



Citizens' Assembly of Scotland: Scotland's Climate Assembly Stewarding Group Meeting Minutes Fourteenth Meeting – 15 March 2021

Attendees

Nadine Andrews, SCA Research team
Nick Bland, SCA Research team

Susie Townend, Secretariat
Julie Steel, Secretariat
Eleanor McGhie, Secretariat
Isabelle Rayner, Secretariat
Jessamyn Briers, Secretariat
Ruth Mattock, Secretariat
Georgina Belk, Secretariat
Elliot Ross, Secretariat

Kaela Scott, Involve
Tim Hughes, Involve
Kelly McBride, DemSoc
Anthony Zacharzewski, DemSoc

Andrew McCornick, formerly NFUS
Doreen Grove, Open Government Partnership
Jane Suiter, Dublin City University
Jenny Marr, Scottish Liberal Democrats
Laura Moodie, Scottish Green Party
Malcolm Cannon, formerly IOD
Oliver Escobar, University of Edinburgh
Sally Thomas, SFTA
Kirsten Leggatt, 2050 Climate Group
Ruth Harvey, Iona Community
Mike Robinson, Royal Scottish Geographical Society
Andrew McRae, Federation of Small Businesses, Scotland
Claudia Beamish, Scottish Labour Party

Apologies

Paul de Leeuw, Robert Gordon University
Jamie Gregory, Secretariat

1. Introduction

Susie welcomed all to the 14th Stewarding Group meeting and ran through the agenda.

2. Research update



Nadine and Nick gave a summary of the Weekend 5 research findings from the survey and observational notes.

Key findings included a reduction in the reporting of domination in small groups, which potentially highlights the work the design team did with the facilitators to address dominance. Observational notes indicated a high level of engagement in break out groups.

Fewer members reported that they had learned something in weekend 5, which possibly reflected the change in emphasis from weekend 4 (evidence) to weekend 5 (deliberations).

The research team also noted that members think the assembly as a whole, rather than individually, has the information to answer the question, but this has increased over time. The Stewarding Group reflected that members have faith in the Assembly process as a whole- the strength of collective intelligence.

3. Draft communication strategy

Elliot gave an overview of the communication strategy. Elliot also noted that the Secretariat would like to use the SG as a resource to amplify our capacity.

The comms strategy aims to raise the profile of the Assembly, especially by amplifying members' voices, recognising that the conclusion of the Assembly meetings, is only the mid-point in the process.

The Stewarding Group suggested using: Sustainable Scotland podcast, Common Weal policy podcast to promote the Assembly's work.

4. Member support following Assembly

The Citizens' Assembly of Scotland has set aside £10,000 to support Assembly members following the Assembly. The support includes media support, communications, creating a network of people who have taken part in Assemblies.

Susie mentioned that Scotland's Climate Assembly would like to do the same, working with DemSoc, and for the support to run until the end of the year.

The Stewarding Group agreed that this would be good use of the budget, and recognised the importance of continued member support.

Doreen mentioned that there is a suggestion of a network of alumni for people who have been part of an assembly, to meet other people. Doreen was happy to keep in touch with progressions on this.

5. Member psychological support

Nadine had secured some spaces for members on a climate café, which are facilitated spaces where people focus on their thoughts and feelings - run by climate psychologists.



Susie is keen to provide some of this support again and one option is to work with the Climate Psychology Alliance to create another climate cafe.

The Stewarding Group agreed that, as Members had experienced intense weekends, support after the Assembly was important.

6. Weekend 7 assembly design

Kaela summarised the plan for Weekend 7 which is set to be an internally focused weekend with no introduction of new evidence, focusing on refining overarching statements, recommendations and supporting statements. After weekend 6, Assembly members voted on 16 goals, all of which received over 75% support and thus will be part of the Assembly's outputs. The vote on the recommendations will take place in the week following Weekend 7. Members will have the opportunity to hear a read out of recommendations on Saturday 27th March on an additional zoom call.

6. Children's Parliament

Eleanor summarised work SCA has completed with Children's Parliament so far. The children's calls to action will be integrated into our final report, with quotes integrated into the interim report. Assembly members also had the chance to meet with children to talk about their experiences. Children's Parliament's summary report is available, which will be sent to members this week

SCA is actively encouraging Children's Parliament to apply for another grant to continue the partnership. Susie mentioned that following the Assembly, the Secretariat will be working to make all material more digestible and engaging, especially for a younger audience, including writing a child friendly version of the final report.

The Stewarding Group were keen to post more about SCA on Instagram to engage a younger audience, the Secretariat agreed, and will investigate further.

7. Reporting on the assembly

The Interim Report will be laid in Parliament on the 24th March, the last day of formal seating of Scottish Parliament before pre-election recess. The Final Report will be released at the end of May, after Parliamentary committees are formed.

The Secretariat plans to publicise the Final Report, with a launch event and create shorter notes for policy makers.

For the Interim Report, the Secretariat will ask the Stewarding Group for support to promote and provide quotes for its release.

8. AOB

Susie proposed that the next Stewarding Group meeting would be 29th March, where the Secretariat can discuss with the SG about actions going forward.



After that, the Secretariat proposes to have a gap in the pre-election period. The following meeting would be 17th May.

Susie thanked the Stewarding Group for their continued support.