



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2014
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Tara McClafferty (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Michael Donaghy (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA

9:34am *The meeting commenced in open session*

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Deputy Chairperson gave Members an overview of the Committee study visit to the Great Western Greenway in Co Mayo on 7th and 8th May 2014.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2014.

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding seat belts in school buses.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries on Road Closures and Diversions and agreed to forward a sample selection of schemes to the Department for further information.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding new road link between A2 Warrenpoint Road and A1 Belfast/Dublin Corridor and agreed to forward a copy to Warrenpoint Harbour Authority for information.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Regional Development regarding Committee queries following visit to Warrenpoint Harbour.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding 'The World in Your Classroom' event on Tuesday 27th May 2014 and agreed to confirm attendance with Committee office.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding Linear Cycling Tracks and agreed to include this in the Inquiry Report.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding a Green Investment Bank event on Tuesday 10th June 2014 and agreed to confirm attendance with Committee office.

Agreed: The Committee noted a copy of the Invest NI Brussels Bulletin.

5. Connswater Community Greenway Briefing: Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy

9:43am The following representative joined the meeting

Wendy Langham – Programme Manager, Connswater Community Greenway
Gerry Millar – Director of Property and Projects, Connswater Community Greenway
Sammy Douglas MLA – Project Champion, Connswater Community Greenway

The representatives presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

9:58am Mr Hussey joined the meeting

10:16am Mr Easton joined the meeting

10:34am Mr Lynch left the meeting

10:35am Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting

10:43am The representatives left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Connswater Community Greenway to request further information on the numbers of people using the recently built Sam Thompson Bridge.

6. Sustrans Briefing: Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy

10:44am The following representatives joined the meeting

Gordon Clarke – National Director for Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland, Sustrans
Steven Patterson – Deputy Director for Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland, Sustrans
Andy Cope – Head of Research and Monitoring Unit, Sustrans

The representatives presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

10:57am Mr Lynch left the meeting

11:03am Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting

11:23am Mr Hussey left the meeting

11:25am Mr Ó hOisín left the meeting

11:31am *The representatives left the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Sustrans to ask for further information on the 18 rural villages involved in Active Travel pilot schemes.

7. Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland Briefing: Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Economy

11:32am *The following representatives joined the meeting*

Chris Scott – Activity Tourism Manager, Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland

Aideen Exley – Marketing Manager, Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland

The representatives presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

Mr Spratt declared an interest as a former Assistant Warden for Redburn and Scrabo Country Parks in the Environmental and Heritage Service.

11:57am *Mr Lynch left the meeting*

12:02pm *The representatives left the meeting*

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland to ask for further details on the scoping papers being prepared on countryside activities in forest parks.

8. Any Other Business

The Chairperson informed Members that the Committee will be holding a Strategic Residential Programme on 25th and 26th June 2014 in Limavady.

The Chairperson raised the issue of the Giro d'Italia and thanked Roads Service staff for all their hard work in relation to road closures and diversions.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Thursday 28th May 2014 at 9:30am in Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick

12:08pm *The meeting was adjourned*

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
28/05/14