

Baroness
Andrews

As you know, we're at the beginning. This is very much work in progress and we have this very lively character, Barry Quirke from Lewisham Borough Council, leading a process to try to tackle the barrier so I think it's potentially hugely exciting. I suggest you get directly in touch with Barry at Lewisham; say we've had this conversation. I'm sure that he will want to have as wide a representation on his committee. You will have access to precisely the sort of community buildings that

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

might be used in really interesting ways in the future, so I think it's very important.

I also think everyone's dealing with faith groups in terms of church buildings but one has to think very carefully about how we are engaging with faith groups in terms of their assets. It's not just a question of seeing them as another form of plant, as you know. I'm sure Barry Quirke would want to hear from you.

Jenny Freeman
Heritage Link
Trustee and
Historic Chapels
Trust.

Baroness Andrews, you've placed before us a very large agenda, and in some ways a very exciting agenda for the next few years. We know that you've recently signed an agreement with DEFRA and DCMS over a future programme of work for English Heritage, but I know everyone in this chapel is concerned about English Heritage's budget and this was a point that was brought up in evidence to the recent Select Committee. How can we be assured that the money that's to be granted to English Heritage will enable them to fulfil this agenda satisfactorily when their budget actually declines year on year and has been declining for a very long time?

Baroness
Andrews

I assure you it won't be the first time that somebody says "well actually it's somebody else's Department responsible", and it is essentially so, but having said that we are in a very interesting position. We are working in the foothills of, the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 which is a very important Review, and it could not be a better time to make the case. The discussions are ongoing across Government about what should our parties be, and where will we get best value for money for the community in all sorts of different ways? So the simple advice is to make your voice heard in that process. and I think you can either do it with English Heritage, if they are so organised, or as a collective body of the knowledge community, providing the sort of evidence that only you can provide. That really is my best advice.

Dave Chetwyn

Firstly I'd like to thank you for your recognition of the work the RTPI is doing to

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

National
Manager,
Planning Aid
England and
IHBC

make the planning process more open and more accessible to local communities but I have a question.

I think many people in the heritage sector fear that the Heritage Protection Review is perhaps being driven more by one or two major figures, high profile figures, and this might be restricted to what they can do to their own houses, rather than in consideration of the wider public interest. I think I'm after your assurance really that the Heritage Protection Review will be based on a firm understanding of what heritage can deliver in terms of social and economic benefits and delivery of sustainable development.

Baroness
Andrews

I can give you that assurance Dave. I've been involved in the process - albeit we are the junior partners because of course it's primarily a matter for DCMS - but we're very pleased to be partners in that. I've absolutely no evidence that it's being dominated by any particular interest other than this sense that we have to put a system in place which removes the obstacles, both as people managing assets, but also for people being able to gain access and to use and enjoy those assets however you define them. I mean we have to think realistically that we've had a system you couldn't really have invented which has been one of those classic cultural evolutions in our way of doing things in this country. Layer upon layer of improvisation as the years have gone on, things have come into the frame, and legislation, the regulatory system, has grown and grown. Now this is an opportunity to actually look at how we can properly put a value on what we're trying to do, what problem is it we're trying to solve? Are we trying to make it simpler? Who is it we're trying to solve this problem for? And, you know, can we arrive at the best possible balance between needing to take care of and conserve and making it as dynamic as possible? I think, when the paper is published, it will bear the hallmarks of having had a very wide conversation with a lot of people.

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

Dennis Turner
Standing
Conference on
London
Archaeology

Baroness, in your closing paragraph you laid out your own devotion to the work done by the voluntary sector and we're of course very grateful for that commendation. However it's notable that politicians of all colour, and economists of all colour, in the last 12 months or so, have increasingly laid it on the line that people currently in employment are going to stay in paid employment longer and longer.

Do you think these politicians really realise the contribution that retired people make to the voluntary sector and how that contribution will shrink if their forecasts for the future extension of employment well into the late 60's, actually takes place?

Baroness
Andrews

You know I think that's a really interesting comment. I think there are two answers; well they're probably not answers. You're absolutely right that the burden of the voluntary activity in this country is carried by people who are in or near retirement and whenever I look around - anything from my local music society to the Friends of Lewes, which I belong to, you see the same sort of people. Now I think that is a huge challenge to this sector. It's a huge challenge to the voluntary societies to bring in young people I think. For many years I ran a voluntary society for young people and I think one must think about how to involve schools more through the citizenship curriculum. I think you have to have to think about how to involve the sort of young people that are no longer in schools and are hanging about. I think archaeology is a wonderful opportunity and it really does pick up quite a lot of young people from different stages to help with digs and so on and that becomes a lifetime's passion. I think you're in an incredibly strong position to make an offer to young people which they won't get anywhere else and I actually think that that must be the future.

Robin Phillips
Chapels Society

Baroness Andrews, when we hear instances of local planning authorities openly flouting the listed buildings procedures, what recourse can you offer to us, bearing

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

in mind that like most voluntary societies we have extremely limited resources when it comes to mounting a legal challenge to such behaviour. I have of course a specific interest, a specific case in mind which I won't detail at this moment.

Baroness Andrews I'm very sorry to hear about that. I obviously can't ask you about you an individual case and there may be no satisfactory answer here. I think what you do if you come across these cases is inform DCMS that this has happened, and I think there must be some record. We must, just as we are concerned about prosecutions, we must be equally concerned if people are not observing the law, whatever argument is put forward. There are processes there to be observed and I think we need to know if they are not being observed.

David Sekers I'm sorry we have to draw a line under that. It's been very heartening to hear we have a friend in DCLG who really understands our sector and would you like to join me in thanking her very warmly for her great contribution this afternoon.

Baroness Andrews left the meeting at this point but the question session continued as follows:

David Sekers Would you like to think for a moment of other matters you might like to raise or join
Trustee, Heritage in a discussion or raise questions. I'll give you a moment or two to pause and
Link reflect on what you might like to ask and then Anthea Case will take the chair.

Adam Smith, Anthea, lovely words from the minister again but what are we going to do, we talk
SAVE Britain's about how we get the message across to them but they're not listening. How can
Heritage we as a sector focus our thoughts and our message more carefully on to these
ministers so that they don't just talk but they actually do something?

Anthea Case, I think that is a real issue. My answer is that we have to decide where there is
Chair, Heritage most leverage and go for those things. We can't, as it were, spread the jam too
Link thinly and I think it was you this morning that said we have got to decide what our
agenda is and press that agenda. That's one of the reasons why I have been very

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

keen, for example, through the research that we have done, to produce recommendations rather than just simply an interesting bit of research. We can then try to put those recommendations onto their agendas, and I think that's certainly true of *Making Consultation Matter* and also true of *How We Do It*. But again, you have collectively been told by the Minister that you have huge experience and you know, if there are things that we are not doing that we ought to be doing I'd be only too interested to hear them.

Deborah Lamb,
English Heritage

Perhaps I could respond quite directly to that point that was just made. Just to let you know that there is a group of us within the sector - English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, HHA, the National Trust and Kate from Heritage Link - who have been working on what we're calling a Sector Prospectus for the Spending Review which we expect to publish in January. It sets out very clearly what we think are the benefits of investing in Heritage and what that has achieved in terms of Government objectives and what more we would like in the future and what we'd be able to do with it if we got it.

That should be coming out in January and one of the great things about that is it is a very good example of the sector really working together around a common platform to counter the allegations which have been made at times in the past about the sector being fragmented.

Anthea Case
Chair, Heritage
Link

We did discuss this a bit this morning at the Heritage Link AGM and one of the really important things for us all in this room is that, when we do get the prospectus and the platform, that we also act collectively and coherently to use it as an advocacy document so that the message is heard. All the very obvious candidates for hearing it, whether it's the Treasury or DCLG or DCMS - but I think we also have to use it to influence a wider community of potential allies. That perhaps is something that we ought to think about between now and January in order that we

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

get that bit of the equation together as well.

Nick Way,
Historic Houses
Association and
Trustee Heritage
Link

I think the prospectus that Deborah just mentioned is going to be very useful because it fulfils one of the two ingredients which are necessary to make headway in what we're trying to achieve. First, it gives Government some options for specific action, and it gives us a hymn sheet which is appropriate, which we can all follow. The second ingredient is that in my experience in lobbying - and others can agree or disagree - governments act once they see that it is politically more in their interests to do something than to go on saying no to doing something because they will say no to doing something as long as they possibly can, they only change their minds when it becomes actually advantageous to do so, and that will only happen when they can see that the reaction to changing their minds will be beneficial; that the reaction they get in the press will be favourable, however small it is.

I don't think we've got there yet; I think they still think that to give money to us or to help us means that somebody else is going to complain that it should be going somewhere else, so *History Matters* has obviously been extremely important. We need to go on broadening the groundswell so that they can see that out there, at a very modest cost, they could do something which the public would actually welcome, which means we have to do what you said: we have to go out widely at regional level and whatever we do around Heritage Link, at all levels, we must all do it, not just the six who are in this group but everywhere. I hope they'll agree with the prospectus and we mustn't assume that it's critical that we get everything in the prospectus. If we got one thing in between us, that would be progress and it gives us the hymn sheet to go on arguing for the other things as the years go by, so lets make sure we disseminate it as widely as possible and get that message out on all occasions and at every opportunity.

Anthea Case

Thank you, a clarion call for collective and combined advocacy.

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

Chair, Heritage
Link

Dave Chetwyn,
Planning aid and
IHBC

The question was raised on what we can do about it. I think in the past we've tended to deal through the Government Departments themselves but there's increasing evidence that pressure for change and reform is coming from the Treasury and Number Ten. I discovered this morning that the new Planning White Paper is being written by the Cabinet Office and not by the DCLG, which raises the question, in terms of political lobbying, whether we should be focusing our attention on the special advisors to the Treasury and to Number Ten rather than focusing lobbying through the departments themselves, which are being bypassed.

John Jeffrey
Heritage Railway
Association

I was going to ask this to Baroness Andrews but it's a comment that applies to all of us. Kate has rightly called it 'consultation fatigue'. So far this year we've had six Government consultations, the association as a whole has got one well into double figures, not only from this Government but from the Government in Scotland, the Government in Eire and one or two other places from the EC as well. I must admit to a feeling of knocking my head on a wall. Very seldom do you get to know whether anybody's actually taken it and read it, and when you do get an answer, often you get the impression that people have made up their minds before they even went out to consultation.

Is it really worthwhile, in view of what was said earlier, going on answering consultations, or do we try and emphasise our attack on one or two particular sharp areas?

Anthea Case
Chair, Heritage
Link

Thank you. I'm sure there'll be a lot of sympathy in the room for people saying that there's consultation fatigue but does anybody have a view about the question that has just been raised? Should we stop responding to consultations and simply focus all our efforts on one or two key issues, what do people feel about that?

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

Groundswell of support, no groundswell of support? Yes, someone there.

Denis Turner
Standing
Committee on
London
Archaeology

Can I tie the last two or three speakers from the floor together? I assume the clarion call was a call for co-ordinated action rather than collective action, and the last gentleman talked a bit about attacking particular sharp points and I very much sympathise with that.

Can I perhaps commend to you that we pinch a slogan from Friends of the Earth: the slogan was 'Think globally and act locally', and Government does react to specific local pressure. Can I remind you of a certain constituency called Kidderminster where local action resulted in quite dramatic attention to a particular problem. I think that we could perhaps take a lesson from this, and while we need to think collectively and co-ordinate our views, we then choose our battlefields carefully.

Duncan Wilson
The Greenwich
Foundation

I don't have a magic wand but I was just going to issue a cautionary note about a lot of the quite technical and complex pieces of legislation, or proposed legislation, we are getting sucked in to commenting on. Of course, we have to because they are terribly important. Meanwhile some of the very large strategic planning questions are kind of floating by. I think, in particular, the Thames Gateway: I went to a seminar organised by DCLG on the Thames Gateway and there was not a single mention of heritage although every single slide included a piece of heritage because they were all pretty pictures. It was being driven by an economist and all the talk was of ports and waterways as transport, and brown field sites, and my worry is that these will become issues of the future; that they're already getting determined at a macro level by DCLG. It's just one of the characteristic symptoms of the Government that when you have a large department, parts of the department don't talk to one another. In terms of lobbying I think that is an issue that we would do well to have a mind to now before a lot of high level decisions get

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At The Union Chapel

made which, in effect, exclude Heritage concerns as one of secondary or minority interest.

Judith Martin
South East
Association of
Preservation
Trusts.

Somebody mentioned Friends of the Earth and I've been trying to make the links between the natural and the built heritage for, I think, the best part of thirty years. I was delighted when in the last lottery consultation there was a sort of footnote, you didn't see it if you only filled out the form but it was there, on the very back of the booklet. Given the amount of embodied energy in a Victorian terraced house, and the fact that it apparently takes the energy equivalent of a gallon of petrol to make six bricks, and with the Stern Review which after all was commissioned by the same Treasury which has just commissioned Barker, maybe we should all be making alliances across the whole conservation spectrum, seeing it as a whole. We should take advantage of anything you can use to protect the heritage because, well, the HLF's noticed; I'm not sure anyone else has yet.

Anthea Case
Chair, Heritage
Link

Thank you.

Ian Dungavell
Victorian Society

I was just thinking as we sat at Shoreditch Town Hall the other night at another particularly excruciating dinner with the Secretary of State talking to us, which reminded me of the one just after the results of the last Comprehensive Spending Review had been announced. I thought Neil Cossons did a masterly but very restrained criticism of the Department's spending allocation which saw English Heritage being so horribly treated. What I would really hate to be doing in 2007 is sitting at yet another excruciating *Heritage Counts* speech with Tessa Jowell telling us that in fact, English Heritage doesn't deserve any more money. I think the Sectoral 'Ask' document is a wonderful thing but I also wonder what we're going to do if it doesn't work as we would like, because we're all, or we seem to be, very nice people. I wonder if sometimes it's worth getting a bit crosser than we're used

Heritage Link
At The Union Chapel

to getting.

Anthea Case
Chair, Heritage
Link

Thank you all very much for coming, thank you for your comments this afternoon, the Minister said she'd enjoyed herself which probably means we didn't give her as bad enough a time as she ought to have had but anyway, thank you and do go on talking to each other.

Thank you very much indeed.