

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

14th Meeting

Held on Tuesday 9 March 2021 2020, 19:30-20:30

Held as a virtual meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Alison Johnstone MSP (Co-convenor, chairing), Claudia Beamish MSP (Co-convenor); Colin Howden (Transform Scotland, secretariat), Ros Browning (Transform Scotland, secretariat); Chris Day (Transform Scotland), Chris Thompson (Living Streets Scotland), Denise Marshall (Pedal on Parliament), Fergus Boden (Friends of the Earth Scotland), Jim Densham (Cycling UK), Julianne Robertson (Xplore Dundee), Richard Ardern (Friends of the Far North Line), Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland), Suzanne Forup (Women's Cycle Forum Scotland), Dave du Feu (Spokes), Andrew Lindsay (Sustrans Scotland), Sally Hinchcliffe (Pedal on Parliament), Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland), Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland), Steven Stewart (Stagecoach Group), Alastair Dalton (The Scotsman), Marie Ferdelman (Transform Scotland).

Apologies:

Graham Simpson MSP (Deputy Convenor), Sarah Boyack MSP; Lara Fahey (Sustrans Scotland), David Spaven, Catriona Burness (RNIB), Carmen Martinez, Mike Harrison (Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance), Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland), John Donnelly (Go Bike).

| Item | Agenda item | Action |
|----------|--|--|
| 1 | Welcome and introductions | – |
| 1.1 | <p>The meeting chair (Alison Johnstone MSP) opened proceedings at 19:35, welcomed those present, and thanked those present for attending at the delayed time (due to the late completion of parliamentary business).</p> <p>Alison expressed her condolences at the unexpected death of Ian Findlay (Director of Paths for All), saying that he had been a valued member of the CPG. Alison asked for those present to hold a moment of thanks for Ian.</p> <p>Alison also thanked her co-convenors for their work over the past five years, thanked Transform Scotland for its work in providing secretariat to the group, and thanked all members, attendees & contributors.</p> | 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 17/11/20 meeting were approved. |

| Item | Agenda item | Action |
|----------|--|--------|
| 5 | Matters arising | – |
| 5.1 | <p>Colin Howden indicated that all actions from the 17/11/20 meeting had been carried out.</p> <p>He noted that a paper from Dave du Feu regarding the CPG's correspondence with the transport minister on Traffic Regulation Orders had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.</p> | None. |
| 6 | What do transport groups want from the next Scottish Government?' breakout rooms | – |
| 6.1 | <p>The chair indicated that the remainder of the meeting would follow a different format to that held at previous meetings. Delegates were to be split into three randomly-allocated 'breakout rooms' at which they would be asked to come forward with a single policy proposal for each of the walking, cycling and buses policy areas. The proposals would then be published in a non-attributed fashion. Alison stressed that the proposals must not be 'party political'.</p> <p>Delegates split into the three groups, convened by Julianne Robertson, Marie Ferdelman & Stuart Hay, for 30 minutes.</p> <p><i>A record of the points raised in the breakout rooms has subsequently been published at: https://transform.scot/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/What-Do-Transport-Groups-Want-from-the-next-Scottish-Government_-CPG-CWB-2021-03.pdf</i></p> | None. |
| 7 | What do transport groups want from the next Scottish Government?' feedback from breakout rooms | – |
| 7.1 | <p>There was then feedback from the three breakout room convenors.</p> <p>Stuart indicated that on walking, discussion had focussed on 20-minute neighbourhoods; cycle discussion had focussed on cycling budgets & network development, plus presumed liability; and on buses, enforcement of bus priority & bus cameras. There had also been discussion on rural issues: connecting rural towns by walking & cycling, but also sustainable bus services.</p> <p>Marie reported that discussion had focussed on "making everyday journeys easier": getting to school, shops, bus stops. On walking, specific funds were considered necessary; on cycling, segregated infrastructure, including in rural areas; and for buses: availability, integration, incentivisation, simple ticketing.</p> <p>Julianne spoke about: the need for planning 20mph neighbourhoods & building upon Spaces for People. However, there had been opposition to e-scooters. On walking, issues raised had included: implementing pavement parking, making sure cycling doesn't impinge on pedestrians; footways in rural areas. On buses, there had been discussion on: what can be done for rural buses, bus priority, better integration between modes, and making sure people aren't left behind by technology. There had been a view that more attention should be paid to rural issues.</p> | None. |

| Item | Agenda item | Action |
|-----------|---|--------|
| 8 | What do transport groups want from the next Scottish Government?' discussion | – |
| 8.1 | <p>The chair reflected on what had & hadn't changed in the past five years. From her personal experience, she reflected that cycling could still feel a dangerous experience in terms of road safety.</p> <p>Others flagged that the increase in the Scottish Government's active travel budget & the delivery of 40km of cycleways over the past year through the Spaces for People project were definite improvements. Against this, there may have been a widening of the gap in delivery across Local Authorities.</p> <p>On buses, a view was expressed that bus provision had gone backwards over the past five years. However, a more hopeful response was that the £500m due to be invested via the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund may help turn around some of the undoubtedly negative trends in patronage.</p> | None. |
| 9 | Closing remarks | – |
| 9.1 | <p>The chair noted that Transform Scotland had also prepared a 'legacy report' for the group.</p> <p><i>This has been published at https://transform.scot/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-03-08-CPG-CWB-legacy-report.pdf</i></p> <p>There would be further discussion amongst the convenors as to whether to continue the CPG in the next session of Parliament, taking into account opportunities to refocus the work of the group. Should the group continue, Alison stressed that there would be value in maintaining an online element, so meetings might perhaps be held in a hybrid format.</p> | None. |
| 10 | Close of meeting | – |
| 10.1 | The chair closed at the meeting at 20:35. | None. |
| 11 | Minutes | – |
| 11.1 | Minutes prepared by Colin Howden on 23/03/21. | None. |