

Minutes of the Horticulture Forum Meeting

Monday 19 September 2016, 7:30 pm, Portadown Rugby Club

Chair: Keith Crawford

Present: Peter Donnelly, Barbara Erwin, Patricia Erwin, Roy Lyttle, Adrian Magowan (Vice-chair of UFU Vegetables Committee), Robin McKee, Paul Mooney, John Shannon, Patrick Taggart, Doug Thomson

1. Apologies

Barclay Bell, Kieran Hughes, Lyn Sherriff

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

3. Update of Action Plan

Ian Duff led a discussion aimed at facilitation the updating of the Action Plan.

Discussion focused on four key issues:

- assistance with the development of producer organisations (for fruit and vegetable sectors);
- the need for better market intelligence data, to identify import substitution and export opportunities;
- the need for better relationships within industry; and
- the need for better education, training and technology transfer (e.g. in areas like staff management).

Ian Duff to draft the Action Plan.

4. Stormont reception

Patrick Taggart explained that it had been necessary to postpone the reception until after Christmas due to lack of availability, primarily, of the Long Gallery and, secondarily, of the Minister (Michelle McIlveen). It was agreed to aim to hold the reception early afternoon on a Monday or Tuesday in mid-late March 2017.

Patrick Taggart to liaise with DAERA Private Office to agree a date and time.

Patrick Taggart to work with designer/printer to produce a draft of the leaflet.

5. NI Lantra Council

The Forum agreed to nominate Barbara Erwin and Peter Donnelly to participate on the NI Lantra Council.

Patrick Taggart to advise Lantra of the nominations.

6. DAERA Knowledge Framework

Forum members were invited, individually, to respond to three questions about DAERA's education strategy (Knowledge Framework). A meeting has been scheduled, 10.00 am on 6 October in Dundonald House, for stakeholders. The Forum has not yet received an invitation.

All members to forward their organisation's responses to the questions to Patrick Taggart by 9.00am on 29 September.

Patrick Taggart to collate the responses and make a collective response, on behalf of the Forum, by 30 September, and request that two Forum representatives be welcomed to the meeting.

7. Dates of next meetings: Horticulture Forum; Stormont Reception Sub-group

Horticulture Forum: 7.30pm, 21 November, Portadown Rugby Club.

Stormont Reception Sub-group: 7.30pm, 24 October, CAFRE, Greenmount.

8. AOB

The increase in annual fees for member organisations, from £125 to £200 (with effect from 2016) was agreed.

Patrick Taggart to email members with information on how to apply for DAERA Category 1 Business ID.

Patrick Taggart to email members details of the Forum's appearance before the ARD Committee in November 2015.