



BULLETIN (58) 13 JANUARY 2006

PUBLICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY FORUM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY - MINUTES OF THIRD MEETING (SE 21/12/05)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/2085548/55485>

DRAFT CROFTING REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL – ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES (SE 29/12/05)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/10/2790312/03134>

RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION DRAFT SPP8: TOWN CENTRES (09/01/06)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/01/06131339/0>

VACANCIES

BEFS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (PART-TIME) Circa £13-15K pro rata (15 hours), depending on experience. BEFS is seeking an Administrative Assistant to provide administrative support to the Forum Co-ordinator in running the Forum. The Assistant has particular responsibility for issuing information and arranging events. For an Application Pack or if you have any queries contact: Jo Robertson 0131 556 5353, jrobertson@befs.org.uk, or visit the website at: <http://www.befs.org.uk/issues.htm>

Closing date: 5pm, Friday 27 January 2006, provisional interview date: 7 February 2006.

ALBA CONSERVATION TRUST DIRECTOR Alba Conservation Trust heads a group of charitable trusts working with historic buildings throughout Scotland. Based in Edinburgh, the Director heads a small, dedicated team which tackles the restoration of heritage buildings for community use. Applicants should have experience of significant funding applications, regeneration projects and strategic business planning. A job description and further information on the Trust can be obtained via e-mailing laura@conservationtrust.co.uk

Closing date: 5pm, Tuesday 31 January 2006.

EVENTS/TRAINING

BREEAM FOR SCHOOLS TRAINING COURSE BRE Scotland have arranged for a BREEAM for Schools training course to be held in East Kilbride, Glasgow on the 31st January/1st February. This is the first time a BREEAM Assessors training course has been held in Scotland and is due to the increasing demand for BREEAM Assessors. Increasing numbers of local authorities are requesting the inclusion of a BREEAM assessment in new build and refurbishment schools. Further details at:

<http://www.bre.co.uk/eventdetails.jsp?id=823>

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PAYMENTS AGREED (28/12/05) The Agri Environment Rates Review Group has announced new payment rates to encourage farmers and crofters to protect and enhance the environment. The Rural Stewardship and Organic Aid schemes provide opportunities for farmers to increase biodiversity, improve water quality and enhance Scotland's landscapes.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/28160405>

BILLS PROGRESS

PLANNING ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL - STAGE 1 The Bill and accompanying documents can be viewed at:
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/planning.htm>

Timetable:

Communities Committee 11 January 2006

Public Petitions Committee 18 January 2006

Official reports of parliamentary committee meetings can be viewed at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/index.htm>

Call for written evidence: The Communities Committee has issued a call for written evidence with a deadline of 6 March 2006.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/communities/05_Events.htm

SHIONA BAIRD: PROPOSED HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS BILL (11/01/06) Final proposal for a Bill to require the Scottish Executive to establish targets to improve the energy efficiency of households by a specific date and to take steps, including the preparation of an action plan, to ensure those targets are met and to report on progress.

RECENT MOTIONS

***S2M-3792 ROSS FINNIE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (10/01/06)** That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Executive's new sustainable development strategy, "Choosing our future"; supports the strategy's vision of a vibrant resource-efficient economy with Scotland as a leader in green enterprise; welcomes its emphasis on reducing Scotland's global environmental impact, protecting its natural heritage and resources for the long term, improving the quality of life of individuals and communities and securing environmental justice for those who suffer the worst local environments, and calls on all sections of society in Scotland to play their part in delivering these objectives.

***S2M-3793 MARK BALLARD: SUPPORT TOWN CENTRES (11/01/06)** That the Parliament welcomes calls from the Forum of Private Business for shoppers to support their town centre shops and shun "parasitic" out-of-town shopping centres and retail parks; supports efforts to protect small and medium-sized retailers which are vital to ensuring the diversity and independence of the retail sector; notes that money spent in town centre shops is retained in the community, bringing growth and prosperity to the local area, whereas money spent in retail parks disappears out of the area, supporting only a limited number of low-paid jobs and leading to local economic decline; condemns the short-sighted policies that have led 20,000 high street shops to close in the United Kingdom since 1997 and laments the consequent emergence of "clone town Britain", and calls on the Scottish Executive and local authorities to do everything in their powers to support locally owned businesses and ensure that they are able to compete with retail parks on a truly level playing field.

***S2M-3809 SARAH BOYACK: SCOTLAND'S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT (13/01/06)** That the Parliament acknowledges the value of the ecological footprint as a resource management tool that is easily understood and can help guide us to reduce our impact on the planet; notes that the size of Scotland's ecological footprint currently represents Scotland as using and polluting much more than our fair share of the global environment and that, if everyone on the planet consumed and polluted at this rate, we would need three planets to sustain us; therefore welcomes the Scottish Executive's commitment to reduce Scotland's ecological footprint and to use the footprint as a key tool for communicating and delivering sustainable development; further welcomes the first ecological footprint exercise by the Parliament and commends Scotland's Global Footprint Project, involving the local authorities in North Lanarkshire, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, for leading the way in the United Kingdom by using the footprint to reduce their global environmental impacts; looks forward to all local authority area results being published in spring 2006, and encourages everyone to calculate their own footprint at www.scotlandsfingerprint.org and set out to reduce it.

RECENT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-21905 MURRAY TOSH (21/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it regards the five core business areas identified by English Partnerships as core business areas for Scotland and, if so, which agency is responsible for delivering development of a portfolio of strategic sites in Scotland, which agency acts as its

specialist adviser on brownfield land, which agency ensures that surplus government land is used to support wider Executive objectives and which agency is responsible for delivering the Scottish equivalent of the Sustainable Communities Plan.

S2W-22039 MARY MULLIGAN (09/01/06) To ask the Scottish Executive how many planners are employed in local authority planning departments, broken down by local authority.

S2W-22038 MARY MULLIGAN (09/01/06) To ask the Scottish Executive how many planning reporters it estimates it will need to employ if a third party right of appeal is introduced in the Planning Bill.

S2W-22077 DEREK BROWNLEE (11/01/06) To ask the Scottish Executive what additional activities the increase in the budget of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland between 2002-03 and 2007-08 has enabled, or will enable.

S2W-22217 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (13/01/06) To ask the Scottish Executive what steps are being taken to improve the resilience of homes and the built environment in respect of the impacts of climate change.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-21572) MURRAY TOSH: DEFINITION OF DEVELOPMENTS

A It is our intention to publish draft regulations defining the categories of major and local developments well before stage 3 consideration of the Planning etc (Scotland) Bill, which has now been introduced.

MALCOLM CHISHOLM (22/12/05)

Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS); Historic Scotland (HS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM); Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents. If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Jo Robertson jrobertson@befso.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.