

Cross-Party Group on Cycling, Walking And Buses

8th Meeting

Tuesday 11 June 2019, 18:00-19:30

CR5, Scottish Parliament

MINUTES

Present:

Alison Johnstone MSP (Co-convenor, Chair), Graham Simpson MSP (Deputy convenor); Chris Day (Transform Scotland, group secretariat); John Donnelly (GoBike), Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland), Ian Findlay (Paths for All), Dave du Feu (Spokes), Ken Haig (LMRC/CLEAR), Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland), Ian Findlay, Rona Gibb (Paths for All), Stuart Hay (Living Streets), Alex Quayle (Sustrans Scotland), Jim Densham (Cycling UK in Scotland), Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland), Dan Gilmore (Cycling Scotland), Rod Mitchell, Jodi Gordon (Cycle Law Scotland/Road Share Campaign), Andy Gibb (Police Scotland), James Cave (Royal Scottish Geographical Society), Claire Rampen (Beryl.cc), Cate Vallis (RNIB Scotland), Joanne Boyle (Transport Scotland).

Apologies:

Mark James, Colin Howden (Transform Scotland), Claudia Beamish MSP, Jeremy Balfour MSP, Rachel Murphy (CTA), Kim Harding (EDfoc), Douglas Clark (Elgin CC), Adrian Davis (TRI Napier University), Mike Harrison (SATA), Robert Andrew (Stagecoach), Suzanne Forup (Women's Cycle Forum), Sally Hinchcliffe (Women's Cycle Forum)

1. Welcome and introduction

Alison Johnstone MSP opened proceedings at 18.05, and welcomed guest speaker Lee Craigie, Active Nation Commissioner Scotland.

2. Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was re-ordered to allow the AV system to be restarted

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 11/06/19 were approved as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

There was an outstanding action on Mark James, regarding applications to join the Group; MJ to contact Sam Currie (Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee) to update membership. To be confirmed at next meeting.

AP Stuart Hay will report on Holyrood Waverley street audit at the next meeting.

5. Active Travel Taskforce Delivery Plan

5.1 Joanne Boyle (JB) reported on the Delivery Plan. The Delivery Plan was published on 15 July. An interim way forward is being implemented. Work is in hand to define governance.

Questions followed.

5.2 Dave duFeu (DduF); What are the prospects for simplifying TRO processes? What about capital funding for Regional Transport Partnerships? JB; Transport Scotland's Roads Team is leading a review of TROs. The National Transport Strategy is reviewing transport governance and funding

5.3 Graham Simpson (GS); What do you most want to achieve over the next year? JB; Progress the TRO issues, and complete the consultations.

5.4 DduF; Continuing trunk road expansion must be questioned, given the climate emergency.

5.5 Ian Findlay (IF); the key issue will be the detail of the delivery plan.

5.6 Helen Todd (HT); there are promising items hidden away in the Programme for Government.

5.7 JB stated It's doubtful whether Transport Scotland could spend a large amount of extra funding for active travel in the short term. However John Donnelly (JD) challenged the assumption that TS would struggle to spend a significantly increased budget.

5.8 Kim Harding (KH); Bus timetable changes inhibit use of active travel.

5.9 Alex Quayle; Sustrans administers about £56m of the £80m total allocated by the Government. It takes time to gear up for expansion.

5.10 Stuart Hay commented that some schemes which seek funding are not well-developed. However Keith Irving indicated that Cycling Scotland has the capacity to invest more if it was available.

6. Lee Craigie, Active Nation Commissioner Scotland

6.1 Lee Craig (LC) set out her personal background. She had grown up in a physical and family setting with expansive opportunities. She had become enthusiastic about working with young people who did not have such opportunities. After a career in elite sport, followed by her current role, she had been most impressed by projects which were led by local communities. She was excited by the NTS, but wondered what was next in the process. Her prime objective is to act as a voice for those who are most marginalised. In practice it is most effective for her to focus on a limited number of Council areas. She is currently writing a report for the Transport Secretary.

Questions, answers, comments

6.2 KH; Has a concern that if road construction is halted, so will active travel paths, which are often wrapped up in a road project.

6.3 Chris Day; Cautioned that active travel schemes wrapped up in road projects often fall by the wayside. Perhaps the STPR 2 should focus on thematic items rather than a list of mode-by-mode projects.

6.4 JD; Encouraged LC to meet the Transport Secretary soon and he also indicated an early visit to Glasgow would be welcome.

6.5 DduF; Referred to the Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy, in which working groups had considered stopping road construction.

6.6 Cate Vallis; stressed the importance of including disabled people in Active Nation planning.

6.7 HT; Asked for consideration of walking and cycling as leisure activities, not just pure travel purposes.

6.8 GS; Noted that some off-road paths in Falkirk was not good for practical purposes e.g. journey to school.

6.9 IF; Stressed the importance of meeting the social justice agenda.

6.10 KI; Consultation is important, but can be counterproductive if nothing happens afterwards.

6.11 AQ; Noted challenges engaging with disadvantaged communities.

6.12 KH; Noted that connectivity of active travel with the railway is an important part of the Levenmouth reopening.

The Chair closed the meeting with thanks to LC.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Proposed topic; National Walking Strategy

Chris Day 16/09/19