

Petitions Committee

PET(3) 09-09 : Minutes

Date: Tuesday 9 June 2009

Time: 09:35- 10:39

Venue: Committee Room 1, Y Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in attendance

Sandy Mewies AM, Delyn (Temporary 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

Richard Cole, Senior Planning Officer, Cardiff County Council

Steven Phillips, Corporate Director Environment, Cardiff County Council

1. Election of a Temporary Chair

Sandy Mewies AM was elected as the Temporary Chair under Standing Order 10.19.

2. Introductions, Apologies and Substitutions

Val Lloyd AM sent her apologies and Sandy Mewies AM attended as a substitute.

3. Evidence session: Petition P-03-197 Save the Vulcan

The Committee took oral evidence from Cardiff County Council.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing for the Welsh government's policy position on Article 4 directions in relation to local listing of buildings

Provide the Minister for Heritage with the evidence the Committee has collected in its consideration of this petition, and inform him that the Committee is writing to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing on Article 4 directions

Ask the Members' Research Service to produce a briefing on the draft Heritage Protection Bill currently being considered in the UK Parliament

Ask the Welsh Local Government Association whether they have made representations to the Welsh government on Article 4 directions and local listing

4. New Petitions

(i) P-03-209 Abolish top-up fees in Wales

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills for her position on the abolition of top-up fees

(ii) P-03-217 National Library of Wales - Saturday opening

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Heritage for the Welsh government position, and for details of any discussions he has had with the National Library of Wales on this matter

Ask the National Library of Wales whether it has any plans to review its decision to close on Saturdays, and for details of the total saving it anticipates making from closing on Saturdays.

(iii) P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Health and Social Services for details on the provision of foot-care, and what action the Welsh government has taken to ensure consistency of service across Wales

Ask Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Health Board for details on the provision of foot-care at a local level

(iv) P-03-224 Stepping Stones Nursery

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills whether she anticipates any funding becoming available to fund Coleg Gwent's Stepping Stones Nursery

Ask the Deputy Minister for Regeneration whether any funding for the nursery would be available under regeneration criteria

(v) P-03-227 Against the proposed Metrix access road in Llanmaes

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action:

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Deputy First Minister whether he is willing to consider amending the plans for the Metrix development to take into account the concerns of local residents

Ask Metrix whether they are willing to consider amending their development plans to take into account the concerns of the local residents

4. Updates to previous petitions

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

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Deputy First Minister to write to all Welsh local highway authorities to reiterate the importance of considering the needs of visually impaired people when planning to introduce shared spaces or surfaces

(ii) P-03-172 Restore the Swansea-Cork Ferry

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Ask the Deputy First Minister for his view on the evidence forwarded following the Committee's meeting on 05 May 2009

(iii) P-03-185 Llantwit Major Regeneration

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Close this petition as it has taken it as far as it can

(iv) P-03-188 Special Care Baby Unit

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to ask for her view on the problems in recruiting middle-grade doctors across Wales, for details of any action she has taken or intends to take in relation to this, and also to ask for her view on whether work permit arrangements for non-EU doctors provide constraints on recruiting middle-grade doctors

Write to the NHS Confederation to ask whether it can offer Cwm Taff NHS Trust any support in recruiting middle-grade doctors

(v) P-03-190 No Ely Valley Airport Road**(vi) P-03-218 Save Wenvoe Village**

The Committee considered updates to these petitions.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Invite the petitioners to present evidence to the Committee at a future meeting

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

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Invite the petitioners to present evidence to the Committee at a future meeting

Committee Service

June 2009