



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

Executive Committee

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30th April 2009
At 9.45am at The Environment Centre, Pier St., Swansea**

ACTION

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair	Deb Hill	Nature Conservation Team Leader –CCS
	Phil McDonnell	PMDevelopments
	Jenny Edwards	The Environment Centre
	Paul Jones	Spatial Plan, Welsh Assembly Government
	Roy Jones	Chairman of Friends of the Earth, Swansea
	Kathy Tate	Sustainable Swansea (part of mtg)
	John Casey	Sustainable Swansea (part of mtg)
	Kate Sinclair	Housing - CCS
	Hamish Osbourne	The Environment Agency
	Sian Jones	National Trust, Wales
	Catherine Piper	Sustainable Development Unit, CCS

1. Apologies for absence

Elizabeth May	Environment Manager, Swansea Metropolitan Univ
Reena Owen	Director, Environment – CCS
Phil Marks	National Infrastructure Development & Capacity Building Officer – Cylch
Tanya Nash	Team Leader Sustainable Development Unit, CCS
Rebecca Wright	Countryside Council for Wales
John Llewellyn	Energy Manager –CCS
Terry Scales	Mumbles Development Trust
Elfed Roberts	Gwalia
Anne Sennett	The Environment Agency

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting

SJ said that she had raised the Loughor barrage scheme for our info, but that CCW will be more involved if it goes any further.

Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising from minutes

Meeting with Health not yet set up incl. KS, Sustainable Swansea. The Trust's Western Division Energy Services officer, has contacted JE and is also keen to work with us. The Rural Food (and craft) staff have only just come into post – decided to let them settle in before they are invited to SEF Exec.

SCRAP have still not met.

Convene Health/Env mtg. Email out presentation from last mtg. JE

Send BIG Issues reports to JE as well as Dave Mckenna, for distribution to exec TN PM DH

Make contact with Rural Food (and craft) staff JE

4. Sustainable Swansea Update

Hard Rain: PM gave a verbal report. 6.30pm 5th June – as many Exec members to attend as possible. Will launch exhibitions, Open Green Map system, Castle Green Map and

Biodiversity week. In a marquee –short speeches. Invites will be out soon, but please make relevant people aware now.

Invite Jane Davidson PJ

6th-7th June – Eco-zone/festival w/e. No Swansea Show, so we are hoping usual exhibitors will attend this instead.

Planning is very tight, a lot of time spent on **Vital Signs** exhibition banner. JE DH & KT pulled together much of this at short notice whilst PM was away. We will have a bespoke bi-lingual banner, which showcases many local projects and places. This will be the 1st ever of its type and unique to Swansea. Will be on display alongside Hard Rain from 5th June.

PM is now working on the frame design and pulling 3 working groups together: Working group, Schools group and Community Interaction group.

Evening Post have already promised to feature it, but marketing needs more time too. DH is meeting with co-ordinator of Castle Gardens Big Screen – hope to use it to advertise Biodiversity week and this, plus others. DH will ask for images etc when she has more details. EA, CCW and NT all have relevant series of images.

It was agreed that the film "**Age of Stupid**" <http://www.ageofstupid.net> will be a suitable addition to the Hard Rain programme. Starring Peter Posselthwaite this independent film looking back at 2008 from 2055 deals with human impacts on the planet. We can buy a license to show it through their website. The SD unit maybe able to help with funding this. Show in WF museum, Dylan Thomas or maybe Talliesin – they have said they are keen to link to HR – even though geographically difficult.

KT & JC prepared a **written update** for the meeting.

Get Sust: £30K successfully won from Compact for this project. One-year community outreach work, including more Green Maps and IT training. Once the castle Green Map is complete KT will start working with new areas of Swansea. The project now has 5 regular volunteers, helping with green map and photographic work.

This project will also be integrated into Hard Rain's community engagement and will account for a lot of KT's time.

Trailblazers: £3,500 successfully won from Splat/Skools Out, CCS. This plus some of our own funds will allow us to run 10 days of activities for 8-14 year olds.

John Casey joined Sustainable Swansea as "Trailblazers Volunteer Co-ordinator" on 20th April. He previously worked at SCVS. His post is for 6 months and 25 hours a week. To fund this post and associated activities we will use Hilton and Gulbenkian monies.

He has had a very productive first two weeks. JC sent an introductory email to trail sites and already had some interest back. This project will involve working closely with SCVS and he has already met with Julia Stock Thomas their 14-19 worker. There are already opportunities to work with Clase and Bishop Gore. First stage is a "Needs Analysis" of Trail sites, and then a selection of tasters will be developed to offer to young people. Links with Tidy Towns and LSB NEETS work will also be made.

5. Full Forums

10th June Climate Change Mitigation: TN is leading on this, but has not done much planning yet. JE has offered to help out if needed. It was pointed out that we must be careful not to have too much repetition, with so much going on around this in June/July already.

October 12th AGM with Marine Bill: Phil Coates has been booked. SJ will work with DH on this. Other speakers from CCW and EA?

Suggest a WAG speaker **PJ**

Suggest an EA speaker **HO**

Nov 25th Air Quality: PM to co-ordinate with Huw CCS.

6. BSP update

Not been another meeting since last Exec. Pete Jordan has asked the exec to be clear when communicating with BSP on any actions we want them to undertake for us. With the group's wide remit he warns us not to expect them to be particularly responsive.

SEF does regular reports on BIG Issues, but not done one on Sustainable Swansea for some time. Perhaps a briefing on Hard Rain would be good – capacity problem for delivering this though.

DH and RO still working on letter re: Representative and capacity issues.

The consultation on the Shadow Community Plan has been extended. DH shared her views and will send in these and others expressed at this meeting on behalf of the forum.

9th June is the postponed “Our Ambitions” event – as many as possible Exec members are encouraged to attend.

7. SEF Contracts update

Forum co-ordination – Bulk of time spent recruiting and inducting new staff member and helping with co-ordination of Hard Rain and Vital Signs. Also been keeping SEF website up to date and working on finances. Other items on work plan such as constitution not yet done.

SEF/EC MOU – Now been seen by Centre’s FPPG. A list of suggestions received. EC suggested we could wait until SEF constitution changes, but meeting agreed best to act now. JE will bring this to next Contracts group.

Contracts group to discuss latest draft of SEF/EC MOU JE

BIG Issues – PM made a verbal report. Climate Change adaptation: A Climate Change seminar at the end of March attended by 40 people, run by SDU and University Environmental Research Forum can be counted as an initial conversation on this. Links with the University with respect to research opportunities can be explored. Next step is a meeting with the University and CCS Resilience group. CCS is the big player in this PM sees SEF’s role as one of facilitation. Swansea Bay Blue Flag: Interesting and successful symposium was held at end of March. Well attended. Next step is a small meeting of key people to talk about a feasibility study. HO said that he had already asked for £2k for this from the EA, if confirmed the group could use it as the “industrial partner’s contribution” required so we can use the University to do the research for this. Air Quality: Meeting last Monday of CCS officers from various teams. The groups have started working better together and are planning to meet again shortly. At the next meeting it is intended to start to bring in other groups too. Biodiversity: DH reported that a possible project has begun to be scoped out at a meeting last week. The main aim is to add value. The first stage will be some deskwork to identify some joint outcomes and actions for public bodies under the NERC Biodiversity Obligation legislation. DH hopes to work with BSP members to develop action plans and concrete examples. This will be a mixture of raising awareness and training. There are no current funds for this though – so the idea is to ask BSP members for small contributions.

Business Plan – not been progressed since last meeting.

The current contract finished at the end of April. In order for PM to follow through on work started an **extension** of 5 days was agreed. The Contracts group will discuss the way forward with PM and assess finances for this and EC contract and present ideas to the next Exec. Meeting. Seen as important not to lose momentum, but only very limited funds available. Mainly CCW. HO said it would be good time to meet up to discuss EA role in funding – must be very outcome focused e.g. with Blue Flag.

*Develop plan for SEF contracts in 2009-10 for presentation to Exec **Contracts Group**
Follow up with HO on possible EA funding for SEF outcomes JE*

8. A.O.B.

Cynnal Cymru network: Agreed JE would sign SEF up as a network partner. Closer links with this national body will be a positive step.

9. Date of Next Meeting

2nd July: 9.45am at the Environment Centre.