

**From:** Johnstone A (Alison), MSP Alison.Johnstone.msp@parliament.scot  
**Subject:** Notes from meeting of Cross Party Group on Walking, Cycling and Buses  
**Date:** 15 March, 2017 at 18:23  
**To:** Johnstone A (Alison), MSP Alison.Johnstone.msp@parliament.scot

MJ

Dear All,

Please find below notes from the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Walking, Cycling and Buses which took place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 1pm.

As the meeting elected the Secretariat during the proceedings, brief notes for information follow in this instance;

**Introductions, apologies and attendance;**

The initial meeting of the Group took place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and confirmed the purpose of the Group, the MSP membership and the Group's office bearers. This information is available on the Group's webpage, at:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/CrossPartyGroups/Session5CrossPartyGroup/Registration%20forms/CWB\\_RegistrationForm.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/CrossPartyGroups/Session5CrossPartyGroup/Registration%20forms/CWB_RegistrationForm.pdf)

**Present:** Tom Rye (Professor of Transport Policy, Edinburgh Napier University); Rona Gibb (Paths for All); Wendy Graham (Edinburgh Bike Station); Daisy Narayanan (Sustrans Scotland); Claire Daly (Sustrans Scotland); Suzanne Forup (Cycling UK Scotland); Dave du Feu (Spokes); Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland); Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland); Mark Ruskell MSP; Alison Johnstone MSP (Co-convenor); Claudia Beamish MSP (Co-convenor); Graham Simpson MSP (Deputy convenor).

**Apologies:** George Mair (Confederation of Passenger Transport UK); Tricia Fort (GoBike Strathclyde Cycle Campaign); Robert Samson (Transport Focus); Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland); Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland); Isobel Leckie (Causey Development Trust); Kim Harding (Pedal On Parliament); Gail Ross MSP; Richard Lochhead MSP.

It is expected that other organisations and groups will join the Group.

The meeting was chaired by Alison Johnstone MSP.

The meeting agreed and warmly welcomed Transform Scotland as Group Secretariat.

There was a discussion regarding the Cross Party Group on Cycling's work in the last session and opportunities to effect change in this session. Contributions include;

The Group has enabled the development of relationships and information sharing.

The Group has pushed Active Travel up the agenda, increasing awareness of benefits and challenges.

Input from the Group was key in the realisation of the Community Links Plus Competition.

Develop work with and hold meetings with other Cross Party Groups such as Rail and Public Health.

Stronger focus on walking welcome.

There was a discussion regarding whether the group focus at each meeting is modal specific, policy driven or process driven. There was general agreement that a focus on current policy and parliamentary business should focus the agenda and work of the Group to enable input.

A view was expressed that there are too few MSPs attending the Cross Party Group, that a greater focus on the business of Parliament would be welcome, rather than a diet of speakers and presentations.

The Group should be pro-active, not simply for discussion.

It was agreed that the Group would meet three times annually, but that this might be increased with agreement.

Dave du Feu pointed out that calls for evidence to the National Transport Strategy Review are due by end of March. It was agreed that the Group would contribute and that brief comments should be sent to the Secretariat and will be collated at this point. Please contact Colin Howden of Transform Scotland on [colin.howden@transformscotland.org.uk](mailto:colin.howden@transformscotland.org.uk).

It was agreed that Transport Scotland would be invited to speak on the Transport Bill at the next meeting of the Group, and that Sustrans Scotland will update the Group on the Active Travel Task Force at the same meeting.

It was agreed that there will be a focus on Integration of Walking, Cycling and Buses at each meeting, and that responsibility for this input will revolve. Rona Gibb will contribute on this issue on behalf of Paths for All at next meeting.

Information regarding date and time of next meeting will be circulated in due course. It is anticipated that the meeting will take place in May and that confirmation of date, time and meeting room will follow shortly.

Kind regards,

Alison

## **Alison Johnstone MSP for Lothian | Scottish Green Party**

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*Surgeries by appointment. Please ring or email me to arrange.  
Alternatively you can text the Scottish Parliament on 07786 209 888,  
addressing your comments to Alison Johnstone MSP.*

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