

Petitions Committee

PET(3) 08-09 : Minutes

Date: Tuesday 19 May 2009

Time: 09:31- 10:59

Venue: Committee Room 1, Y Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in attendance

Val Lloyd AM, Swansea East (Chair)

Andrew RT Davies AM, South Wales Central

Mike German AM, South Wales East

Bethan Jenkins AM, South Wales West

Officials

Alun Davidson, Clerk

Gareth Thomas, Deputy Clerk

Joanest Jackson, Legal Adviser

Presenters

Dawn Gullis, Campaigns Officer, Mencap Cymru

Liz Neal, Director, Mencap Cymru

Barbara Teague, Employment Manager, Mencap Cymru

1. Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

2. Evidence session: Petition P-03-170 Mencap Cymru

The Committee took oral evidence from the petitioner.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government regarding existing policy statements and whether there are any plans for the Welsh government to create an overarching policy on employment for people with a learning disability

Make the Enterprise and Learning and Equality of Opportunity Committees aware of this petition

3. New Petitions

(i) P-03-181 Pernicious Anaemia

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Health and Social Services for details of the pilot scheme referred to by the petitioner, and of the Welsh government's approach to treating pernicious anaemia

(ii) P-03-200 The Glamorganshire Canal

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Heritage whether he is aware of any plans to develop a historical trail for the Glamorganshire canal, and for his views on the merits of establishing a trail

Ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing whether she is aware of any access issues in relation to establishing an historic trail

(iii) P-03-205 Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Counsel General for details of any powers the Welsh Ministers have in relation to the Abergavenny Act 1854

Ask the Assembly's legal team to produce a note on any powers the National Assembly for Wales has with regard to the Abergavenny Act 1854

(iv) P-03-218 Save Wenvoe Village

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Clerking team to collate information of shared significance from investigations into the NEVAR petition, and forward this to the petitioner

Await the Deputy First Minister's response to the Committee's letter regarding the evidence base and business case for the proposed airport relief road

(v) P-03-220 Lower the speed limit on the A40 near Abergavenny

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action:

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Deputy First Minister whether the improvements he referred to in his correspondence with the petitioner dated 20 October 2008 have been implemented

4. Updates to previous petitions

(i) P-03-098 Abolishing the school name 'Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen'

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills for her view on the Enterprise and Learning Committee's letter to the Committee dated 29 April 2009

(ii) P-03-099 Multi-user pathway at Talybont-on-Usk

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Deputy First Minister for a copy of the report mentioned in his letter to the Committee, once agreed, and for information on the criteria set out in the brief given to the Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency for developing this report

(iii) P-03-124 Cysgliad

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask Canolfan Bedwyr for details of the terms they offered the Welsh Language Board, and of the possibilities of a Windows version of Cysgliad being made available for free in the short term

(iv) P-03-144 Guide Dogs for the Blind

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Reconsider a briefing from the Members' Research Service at its next meeting

(v) P-03-153 Body Piercing

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Health and Social Services for details of the assessment of regulatory options relating to body piercing

(vi) P-03-179 Post 19 Students with Additional Learning Needs

(vii) P-03-203 Scope Cymru

The Committee considered updates to these petitions.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the Welsh government's response to the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report and the subsequent Plenary debate.

(viii) P-03-197 Save the Vulcan

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Invite Cardiff Council to attend a future Committee meeting to assist the Committee in understanding the process of listing locally important buildings

Ask Jenny Randerson AM if she is able to provide the Committee with a copy of the letter she has received from Cardiff Council regarding local listing

(ix) P-03-206 Free swimming all year round for children and young people

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Heritage for his views on extending the free swimming initiative

Ask the Audit Committee to update the Committee on the Welsh government's progress in terms of the free swimming initiative

Ask the Chief Medical Officer for his view on the merits of free all year round swimming from a health promotion perspective

(x) P-03-207 Support for the unemployed in Monmouth

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the petitioners for their views, in writing, on the Welsh government's response

Ask Jobcentre Plus whether it is willing to take up Monmouth County Council's offer of facilities

Committee Service

May 2009