

**BUSINESS PAPERS**

**VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2000**

**PART 2 - SECTION H**

**The session commenced at 2.00 pm**

**The Presiding Officer** made a statement about Nick Bourne's comments in Plenary on Thursday 9 November.

**2.01 pm**

**Questions to the First Minister**

The first 8 questions were reached

**2.34 pm**

**The Assembly Minister for the Environment** made a statement about the recent floods

**3.07 pm**

The **Deputy First Minister** made a statement about the Lloyds Bank job gains.

**3.22 pm**

The **First Minister** made a statement about the situation at RAF St Athans

**3.33 pm**

**Points of Order**

**Jocelyn Davies** raised a point of Order about the distinction between Partnership Government policy and Assembly policy.

**Alun Pugh** raised a point of order about declarations of interest.

The **Presiding Officer** stated that points of order should relate to the conduct of debates in Plenary and should not be used to raise other issues,

**3.41**

**Business Statement: the Assembly Business Minister**

The business statement was agreed.

**3. 43pm**  
**Debate on the Single Programming Documents for LEADER, INTERREG (WALES - IRELAND programme) and URBAN Community Initiatives**  
**To propose that the National Assembly:**

- i. Takes note of the draft Single Programming Documents for the Leader+, INTERREG (WALES-IRELAND programme) and URBAN Community Initiatives, laid in the Table Office on 7 November 2000; and
- i. Authorises the Minister for Economic Development to submit them to the European Commission later this month in accordance with the prescribed timetable, with such additions or amendments as are necessary to meet the Commission's requirements.

**The following amendments had been tabled:**

**Amendment 1 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

Add at the end of motion as new bullet point:

Recognises that the extra funds allocated in the Comprehensive Spending Review to cover European Grants for the Structural Funds and the Community Initiatives assumes a gradual build-up of actual spending and urges that Coalition Government of Wales to press the Treasury to ensure that if the spending on worthwhile projects increases more rapidly than assumed in the CSR the extra funds will be allocated.

**Amendment 2 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

Add at the end of motion as new bullet point:

Regrets the fact that the link between this Initiative and meeting the needs of the most deprived areas has been lost and calls on the local LEADER groups to specifically target the most deprived communities within their area;

Emphasises the importance of targeting young people within the LEADER+ Initiative to rectify the out-migration of this particular group from rural areas;

**Amendment 3 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)**

Add at the end of motion as new bullet point:

Welcomes the INTERREG IIIA Wales - Ireland Initiative as an important opportunity to establish further collaboration within the economic and cultural fields between the two areas;

**A vote was taken:**

**Amendment 1**

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 27; Total 51

**Amendment 1 fell**

**Amendment 2**

For 16; Abstain 0; Against 35; Total 51

**Amendment 2 fell**

**Amendment 3**

For 52; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 52

**Amendment 3 was agreed**

**A vote was taken on the motion, as amended, :**

For 52; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 52

**The motion, as amended, was agreed**

**The session concluded at 4.58pm**

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**The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at**

**9.05 am on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2000**

**J W Lloyd**

**Clerk to the Assembly**

**PETITION TO THE ASSEMBLY**

**Petition, from the Ringwood Hill Residents' Association, Newport, to the National Assembly for Wales, dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000. Total signatories 25.**

**We, residents of the Ringwood Hill Estate, petition the National Assembly for Wales to consider our plight and, in the interests of natural justice, to offer a remedy to our distress.**

**Through no fault of our own, we find ourselves owners of houses, formerly in the public sector, and now designated as defective under the Housing Defects legislation. These houses have thus been rendered unmortgageable and have been devalued dramatically, effectively placing several households in a position of extreme negative equity.**

**These houses were not identified as defective until 1989, both Newport Borough Council and the Welsh Office having failed to note their condition previously. This meant that the then**

**owners of the properties did not claim the reinstatement grants for which they were eligible.**

**Our legal action against Newport Borough Council has failed, but we remain convinced that we have an unanswerable moral case for restitution.**

**We would draw the attention of Assembly Members to an analogous case in Redditch, Worcestershire, England, where the Local Government Ombudsman found that complainants in a similar position had suffered serious injustice. He found that the local authority should make ex-gratia payments equivalent to the grants which would have been payable under the Housing Defects Legislation, and this was done.**

**We petition the National Assembly to ensure that our moral case is acknowledged.**

**We request that discussions be held between representatives of the Assembly, Newport Borough Council, and the Ringwood Hill Residents, in order that a just and equitable solution may be achieved.**

**We ask that a record of these discussions be placed before the Assembly, and then that Assembly Members consider and debate the following options:**

**1) that ex-gratia payments be made by the Assembly to those householders affected, equivalent to the sums awarded under Housing Defects legislation ; and/or**

**2) that Newport Borough Council be given financial assistance to repurchase the properties; and/or**

**3) that the properties be rendered mortgageable by the removal of their designation as defective under the legislation, subject to the agreement of the major lending institutions.**

**This matter has now taken over 11 years to resolve. We continue to have faith that the rightness of our cause will be recognised, and therefore call directly on the Assembly to help us as a court of last resort.**

**For and on behalf of the Ringwood Hill Residents' Association,**

**Mrs Sue Williams**

**38 Ringwood Hill**

**Newport**

**01633-674281**

## **DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET IN PLENARY**

### **DOCUMENTS LAID ON 9 NOVEMBER 2000**

The Learning and Skills Act 2000 (Commencement No.2)(Wales) Order 2000

The Common Agricultural Policy Support Schemes (Modulation) (Wales) Regulations 2000

Learning to Live Differently - The Sustainable Development Scheme of the National Assembly for Wales

### **DOCUMENTS LAID ON 8 NOVEMBER 2000**

Countryside Council for Wales - Annual Report 1999-2000 (No electronic version available)

Business Committee Report to the Assembly on proposals for changes to the Assembly's Standing Orders in accordance with Standing Order 26.1