

Group Re- Assembly Report and its Implications for Rural Scotland - Minute

Tuesday 5th October 2021

Present

MSPs

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heating, less comfortable, etc.); RHS want to see statutory mechanisms (e.g. National Planning Framework 4) used to demand that new housing performs as its meant to; referenced higher living costs in rural areas, plus heating costs more, need to travel by private car, means that homes in rural areas need a very different approach to those in urban areas; lots of discussion about low carbon heating systems but if homes themselves are not refurbished/insulated properly the benefits are lost; essential that move away from bringing in labour and materials from round the world climate implications but also means local wealth taken out of an areal Scottish National Investment Bank with one mission to promote zero carbon development have opportunity to use resources from Scotland for housing and upskill our workforce to use these local materials; very encouraging that we have

provision in a place without having huge climate impacts; key is local provision of services or consideration of the different ways that services can be delivered locally.

communities including rural localised living here: [20 Minute Communities, Climate Assembly](#) .

Role of children in the climate assembly. Over 100 children were brought together to listen to evidence and deliberate alongside and in the same ways as assembly members. Assembly members were struck by how similar the calls to action were from the children and the other members, and how much more direct the children were in presenting their recommendations (e.g. in relation to land ownership and plastics use). Inclusion of children in the assembly process was met with mixed reviews by assembly members at first with some scepticism, but over time there was an appreciation of the advantage to be gained from sharing experiences and views, and the shared development of actions. There are perhaps some wider lessons to be learned here in terms of the ways in which we might involve children in future decision-making in Scotland.

How can the biodiversity crisis be brought more to the forefront of the SCA agenda?

recognised the climate emergency but biodiversity does not feature heavily in the report. What does this say about our failure to transfer the urgency

convey the importance of the role of communities in terms of managing biodiversity and the opportunities that brings? This is commonplace in construction projects too

quantify the value of them and they are always seen as peripheral. Other countries (e.g. Germany) set targets for blue and green spaces and we have an opportunity through planning regulations and NPF4 to put targets for the increases into law. The youth-led session at the Scottish Rural Parliament did interweave biodiversity into climate change and food production discussions. We

action and reinforce the urgency of the biodiversity crisis. This strongly relates to debates about how we value our landscapes and who gets to value them

and our notion of place-based sustainability. It was also recognised that Assembly members when discussing climate change also recognised the co-benefits of climate action, including relating to biodiversity. The need for planners to come forward with positive solutions to address biodiversity challenges was also noted.

There remain challenges around second home ownership in much of rural Scotland and Covid-19 may also lead to more people moving to rural places and working remotely with higher incomes than people working locally. In Scandinavia there is legislation around second houses which allows for the building of homes that will only be used in the summer and then housing

be accessed here: [Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee Work Programme.](#)

The Secretariat will explore potential communication platforms to facilitate conversation and collaboration after and between the Cross Party Group on Rural 0 0()-2ta Ct A