

AGM - Members Q's and A's in chat box

No	Questions	Answers
1.	Do members who join online pay a national fee?	Yes
2.	Is it proposed to take headquarters and learning centre out of Edinburgh to a more rural and central location?	We do not know. If members agree with the ambition of a visitor learning centre we will fully engage with potential funders to scope out potential capital funding, however many funders fund projects based in locations where there is a need for people and community investment, deprivation, inward investment etc
3.	There is a lack of detail in the strategy. Could we have more so that we know what changes we would be agreeing to?	Members have been asked to agree on strategic priorities with objectives in the draft strategy. If members agree to these priorities, we will provide further information, however each objective will be underpinned with an operational plan aligning to staff appraisals.
4.	Is there any evidence that members from institutes which close are becoming online members or are we losing them altogether?	There are many variations, we know of members who join other institutes as their original institute has closed. Some members become independent and attend a mix of institutes. Some members from institutes still meet up and we hope to recruit them back in the future.
5.	Would it be possible to have mobile training for those not able to easily travel to the training centre?	We aim to provide inclusive training and envisage branch off training events and activities across Scotland's Federations.
6.	We have just been through a constitution change which we were told was needed at that time. What is new in the last 2-3 years other than a change of personnel?	The main change over the past 2-3 years has been the significant decline in members further exacerbated by the pandemic. We have lost approx. 1/3 rd of members over the past 3 years.
7.	Every other organisation I belong to charges an annual membership fee, which includes a magazine. Some of this fee is passed down to local branches to use. It seems to me that psychologically this is a better method as it sounds as though institutes are receiving something instead of supporting a HQ and because people can't 'opt out' of receiving communications via the magazine. The actual cost would be about the same	<p>Unfortunately, the SWI magazine is not financially sustainable in its current printed format. Our membership numbers are not large enough to attract advertising or bulk print discounts.</p> <p>We have asked members to decide on the future format in the consultation survey and look forward to hearing what members want.</p>

8.	I know for a fact that these problems were highlighted a number of years ago. Why have we waited so long before action is taken?	COVID has significantly impacted the membership and business continuity over the past 2 years. We have a relatively new Board and CEO to drive forward a vision to ensure the sustainability of the organisation.
9.	How much is the Research Strategy costing?	The cost of the independent consultation is approx. £3,000. This includes all aspects from surveys through to analysis and reporting.
10.	There is only one opportunity to give feedback on the questions so that members can let you know why they have answered as they did. Would it not have been better to find out why members were answering as they did?	The consultation is the first step to gather members feedback on the draft strategy. The survey provides space for feedback and comments, so please let us know what you think. There will be many future opportunities to engage with us as this is a key aspect of strategy 'Involve the current to help shape the future'.
11.	I think it would be useful to know the actual market value of Herriot Row?	We have a provisional estimate of £1.2m – £1.5m depending on market buoyancy. If the members agree to sell the office, we will engage with property agents to evaluate actual market value.
12.	Do we own the entire building at Heriot Row, or part of it? How did we acquire the property in the first place?	42 Heriot Row is the building we own, it has 3 floors and a small basement room. It was gifted by member contributions and cost approximately £5.500.

If you have any more questions, please email: future@theswi.org.uk

Funding links given out during AGM for funding:

- <https://www.persimmonhomes.com/community-champions>
- <https://www.arnoldclark.com/community-fund>
- <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland>
- www.foundationscotland.org.uk
- <https://scvo.scot/funding>

Links sent by our Guest Speaker Pinar:

- <https://maryhillintegration.org.uk>
- <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/lift-the-ban/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaCJgydF2Nw>