



SWANSEA ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM Executive Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th March 2009
At 9.45am at The Environment Centre, Pier St., Swansea**

MEMBERS PRESENT

ACTION

Chair	Deb Hill Phil McDonnell Jenny Edwards Elizabeth May Roy Jones Rebecca Wright Anne Sennett Kathy Tate Hamish Osbourne Sian Jones Reena Owen	Nature Conservation Team Leader –CCS Environmental Consultant Assistant Manager - The Environment Centre, Swansea Environment Manager, Swansea Metropolitan University Chairman of Friends of the Earth, Swansea Countryside Council for Wales The Environment Agency Project Worker, Sustainable Swansea (part of mtg) The Environment Agency National Trust, Wales Director, Environment – CCS
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1. Apologies for absence

Phil Marks Tanya Nash Paul Jones John Llewellyn Terry Scales Peter Jones	National Infrastructure Development & Capacity Building Officer – Cylch Team Leader Sustainable Development Unit, CCS Spatial Plan, Welsh Assembly Government Energy Manager –CCS Mumbles Development Trust RSPB
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2. Presentation by Sharon Miller: Health Social Care and Well-being Strategy Co-ordinator

SM gave a short power-point presentation on Swansea's HSC&WB Strategy and its context including Health Challenge Swansea. There is a joint statutory commitment on behalf of the LHB and CCS. There is a broad scope with a twin track approach of Tackling the causes of ill health and delivering health and social care services. There has been a detailed needs assessment undertaken with a number of key issues emerging.

The strategy recognises the important environment-health link and a sustainability assessment has been carried out on the strategy. It also includes a synopsis and signposting to the environment strategy. The group's shared partnership priorities (formerly known as Big Issues) are:

Health Inequalities Between Communities tackling health inequalities for citizens in specific geographical communities in Swansea.

Healthy Lifestyles increased sport, physical activity participation rates and consumption of fruit and vegetables amongst children and adults across all sectors of the community.

Presentation to be emailed with minutes

JE

The meeting discussed areas in which we could work together, including with our Shared Priorities. Including marketing envtval events as healthy activities, mapping community resources together eg planet penlan,

It was agreed that due to limited resources we should try for "easy wins" first.

It was decided that a sub-group would meet up to focus efforts. DH, KT, JE, SJ volunteered. Meeting to be set up.

JE DH

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting 30th January 09.

The minutes were accepted as a true record. Matters arising covered under agenda.

4. Sustainable Swansea

The steering group met earlier this week.

Digital Media Project KT reported that the 3 month programme for Castle Community First is coming to an end. The sessions have gone very well and she is now working on the ward's Green Map. This marks the end of the Com @1 funding. The relationship has been very positive and there is definite potential for working together again, but there funding is at yet unclear..

It is hoped that a Compact application will be successful allowing this work to continue and be further developed as the "Get Sust" project.

A convergence bid developed by the Environment Centre includes further opportunity for developing the project's community outreach. The link with the Health agenda should be explored if these bids are successful. If no funds are forthcoming it was agreed to commit general Sus Swan funds to pay at least two months of salary for KT, to ensure we do not lose her from the team. There are still capacity limitations, but the arrangement with the Centre is working well. But JE and KT have limited hours for development of future plans.

WAG;s Climate Change Team have also contacted us. JE and PM met with Usha Lladwa and have now developed a proposal for a pilot Community foot-printing project. We have since been told that this is now going to be done through a tendering process – which will mean a significant delay. We had hoped to do this alongside Hard Rain.

Travel costs for trips to Trail sites have continued to prove popular with schools and community groups and we have almost spent our budget allocation for this.

Trailblazers 1 This was completed in Feb half term. Another 10day scheme is planned for this summer, we have applied for a Skools Out grant once again. This will cover a lot of the cost but some general Sustainable Swansea funds are likely to be needed too, plus staff input.

Trailblazers 2 the WCVA application was unsuccessful. However, we still have enough Hilton and Gulbenkian money to fund a 6 month 25 hr/week post. This has been advertised and it is hoped to have someone in post by May.

SJ said that the Rural Development Plan has some plans for developing a youth strategy and there could be some synergy with this work.

Hard Rain PM presented a brief paper on progress. Both Hard rain and Vital Signs will be on display from 5th June until August Bank Holiday outside the Waterfront Museum. This will then be followed by a community programme/ possibly road show until the end of October. There is a BBC Breathing Cites weekend 6-7th June and we hope to be involved. PM is attending a meeting at WF with BBC. June 5th is World Environment Day and also the official launch of the global Open Green Map network.

PM was asked to book key people for launch on 5th June.

PM

We have £40k so far, enough to cover the costs of the exhibition, but there are still a number of other possibilities for funding sources, at various stages, including BIDS, Tourism and INCO.

PM and John Birmingham (CCS Special events) have met with the museum. They have decided after a risk analysis to not insure or have round the clock security. There will instead be a contingency for replacement or repair. Public liability cover will be sought from CCS.

A steering group meeting 2 or 3 times and 3 subgroups were proposed: Exhibition infrastructure, Community activities and school activities.

DH and PM had a very positive meeting with Eve post editor, who has promised support and has also given us an opening for a more co-ordinated approach to environmental issues.

The initial Hard Rain contract is now almost complete. It was agreed to extend it to cover co-ordination of the exhibition (initial contract has a clause to allow this). The cost for this is included in the exhibition budget as around 40 days work. Subgroup will work with PM on logistics of this.

5. Full Forums

Next meeting is tonight. "**Halting Biodiversity Loss**" BIG Issue. Areas covered will include, setting the scene (DH), the challenges (Rob McCaul CCW), Connectivity and the Coastal environment (Judith Oakley). PM and RW will manage the Chair in RO and SJ's absences.

June 10th Forum will cover "**Climate Change Mitigation**" BIG Issue. TN is down to organise it. JE will talk to TN.

October 12th (Mon) **AGM: Marine theme** DH yet to invite Phil Cotes.

DH

November 25th forum: **Air Quality** BIG Issue

6. The BSP update

PJ attended the March BSP/LSB meeting. He presented a report through HO. Due to EA restructuring PJ covers BSP and HO sits on Exec. RO and DH will work on a letter to BSP covering representation for SEF. RO DH The LSB project on Early Prevention for disillusioned youth may offer opportunities for environmental activities and possibly TB2 links. There is no new money available, but may be good to link.

It is important that PJ is aware of exec's work. He is copied in on exec emails, but could be good for him to have the BIG issues project reports that are being done bi-monthly. PJ said he needs a clear message so that he can ask BSP to be involved when needed.

The March annual Our Ambition event was postponed at very short notice. Expect it to now happen in May. Important to have good SEF representation, when it happens.

7. SEF Contracts

BIG Issues:

JE will send these around for information once she has received them. Please send to JE as well as BSP.

TN DH PM JE

PM reported on current progress.

Climate Change Mitigation – The SEF convened Built Environment and Energy group has met again and TN raised BIG Issues work with them. The Swansea Energy Action Plan will be taken to form the basis for work on this process.

Planning for Swansea's Local Development Plan is getting underway and this group hopes to have an active role in this.

Blue Flag – A symposium is planned for March 30th. 30-40 interested parties are attending. The meeting will be the first step. A feasibility study will be needed, but hopefully this meeting will result in wide-ranging support including from Health.

Halting Biodiversity Loss – SEF Full Forum tonight will discuss the issues. On 23rd April a more structured meeting will identify the next steps.

Air Quality – A small group of CCS officers Pm and RO met on 20th Feb. Main aim was to get better joined up thinking. Another meeting for end of April of same group and others will take place to discuss some of the issues raised. A more public meeting is likely to then follow.

Climate Change Adaptation – BSP Policy group members were invited to an event in Feb, but due to a poor sign up this was cancelled. Instead people are being encouraged to join in a seminar run by the SWWales Environmental Research Form at the university on 26th March. It is hoped that this will start the process, which is proving to be the most difficult to get support for.

Business Plan PM has started on this and hopes to have a draft shortly.

The BIG Issues work was funded in part from 08-09 CCW monies; this will be all but spent by the end of March. We need to decide what to do next. SEF facilitation of the process has been very useful and it is feared that without SEF co-ordination progress could be hampered. We either need to use more funding or ensure partners take on responsibility.

We have £12k from CCW for 2009-10, but this will also be used for SEF co-ordination by the Centre and has already been partly committed. There are some unrestricted funds too. Agreed Contracts subgroups will discuss this.

SEF Co-ordination by EC Currently a further six months has been agreed. The first three months will be at the current the second quarter to be decided.

8. Any other business.

Heritage Landscape Bid – SJ informed the group of this. The bid covers the whole of Gower. The Gower forum is developing ideas, it will be a very wide partnership with many partners.

Rural Development Plan – SJ reported that there are 8 wards involved. There are 4 axis. A Food Products project has been developed that will be based in Penclawdd and will include an information officer for supporting local produce markets. The idea of a Loughor barrage has been raised once again by Carmarthenshire CC, SJ will keep SEF informed. A presentation by the Food Products project to a future exec meeting was a popular idea.

Travel Towns Funding – not available, happening in Cardiff.

Consultations – JE has submitted SEF responses to WAG One Wales One Planet and Green Jobs consultations.

SCRAP – the group has not yet met, but RJ will ask for clarification on query to SEF.

RJ