

Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group (SENSG)

Notes of Tenth Meeting – 31 March 2009 10:30am Room 3B 22 Victoria Quay Edinburgh

Present:

David Wallace (DW) - Scottish Government and SENSG Chair
Linda Story (LS) - Scottish Government
Bernadette McKell (BM) – Hamilton & McGregor
Drew Hill (DH) Transport Scotland and Transportation Working Group Chair
Steve Williamson (SW) – Edinburgh City Council and Edinburgh Working Group Chair
Sandra Dandie (SD) – Scottish Government Economist.
Nick Evans (NE) – Scottish Government Planning
Nigel Kerr (NK) – Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Working Group Chair.

1. Apologies

Alan Martin (AM) - Transport Scotland – Rail
Duncan McNab (DM) - Scottish Government
John Stirling (JS) – REHIS
Victoria Colling (VC) – BAA

2. Agree Minutes of Last Meeting.

- 2.1 Minutes from the last meeting reviewed and agreed upon.
- 2.2 Add Ispora – Italian conference to Agenda
- 2.3 Point 5 on the agenda – the consultation has gone out with responses by 11 May 2009
- 2.4 Victoria Colling is holding a meeting of the next Airport Noise Strategy Group meeting.

3. Guidance on CNMAs to NMA (plus schools/hospitals)

3.1 LS stated that technical guidance on the consultation was on the website. Helpful to have engineers/planners of Local Authorities on board. The consultation was sent electronically by email to all Local Authorities. Schools and Hospitals had been overlooked in Consultation /Guidance. David Wallace (DW) added that the Directive was quite fuzzy and that a short paragraph had to be added into the guidance both for QAs and NMAs.to cover the Schools/Hospitals issue . BM suggested the addition of ‘red flag’ and ‘yellow flag’ indicators within the working PDF Documents already issued to working groups. BM added an example of the work done with the Southern General Hospital in regard to Emergency vehicle and helicopter noise impacts.

3.2 Nigel Kerr suggested that as the working groups were looking at schools and hospitals in any event a general statement could be added so that guidance can be updated by the end of May 2009. DW stated that the Guidance would be finalised at the end of May 2009, thus being available to Local Authorities with the hospital and schools issues added in.

Action LS to aim to have draft Action Plans ready for final publication along with the Technical Guidance by the end of May.

4. Quiet Areas, guidance on moving from Candidate Quiet Areas to Quiet Areas (plus schools and Hospitals)

4.1 LS reported on the brainstorming session on quiet areas, in particular the issue of most of the candidate areas in Glasgow being at the very edge of the agglomeration . following the meeting David Palmer (consultant) had identified a data source for parks as – candidate quiet areas.. Edinburgh and Glasgow– groups were asked to go away and look at / report any problems. It was noted that Naomi Sandilands (Edinburgh Group) had been very helpful throughout this exercise.

4.2 Taking Parks and SNH designations as a starting point and applying the TRL filters of 9 hectares of which 75% are below 55dB L_{day} results in 66 areas identified in Glasgow with 28 plus identified in Edinburgh. The reality checks reveal a robust formula.

4.3 NK noted that noise action plans had been sent out. DW stated that we have to consult again when moving from CQA to QA. Discussion took place about how the quiet areas might fit with Local authority open space audits and the Greenspace agenda. DW asked how the groups were going to take this forward, whether quiet areas need to be revisited? It was concluded that aligning is difficult and may have to change in future for future rounds.

4.4 SW raised concerns that quiet areas were very difficult and the implications for the future should be spelt out in guidance. .

4.5 It was agreed that objective measures have been identified and the group has a formula for at least the first round.

Action BM will draft guidance (for Glasgow & Edinburgh) and send it to the group for comments by the end of April 2009. This should include identifying schools and hospitals within or close to Candidate Quiet Areas.

5. PAN56

5.1 Nick Evans (NE) introduced PAN56 and stated that there was an agreement to review PAN56 as it falls within new requirements for planning guidance. The PAN needs scaling back as well as needing to be more precise in its wording. BM explained that she was aiming for the significance of impact thereby avoiding Environmental Impacts. PAN35 & PAN55 do already relate to significance of impact. NE stated that PAN56 is essentially advice to planners.. Discussion took place over what level of prescription might be appropriate. SW stated that even though PAN56 should only be used to offer advise to planners, councils use it prescriptively.

5.2 BM added that the guidance could be added elsewhere and reiterated that the guidance has to be a lot simpler so as to stop confusion. NE asked how much information should be put into PAN56 i.e. open space standards? SW pointed out that if there was not enough information in the guidance it may cause panic.

Action point - BM to produce a draft and forward it to NE, NK, SW and LS.. The timing is critical and the quicker it is resolved the easier it will be in the long run.

Action point – Arrange meeting to discuss and build Quiet Areas and Noise Management Areas into PAN56

6. Reports from Glasgow, Edinburgh and Transport Groups.

6.1 NK gave information about the Glasgow meeting. The group were happy with the technical guidance and liked the Appendix 3 spreadsheet calculation. Each Local Authority going to assess one road and one rail Candidate Noise Management Area. Very happy that Glasgow has 66 identified quiet areas. Is arranging another meeting for either 28 or 29 April 2009 where official response to the guidance / consultation will be given, a timetable to maintain the momentum will be arranged as well as the commencement of Candidate Quiet Area visits.

6.2 SW gave information on the Edinburgh groups meeting. There was a relatively poor turnout as only two planners attended. The Edinburgh group were wrestling with open space audits versus quiet areas and Naomi was double checking information. The group touched on PAN56 and Quiet Area definitions. The next meeting would involve desk top exercises and also have the group investigate Quiet Area sites as well as sites near them on the PDF. Next meeting due on 29 April 2009.

6.3 DH reported back on the Transport group. Complete NMA's and CNMA's by the end of the year. Some site visits have already occurred and some points have been noted. The group talked about the process for future site visits. There was a discussion with the Highways Agency. The TRL M8 noise report was also reviewed. Alan cannot be here to discuss Network Rail. There will be a site visit of rail line in next 3 to 4 weeks, if anyone from the SENSG wishes to attend please get in touch. May 2009 visit to Cardonna, AMEY to visit. Next meeting of Transport group is scheduled for 27 May 2009.

7. Airports

7.1 DW stated that SG had been invited to the next Airport meeting. LS is to attend.

8. Research – TRL

8.1 LS informed the SENSG group that the TRL research report was nearly completed. Dealing with road surfaces – latest draft to be completed by the end of May 2009. DW added that the research process will be relevant to how the SENSGS group take measures forward. SD asked if comments had been taken on board. LS answered stating that in general comments were taken on board and we are getting more out of research project than expected.

Action LS to put the findings / report round group members for comments.

9. Transportation Candidate Noise Management Areas

9.1 DW informed about Candidate Noise Management Areas in Dundee and Aberdeen. where busy local roads not included in the prioritisation matrix.. Asked the group whether we

will take any work forward – given they may be dropped in 2012. BM stated that in Aberdeen the PLI will have a big effect – If the bypass goes ahead, all of Aberdeen city centre will change. State of flux.

9.2 Discussion took place on how to proceed.

Action Point – LS to Organise a meeting (April/May) with DW, DH, Aberdeen and Dundee City Council reps regarding CNMAs and SENSG work. DH to give names of relevant members.

10. SAK railway line and its effects on END work

10.1 The stretch in question is from Larbert to Stirling and concerns the Stirling, Alloa and Kincardine Railway line. DW stated that major complaints had been received about coal trains using this track. The freight trains due to not going over the Forth Rail Bridge have heavier and larger trucks for more haulage which will only increase when Longannet Power Station development is complete. The station will need more coal so there may be a need to re-map this stretch of rail line. Discussion took place on the need to map and what to map.

10.2 It was agreed that a short submission for the Minister to inform and ask for agreement to remap in consultation with Alan Martin. BM stated that she would send through costs and requirements for data (both for remapping as well as findings from newly reopened stretch of the same line).

Action point – DW send submission up to the Minister

Action point – BM to provide costs and requirements for data (both for remapping as well as findings from newly reopened stretch of the same line).

11. Environmental Protection UK leaflet

11.1 Last draft of the Environmental Protection UK leaflet on END is with Mary Stevens for finalizing graphics.. The leaflet may be web based..

12. Questionnaire from EU

12.1 DW asked how END has worked up to now? Member states questionnaire had been posted round. Were there any changes needed? Scottish Government to respond separately from DEFRA.

Action point – Could everyone please send in their views by 09 April 2009.

13. AOB

13.1 BM gave a report on the workshops in ISPRA mainly related to Article 6.2 – and harmonising the mapping process.. It went into the issues of equivalency, Willingness to sign up to common instead of national method. Not happy as results inaccurate. Unhappy about spreadsheets as they were inflexible UK regions have replied but European data of varying standards. BM thinks a written response is required once we have received the papers..

13.2 Meeting arranged with the UK & European Commission on 20 April 2009 in Brussels.

13.3 DW thanked everyone for attending the meeting and arranged for the next meeting to be held from 11am on 21 May 2009 with lunch included. DW closed the meeting.

END