

Sustainability Committee

Minutes SC(3)-09-10)

Date: 21 April 2010

Time: 09:00 - 11:30

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

Mike German, South Wales East

Irene James, Islwyn

Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth

Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Leanne Wood, South Wales Central

Brynle Williams, North Wales

Committee Service

Meriel Singleton, Clerk

Ryan Bishop, Deputy Clerk

Others in Attendance

Allan Rees MBE, Chairman, National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners

Adrian Walsh, Allotment Regeneration Initiative mentor for Wales

Hannah Pitt, Policy Officer, National Trust

John Mason, Co-Founder, Transition Bro Ddyfi

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Karen Sinclair, Angela Burns and Joyce Watson.

Item 2: Inquiry into the Provision of Allotments in Wales: Evidence Session - National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners and Allotment Regeneration Initiative

The Chair welcomed Allan Rees and Adrian Walsh to the meeting and invited them to make some opening remarks. Members questioned the witnesses.

Adrian Walsh and Allan Rees agreed to provide the Committee with additional figures on how the demographic has changed in regards to demand for allotment use in Wales.

Allan Rees agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the "Cobra" test case, in relation to planning applications for land wishing to be used for allotment purposes.

Adrian Walsh and Allan Rees agreed to provide the Committee with a note on some of the defects in Legislation around allotments and any changes they would like to see happen.

Adrian Walsh and Allan Rees agreed to provide the Committee with further information on whether planning permission is required with regards to allotment sites.

Item 3: Inquiry into the Provision of Allotments in Wales: Evidence Session - National Trust and Transition Bro Ddyfi

The Chair welcomed Hannah Pitt and John Mason to the meeting and invited them to make some opening remarks. Members questioned the witnesses.

The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to establish whether the provision of space for allotments could be included within Glastir scheme.

Item 4: Motion under Standing Order 10.37 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for Item 4

4.1 The Chair moved a motion, under Standing Order 10.37(vi), to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting, to discuss matters relating to their internal business.

4.2 The Committee agreed to the motion.

Item 5: Consideration of the scoping paper for the Inquiry into Biomass

5.1 The Committee agreed the following Terms of Reference for its Inquiry into Biomass.

To explore the extent to which the supply of biomass fuel in Wales will be able to meet additional demand as a result of incentives such as the Community Scale Renewable Energy Generation scheme and Renewables Obligation Certificates.

To explore ways the Welsh Government can support and provide opportunities to stimulate the increased production of biomass within Wales.

Item 6: Discussion on Access to Inland Water and Inquiry into Planning

6.1 The Committee discussed its Inquiry into Access to Inland Water and agreed its Terms of Reference for the Inquiry into Planning.

The inquiry will focus on the following topic areas:

The use of UK and Welsh government policies and guidance in the development of Local Development Plans (LDP) - this would include the UK Government and the Infrastructure Planning Commission e.g.

how easy/difficult the high level policies and guidance are to interpret into policies at the local level;

how reactive the LDP production process is to new policies and guidance

what guidance policy/guidance gives on reconciling competing land uses such as renewable energy and landscape quality, affordable housing and design criteria/social concerns, climate change and economic growth;

The use of UK, Welsh government and LDP policies in determining planning applications e.g.

what weighting (if any) should be given to competing policies when planning applications are decided;

what weighting should be given to public opinion if it is in opposition to national and local policies;

how planning officials advise planning committees