

Petitions Committee

Minutes (PET(3)-16-09)

Date: Tuesday 24 November 2009

Time: 09.30 - 10:10

Venue: Committee Room 1, Y Senedd, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in attendance

Val Lloyd AM, Swansea East (Chair)

Andrew RT Davies AM, South Wales Central

Bethan Jenkins AM, South Wales West

Officials

Naomi Stocks, Clerk

Andrew Minnis, Deputy Clerk

Joanest Jackson, Legal Advisor

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Michael German. No substitution was available.

Item 2: New Petitions

P-03-244 Register for local authority road safety schemes

The Committee considered this petition for the first time and noted the Chair's correspondence with the Deputy First Minister.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Welsh Local Government Association to notify them of the petition and seek their views.

P-03-246 Abandon the 50mph speed limit on the M4 at Newport

The Committee considered this petition for the first time and noted the Chair's correspondence with the Deputy First Minister.

P-03-254 Third party representations at planning meetings

The Committee considered this petition for the first time and noted the Chair's correspondence with the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing.

P-03-256 Additional trains to Fishguard

The Committee considered this petition for the first time and noted the Chair's correspondence with both the Enterprise and Learning Committee and the Deputy First Minister. The Committee noted that the petition had been discussed by the Enterprise and Learning Committee and resolved to consider the transcript of that meeting prior to the next meeting of the Petitions Committee.

Item 3: Updates to previous petitions

P-03-205 Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government enclosing submissions from all relevant parties and asking that the Committee be notified if an application for repeal of the Acts is received

Write to the lead petitioner notifying him of the Committee's decision, explaining that the Committee has done what it can in the absence of an application for repeal, and asking that he contact the Committee should he become aware of any further plans by the

council to request repeal of the Acts.

P-03-216 IVF Treatment

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner notifying them of the Minister's action in extending IVF availability to two cycles and seeking their views

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services seeking verification that capacity exists to deliver two cycles of IVF and requesting details of how this is being resourced

P-03-217 National Library of Wales - Saturday Opening

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Heritage asking when a decision on the 2010-11 budget settlement is expected, given the library's stated inability to reopen until they are sure of their funding position. Additionally, the Committee agreed to ask how the library's current status fits with the Minister's recent plenary statement on libraries in Wales.

Write to the Chair of the Communities and Culture Committee notifying her that the petition remains open, that the Petitions Committee is awaiting a Ministerial response and asking that the Communities and Culture Committee keep the petition on record.

P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking for confirmation of when the scoping report will be completed and asking to be notified of its findings as soon as the report is available

P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Health Inspectorate Wales and Social Services Inspectorate Wales notifying them of the petition and asking whether their review of the National Service Framework will address the issues raised

Write to the petitioners notifying them of the Minister's reply and asking for feedback on their discussions with the Department for Health and Social Services

P-03-224 Stepping Stones Nursery

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills asking: for further details on the format of the public consultation exercise on the new Childcare Strategy for Wales; that the petitioner be included in the consultation; and requesting an update on progress on, and findings of, the Childcare Sufficiency Audits conducted with local authorities

Write to the petitioners notifying them of the Minister's response particularly with regard to the local Family Information Services.

P-03-225 Gorseinon College

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the principal of Gorseinon College notifying him of the Minister's response, drawing attention to the WEFO guidance indicated, and asking for details of any outstanding funding applications suffering delays in approval.

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking if there are particular issues arising in relation to bids submitted by multiple organisations rather than single organisations.

Write to Colegau Cymru/Colleges Wales notifying them of the petition and asking for information on any difficulties encountered by colleges attempting to access European funding.

P-03-231 Proximity of wind turbines to residential dwellings

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioners notifying them of the response from the Scottish Government, with particular regard to the fact that the 2KM requirement in Scotland is not a minimum standard

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services notifying her of the petition and asking for her views on the issues raised by the petitioner on the possible health effects of wind turbines, and in particular whether there is any evidence on the matter

P-03-251 Banning Sunbeds

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking to be kept informed on progress towards outlawing unsupervised sunbeds.

P-03-252 Against the proposed Northern Access Road (Boverton residents)

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister summarising the petitioner's response, asking if he is aware of the issues raised and seeking clarity on the statistics referred to in the planning application

Item 4: Review of Progress

P-03-100 Tesco Junction

The Committee reviewed this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking for an update on the outcome of the feasibility study

P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

The Committee reviewed this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking for details of the findings of the Cancer Services Co-ordinating Group all-Wales summary report with regard to assessing compliance with the National Cancer Standards

P-03-153 Body Piercing

The Committee reviewed this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking for an update on the assessment of regulatory options in relation to non-surgical cosmetic treatments provided in the private sector

P-03-156 Sleep Apnoea

The Committee reviewed this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services requesting details of the outcome of the results of the audit of Local Health Boards' progress in implementing the Respiratory Directives planned for September 2009

P-03-162 Road safety in Llanspyddid

The Committee reviewed this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking for details of when the review of safety through Llanspyddid, planned to be undertaken after the publication of the new guidelines on "Setting Speed Limits in Wales", will be completed

Committee Service

November 2009