

# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## Report of the Committee's study visit to Rathlin Island

Wednesday 23 September 2009

On Wednesday 23 September 2009, the Committee for Regional Development visited Rathlin Island to study the particular needs of, and challenges facing, the Rathlin islanders.

Members took the 09:30am ferry from Ballycastle and arrived on the island at 09:50am. The Committee was met by representatives of the Rathlin Island Development and Community Association, and began a short tour of the island.



Margaret McQuilkin, Cathal Boylan MLA, Allan Bresland MLA, David Quinney Mee (back row), Noel McCurdy, Danny Kinahan MLA, Fred Cobain MLA, Jonathan Mitchell, Willie Clarke MLA, Raymond McCartney MLA.



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The Committee stopped at the Community Centre for a briefing on the challenges facing Rathlin, including the needs of second level students, balancing the interests of all the users and

residents of Rathlin, developing and growing its unique tourism offering, and securing the long term future of the island.

At 10:50am the Committee arrived at the Manor House Hotel for an 'open house' event where islanders and others could call in to meet the Members and discuss their vision and priorities for the island.



Liam McFaul, Gusty McCurdy, Alison McFaul, Teresa McFaul, Margaret McQuilkin, Judy McCurdy, Noel McCurdy, Fred Cobain MLA, Mary Wallace, Danny Kinahan MLA, Stephen Ryan, Willie Clarke MLA, Allan Bresland MLA, Raymond McCartney MLA, Cathal Boylan MLA, David Quinney Mee, Fergus Wallace.

Members were appreciative of the response to its open house invitation, and representatives from the environmental sector, local tourism and hospitality businesses, the local press, the RCDA and islanders generously gave their time and shared their views with the Committee.



The Committee wasn't the only visitor to the island that day, and members of the Ugandan Children's Choir, who were visiting the island for a concert at St. Mary's Church, treated everyone at the open house event to an impromptu performance.

Members took the 12:00 noon ferry service from Rathlin to Ballycastle, arriving at 12:20pm. The Committee would like to thank everyone who so warmly welcomed the Members to Rathlin Island on its recent visit.