

ScotFLAG Rural Freight Sub-Group Meeting

Conference Room 11, Victoria Quay

Tuesday 19 September 2017

Note of meeting

Present:

Roland Stiven, Confor (Chair)
Jamie Smart, NFU Scotland
Anne Gray, Scottish Land and Estates
Paula Coopland MPAS
Peter Clark SWA
Josh Roberts, Forestry Commission Scotland
Pam Stott, Transport Scotland
Bob Bridges, Transport Scotland

Apologies:

Chris MacRae, Freight Transport Association
Derek Nelson, Forestry Commission Scotland
Chris Little, Road Haulage Association
Douglas Hill, Angus Council
Alistair Prior, SG: Scottish Rural Network Support Unit
Amanda Fox, SG: Good Food Nation

Follow up on actions from previous meeting

1. **Action 1:** Set up a Knowledge Hub file so information can be shared. Done (Bob Bridges)
2. **Action 2:** Minutes of March meeting to be added to ScotFLAG webpage. Ongoing (Bob Bridges)
3. **Action 3:** Identify possible source of funding for executive input to group. Ongoing (Roland Stiven)
4. **Action 4:** Terms of Reference to be circulated for executive support. Done (Roland Stiven)
5. **Action 5:** MPAS data to be shared. Done (Paula Coopland)

Sectoral Priorities

6. The group undertook a workshop exercise to identify the key issues affecting individuals' sectors. The key issues were then grouped and prioritised by theme.

7. The results of the exercise were:

1. Physical Road Network Condition

- Road width
- Verge and ditch maintenance
- Narrow roads/tight turns – time and difficulty for manoeuvring
- Width; vegetation; narrows e.g. bridges; pot holes; soft verges
- Narrow rural roads – poor access
- Weak rural roads

1b. Additional Operating Costs

- Wear and tear to vehicles from poor roads
- High fuel consumption on rural roads

1c. Centralisation/Distance from Market

- Costs – Distance from market
- Reducing number of processors (sawmills) – distance increases; cost increases = price drops
- Centralisation of processors

2. Resilience

- Long detours
- A83 (key route to Islay, Jura and Campbeltown) long diversion for HGVs
- No winter maintenance of minor roads
- Roads maintenance, especially of minor roads
- Bio security

3. Freight – Conflict with communities and other road users

- Community complaints about lorries
- Vehicle movements through villages
- Competition with other users – tourism/commuters
- Inconsiderate cyclists
- Increase in walkers, cyclists etc.
- Objections from communities to heavy freight – grain/timber wagons

4. Consideration by all levels of government and regulations – lack of joined up thinking
 - Inconsistent application of working time regulations
 - Legislation
 - Food and drink targets and woodland expansion targets not being linked to transport infrastructure necessary to deliver
 - Lack of provision for agricultural vehicles/lack of understanding by Transport Scotland and local authorities
 - Planning/infrastructure levy

5. Road efficiency – trunk/rural roads and restrictions/improvements
 - Clash between agricultural vehicles and faster vehicles
 - Slow trunk roads
 - Dualling of trunk roads – A9 welcome – A95/A941/A82/A83 – passing points

6. Miscellaneous
 - Price of product dropped through the floor since crop planted. Economics changed
 - Shortage of drivers for livestock haulage
 - Driver retention
 - Active signs on more roads. Brown signs
 - Ferry capacity/links – Islay ferry
 - Road network within the forest not extensive enough

Date of Next Meeting:

8. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 November.

Summary of Actions from Meeting

Action Point – Develop a series of case studies. All

Action Point – Consider potential solutions to issues identified. All

21 September 2017