

Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Cycling, Walking and Buses

13th Meeting

Held on Tuesday 17 November 2020, 18:00-19:00

Held as a virtual meeting

MINUTES

Present:

Claudia Beamish MSP (Co-convenor, chairing), Alison Johnstone MSP (Co-convenor), Patrick Harvie MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP; Colin Howden (Transform Scotland, secretariat); Andy Hyde (Go Upstream), Arthur Elsy (Scottish Association for Public Transport), Carl Greenwood (Paths for All), Carmen Martinez, Chris Day (Transform Scotland), Chris Thompson (Living Streets Scotland), David Giles (Scottish Association for Public Transport), Denise Marshall (Pedal on Parliament), Emma Knight (Stagecoach Group), Fergus Boden (Friends of the Earth Scotland), Gavin Thomson (Friends of the Earth Scotland), Gordon Dickson (SPT), Jacqueline Anderson (ADL), Jess Pepper (Transform Scotland), Jim Densham (Cycling UK), John Donnelly (Go Bike), Josh Hill (Graham Simpson MSP's office), Julianne Robertson (Xplore Dundee), Keith Watson (ADL), Lara Fahey (Sustrans Scotland), Michael McMahon (About Dementia), Mike Harrison (Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance), Paul White (CPT Scotland), Peter Knight (Stagecoach Bluebird), Richard Ardern (Friends of the Far North Line), Robert Samson (Transport Focus), Stuart Douglas (Paths for All), Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland), Suzanne Forup (Women's Cycle Forum Scotland), Thomas Cornwallis (Go Bike).

Apologies:

Graham Simpson MSP (Deputy Convenor); Douglas Clark (Elgin Community Council), Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland), Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland), Sally Hinchcliffe (Pedal on Parliament), Tom Bishop (Scottish Cycling).

Item	Agenda item	Action
1	Welcome and introductions	–
1.1	The meeting chair (Claudia Beamish MSP) opened proceedings at 18:00, and welcomed those present. Claudia explained that she had replaced Graham Simpson MSP in chairing this evening's meeting; he had sent his apologies.	None.
2	Apologies for absence	–
2.1	These are noted above.	None.
3	Confirmation of agenda	–
3.1	The agenda was approved with no changes.	APPROVAL: The agenda was approved.
4	Minutes of previous meeting	–
4.1	The chair asked for the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved.	APPROVAL: The minutes of the 01/09/20 meeting were approved.

Item	Agenda item	Action
5	Matters arising	–
5.1	<p>Claudia reported that all except three of the actions from the 03/03/20 meeting had been carried out. Of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudia reported that she had now advised the Parliament re. Patrick Harvie MSP being added as a member of the group. • Alison Johnstone MSP indicated that she wasn't yet aware of a response from the Scottish Government to the letter sent from the group on the topic of Traffic Regulation Orders, but that she would follow up on this. • Stuart Hay (Living Streets) reported to follow-up on the Waverley-Holyrood Street Audit report. Stuart would send a copy of the report to the Scottish Government & The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). He planned a news release on the report before Christmas, with a possible future meeting with CEC and/or the Parliament. 	<p>None.</p> <p>ACTION: Alison Johnstone MSP to pursue Scottish Government for response to the letter.</p> <p>ACTION: Stuart Hay to publish report, and advise further on other follow-up.</p>
6	AGM	–
6.1	Annual Return Form	–
6.1.1	It was agreed that Colin Howden would draft the Annual Return Form, send to the Co-Convenors for approval, and then submit it to the Parliament.	ACTION: Colin Howden to complete submission of Annual Return Form.
6.2	Election of Officebearers	–
6.2.1	<p>Claudia passed the chairing of the meeting to Colin for the purposes of this item.</p> <p>Colin asked for nominations from amongst the MSPs present.</p> <p>Sarah Boyack MSP nominated the continuation of the existing officebearers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Convenor: Alison Johnstone MSP • Co-Convenor: Claudia Beamish MSP • Deputy Convenor: Graham Simpson MSP <p>This proposal was seconded by Patrick Harvie MSP, and the proposal was voted through by the MSPs.</p> <p>Colin passed the chairing back to Claudia.</p>	None.
7	'Driving Scotland's Green Recovery' presentation	–
7.1	<p>The meeting received a presentation from Keith Watson (Customer Development Director, Alexander Dennis Limited) regarding the prospects for green bus manufacturing in Scotland.</p> <p>Claudia thanked Keith for his presentation.</p>	ACTION: Colin Howden to publish presentation online.

Item	Agenda item	Action
8	'The Better Buses Project' presentation	–
8.1	<p>The meeting then received a presentation from Andy Hyde (Founder, Go Upstream), Carl Greenwood (Paths for All), and Gerry King regarding providing bus services which cater for people with dementia.</p> <p>Claudia thanked Andy, Carl & Gerry for their presentation.</p>	ACTION: Colin Howden to publish presentation online.
9	Q&A	–
9.1	<p>David Giles (SAPT) observed that learning from the 'Better Buses' project could also be used for assisting young adults in accessing bus services.</p> <p>Paul White (CPT) asked whether the 'Better Buses' project had yet had engagement from bus operators. Andy indicated that it had had some, but intended further.</p> <p>Stuart Hay (Living Streets) made observations about infrastructure at and around bus stops, and asked what can local government do to improve this.</p> <p>Jim Densham (Cycling UK) asked regarding bike carriage on buses, reflecting on a Borders Buses service. Keith indicated that several other operators were now looking into this.</p> <p>Sarah Boyack MSP reflected that much thought would have to go into how to attract people back to buses post-pandemic, in particular given the current advice to avoid bus use.</p> <p>Fergus Boden (Friends of the Earth Scotland) asked about interest in battery-electric & in hydrogen as fuels for buses. Keith indicated that the former was a current focus, but, for the latter, sourcing green hydrogen can be challenging.</p> <p>Julianne Robertson (Xplore Dundee) reflected that the pandemic might make bus drivers more aware of disabilities. She asked whether the pandemic was leading to bus design changes. Keith indicated that buses had had Covid screens installed, but there had as yet been no move to physical segregation of passengers.</p> <p>Alison Johnstone MSP asked whether current lower occupancy rates on buses could allow an opportunity for increased bike carriage.</p>	None.
10	Dates & themes for subsequent meetings	–
10.1	<p>It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 March from 18:00-19:00. It was suggested that we could invite a SG Minister to address the meeting. Additionally/ alternatively, we could look at holding an event looking towards the May 2021 elections, with a suggestion that we invite a speaker from the WalkCycleVote campaign.</p>	ACTION: Colin Howden to organise 09/03/21 meeting.
11	Close of meeting	–
11.1	The chair closed at the meeting at 19:00.	None.
12	Minutes	–
12.1	Minutes prepared by Colin Howden on 07/12/20.	None.