

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
70th Board Meeting
6th September 2007
Four Seasons Hotel,
Monaghan.**

Present: **Chairman;** Mark Thompson
 Mr Jim Devenney
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Pat Wall
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Dr Ian Adamson
 Mr Bob Stoker

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough
 Mr Jim Millar

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman, Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 70th Meeting of the Board in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mrs Vanessa Wilson, Director of Culture.

3. Minutes of Meeting 25th July 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with some amendments.

Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Interreg

Mr Thompson informed that Board that he had made enquiries about the next opening date for proposals and is awaiting confirmation.

David Healy Fitba Day

Mr McCullough advised the Board that Translink have accepted responsibility and have agreed compensation of £5,000. At present the Agency are working with groups affected to ensure that compensation is received.

Action: Mr McCullough

Mr O'Donnell thanked Mr McCullough on behalf of the Board for all his work on this project.

Budget/Moratorium

Due to the moratorium the Agency may have secured additional funding from Sponsor Departments. Executive are waiting a response.

Mr Stoker joined the meeting at this point.

Kilmegan and Aghlisnafin Ulster-Scots Group

Mr Devenney and Mr Simpson monitored this event. The event was extremely successful but further development on Ulster-Scots elements need to be worked on. Mr Thompson thanked both Mr Devenney and Mr Simpson for their help in monitoring this event on behalf of the Agency.

Mr Patton briefed the Board on a meeting he had with the group the previous evening (05/09/07). The Board approved the actions taken by Mr Patton.

Radio Station

Mr McCullough informed the Board that Bready Ulster-Scots group will no longer be running the Ulster-Scots radio station FUSE fm. Ballymoney will now run the station in December 2007.

Border Reivers Festival/Foyle Festival

Both festivals were an outstanding success with large turn outs at both venues.

Letter to NSMC

No further clarification has been received on this issue.

This issue will continue to appear on the agenda until resolved.

Primary School Project

There has been no further progress on the matter.

TV Programme Proposal

➤ **Language Programme**

Production team will be interviewing Mr Wall and Dr Lunney at Trinity College week commencing 9th September 2007.

➤ **Ulster-Scots TV Channel**

This is a project the Agency would wish to develop but at present the finance is not available.

Mr Thompson has been made aware of a forthcoming initiative from Northern Ireland Screen which may provide an opportunity for partnership with the Agency to provide online television programmes. Mr Thompson should receive more details over the next few weeks.

➤ **USAIG**

The Executive had been tasked with drawing together a paper following the meeting of Board members on 24th August. This was circulated to the Board and Mr Thompson thanked Board members for their responses to the Business Plan circulated. As previously advised at the August meeting Mr Thompson and Dr Adamson declared a conflict of interest and both left the room. After considerable discussion the Executive were asked to redraft the paper taking on board the points made and circulate the revised draft for final approval.

Mr Stoker stated that he will be making a personal response to the proposed paper.

It was noted that the response is to be with USAIG by 24th September 2007 and as Mr Patton would be out of the office this would be coordinated by Mr Millar.

Proposed and Agreed.

Mr Thompson and Dr Adamson returned to the meeting. Mr Thompson advised that whilst he may submit an individual response he would be happy to sign the Board response and if necessary deliver it to the Academy Implementation Group.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman highlighted a number of issues:

➤ **World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow**

The RSPBA will be seeking bids to host the Championships in 2010-2012.

The Agency would be keen to be involved.

➤ Talks with the BBC re: Ulster-Scots programmes.

➤ **USAIG**

Reception to introduce the new Minister Edwin Poots to the Academy and showcase their work.

➤ Fuse FM Radio station.

➤ Working with the Executive of the Agency re: the Communications Plan.

➤ Meetings with Ian Kennedy and John Nicholson re: re-launch of "On Eagle's Wing" in 2008.

6. Executive Report

Mr Patton highlighted contact that he had with the “Home Coming Scotland 2009” festival committee.

Mr Patton informed the Board that he has been in contact with Tim Campbell of the St Patrick’s Centre, Downpatrick. They are keen to work with the Agency on a joint project for young adults from North America. The Board were keen for Mr Patton to take this forward.

Action: Mr Patton to progress this.

Sister City Links

The Belfast/Nashville Committee are keen to ensure that the importance of Ulster Scots to this project is recognised. A potential visit to Nashville next year is being considered by the committee

Mr Patton reported on a meeting with Colin Brookes from USA who had been carrying out research in the Limavady area. He had made contact with Mr Willie Douglas who holds hundred of sheets of flute music from the 1800’s and suggested that the Agency should speak to Mr Douglas regarding possible publication The Board asked Mr Patton to progress this.

Proposed and Agreed.

Mr Patton highlighted that he had attended meetings with Mr Gerry Lennon from the Visitors Convention Bureau re: Ulster-Scots performances over holiday periods in Belfast.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

The figures of spend to date were tabled.

To date the Agency budget for the financial assistance scheme has been fully committed. The moratorium will continue.

Mr Devenney queried work carried out by the Ulster-Scots Language Society with funding from the Agency.

Action: Mr Patton is to check ownership of the material in terms of the conditions in the letters of offer. Mr Millar is to write on behalf of the Board requesting sight of the work.

Mr McCullough advised the Board that Mr Eddie Hanna would organise a debriefing session with those involved in running Summer Schools. This would enable the Agency to evaluate the success of the schools. All Board members were welcome to attend.

8. Grants

(1) Altnaveigh School of Dance – Scottish Dance Tuition

Proposal:	£6,000 of £7,400
	“Scottish Dance Tuition” These tuition classes will run for 30 weeks every Saturday from 10-4pm for both old and young people to enable participants to develop their dance skills to compete.

The Board were in agreement to fund this application for the recommended amount of £7,400 under the condition that the group commence the tuition from 15th October 2007 to coincide with the Agency recommendations.

Proposed and agreed.

(2) York Island Arts & Heritage Association

Proposal:	£20,640 of £25,640
	“www.UlsterScotsHeritage.com” This project will run from September 2007 to August 2008. The main aim of the project is to create an online map based catalogue of built heritage sites in Counties Antrim and Down.

The Board were in agreement to reject this application.

William Roulston “How to Study the Plantation”

Mr Patton advised the Board that they would be receiving an application on a proposed booklet on “How to Study the Plantation” after the Board agreed to work on some projects with the Ulster Historical Foundation. The Board welcomed the application.

Proposed and Agreed.

Ulster Historical Foundation

A proposed Service level Agreement for partnership working between the Agency and the Foundation was presented and would be considered by Board members for discussion at the next meeting.

Gavin Falconer

Mr Falconer’s dissertation was presented by Dr John Kirk with a proposed cost of £4,750.

Action: The Board were unable to proceed with this proposal due to the moratorium.

Consideration could be given in the future to publish sections rather than the whole document. A shorter version could be considered in 2008.

9. Amendments to Financial Assistance Scheme

The Board having previously agreed in principal to support the tabled paper from the Executive have now agreed for the Executive to take this forward.

Proposed and agreed.

10. Internal Audit Committee

The latest Internal Audit Committee meeting report was tabled. The system in place at the Agency is satisfactory however there are some minor issues that the Executive are addressing.

This report was proposed and agreed.

11. Stranmillis College

The Board were in agreement to proceed with the tender submitted by Netramedia at the June 2007 Board meeting. It was agreed that that Mr Millar check that this work has been quality approved before he proceeds with the project.

Proposed and agreed.

12. Staffing

The CEO briefed the Board on staffing issues.

13. Board Appointments

The current Board will cease as of 12th December 2007.

14. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

The project workers have been engaging with district councils with further planned projects in the pipeline.

Community Radio

This issue was dealt with at item 4 – minutes of last meeting.

Meeting with Southern Education Departments

This issue has been put on hold until the issue with the UASIG has been resolved.

Summer Schools

Summer Schools were a great success. Framed photos of the Summer School are to be sent out to every school.

The Board proposed and agreed that the Agency should create a directory of Ulster-Scots entertainers that the public can use for events.

After Schools Clubs

Work is ongoing to identify appropriate lessons and get schools on Board for 2008.

Reivers Festival

The Fermanagh festival was very successful. As was the Foyle festival which secured £10,000 funding from the council towards events over the two weeks that the festival ran.

Ulster-Scots Newspaper

Gillian Gilmore, Communication Manager is presently looking at the overall communication strategy of the Agency at present and will feed back to the next Board meeting.

Poetry

There is a volume of work by Dougal the poet from the Lagan era. Due to financial pressures the Board are unable to commit at present to this project but have proposed in principal to publish this book at a later date.

13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place as follows:

Thursday 11 th October 2007	Belfast
Thursday 15 th November 2007	Dublin
Friday 7 th December 2007	TBC

SIGNED:

DATED: