



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

Executive Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2009
At 9.45am at The Environment Centre, Pier St., Swansea

ACTION

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair	Deb Hill	Nature Conservation Team Leader –CCS
	Philip McDonnell	PMDevelopments
	Jenny Edwards	The Environment Centre
	Reena Owen	Director, Environment – CCS
	Paul Jones	Spatial Plan, Welsh Assembly Government
	Hamish Osbourne	The Environment Agency
	Roy Jones	Chairman of Friends of the Earth, Swansea
	Rebecca Wright	Countryside Council for Wales
	Elizabeth May	Environment Manager, Swansea Metropolitan Univ
	Kathy Tate	Sustainable Swansea
	John Casey	Sustainable Swansea
	Alyx Baharie	Swansea Council for Voluntary Service
	Kelvin Jones	Gorseio=non Development Trust
	John Childs	Friends of the Earth, Swansea

1. Apologies for absence

Tanya Nash	Sustainable Development Unit, CCS
Anne Sennett	The Environment Agency
Phil Marks	Cylch
Kate Sinclair	Agency Support Co-ordinator, Housing Dept. CCS
Terry Scales	Mumbles Development Trust

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting

Confirmed as true record.

3. Matters arising from minutes

EM said that the article on attitude changes was very long, but will look it out for anyone who wants to read it.

DH & RW *have briefly discussed Crymlyn/Kilvey Hill/Tawe* corridor scheme. DH & RW will meet again soon with JE too.

PM is about to begin work on the Awards for 2010. He will report to January Exec meeting. Agreed that Measuring Change discussion would be run alongside Environment Strategy review.

SEF Business Plan – PM due to edit this shortly – please send any comments to him. JE will send the draft to all new Exec members.

Send draft business plan to new exec members JE

Paul J sits on Western Valleys SRA board, so likely to sit on Swansea one too.

4. Presentation & Discussion: Rural Action Swansea

Eironwy Davies of Rural Action Swansea (RAS) attended the meeting to talk to us about the project. She gave a short PowerPoint presentation – to be emailed with minutes.

RAS has 2 members of staff and is based in Penclawdd Community Centre. Project has been carrying out community consultations and interviews with SMEs, gathering ideas for projects to take forward. All EOI's must be in by December. Once ideas are gathered RAS will look at them with Paul Relf of the European unit CCS. Grant intervention rates vary project to project. EM pointed out the buying power of public bodies and that SME's and them should be linked up better. ED said that at the moment they were still making contacts with producers, they will then start work on joining them with buyers, including supermarkets. A website for Swansea detailing produce available is one suggestion. KJ said that CCS does not have a Local Food Officer, unlike many LAs. There is a bid with WAG to do this in conjunction with Carmarthenshire, has a tourism aspect too.

Email out presentation & action plan with minutes. JE

5. Sustainable Swansea Update

JE had prepared an update in the form of a newsletter, which she will send to Hilton and Gulbenkian and pos other potential funders.

Get Sust: KT is about to begin a new programme of IT/digital media training in Townhill and Sketty Park.

Trailblazers: TB2 recruitment has slowed with respect to individuals. Working with Welsh Bachelorette pupils to help them set up a group to work on their local green spaces. PM suggested this link with green mapping.

JC is concentrating on improving capacity at trail sites. He will be doing some evaluation in next months too. This will include getting feedback from trail sites. The project aims to leave a long term legacy for the young people and the projects they work with. Suggestion was made that we could think about a youth project in Pontarddulais to link to RDP.

Hard Rain & Vital Signs: PM gave a verbal report.

PM has arranged for a final meeting of the working group to be held, which will evaluate the exhibitions. He will then produce a report later this month. Likely we will have a £1k under-spend. PM will ask WAG if we can use the balance of their money to deliver another Vital Signs tour in the Spring. PM asked for everyone to think about possible sites for this – preferably already existing events or places large numbers of people are, could include SMU for their Environment Week.

The evaluation is likely to bring up that one of the weaknesses was not being able to count visitors very accurately and not having the level of interaction with the public that was achieved with EFTA. PM did point out that we had done more than other venues who had hosted Hard Rain. This could be improved upon for the tour extension could action and move forward – could be linked to other Sus Swans activities and events, or other partners.

Awards Scheme: PM is about to start investigating funding for this and will report to the exec in December.

The next project steering group meeting will be next week.

6. Full Forums

Oct 12th AGM & Marine Bill

The format of two short talks worked well giving plenty of time for discussion.

Nov 25th Air Quality: PM has arranged for Huw Morgan CCS to speak and then PM or another will talk about the action plan the Air Quality group has drawn up..

Future meetings: JE will send a list around with minutes.

NB: Agreed Execs to be 10am starts – except December still 9.45 and at Swansea Metropolitan University.

Send out with minutes, agreed forum and exec meeting dates 2010 JE

7. BSP update

JE had sent around the consultation draft for the LSB arrangements, have until 6th Nov to respond. As SEF is not part of the LSB we are not mentioned. However there is a section titled sustainability, which is not about SD. JE will ask TN for advice and send a response on behalf of SEF. The document has a lot of jargon. It says membership will be reviewed

annually, so it is worth pushing this point. HO suggested we make sure PJ knows we are raising this.
PM said that the BSP is no longer requesting bi-monthly updates and had not informed him that the group no longer needed an Air Quality presentation at their November meeting. Poor communication and confusion continues, especially difficult for new members of SEF to follow the situation.

8. SEF Contracts update

Forum co-ordination – JE reported that recent work included annual report and AGM, work on constitution, finances and Sustainable Swansea development and staff management.

BIG Issues – PM and others with particular interests have had a series of meetings with representatives of Swansea university to explore possible research projects for their students. The meetings were very positive and he hopes we may get a good dozen of projects out of it over next couple of years. DH is also meeting with them to explore bid ideas.

RW pointed out that links to Environment Strategy and various other strategies and action plans could also be explored.

Environment Strategy – PM to begin review in early December, with the aim to publish in February 2010. A new action plan will also be developed. This will involve close consultation with existing and new partners..

Business Plan – PM has had some comments from exec members. PM will incorporate all comments for another draft later this month. It is a working document so more edits are likely along the way.

9. Constitution Re-drafting

This work had been recommended by our Hall Aitkin review. JE had prepared a first draft. This is the document that sets out how we are run – issues to be decided include membership and structure. The Business plan is the place to describe our structure in detail and our relationships with others, but the constitution outlines the powers and processes. After some discussion it was agreed that a small sub-group would take this forward and present to next Exec meeting. JE, DH, PM, JC, AB and KJ will meet shortly. Any comments from other should go to JE ASAP.

Arrange meeting for looking at constitution JE

10. Brynmill Ecohouse

As reported at the last exec Cllr Jayne Woodman is bringing people together to discuss this potential project. She wants to preserve the lodge as an example of sustainable living. JE & Trish Flint had met with her and earlier this week a meeting was called to which 20-25 interested people came, including JE, DH, JL, Penny Gruffydd, Mark Blackmore of SMU and Jo Mullett. The next step is the forming of a steering group. DH & JE have volunteered for this group that will do the initial planning. CCS own it but need someone to take a lead. Retrofitting of eco-features very relevant – Buildings sub-group have it on their radar too. We have emphasised that it is not just a capital investment in energy measures, but will need revenue to run it. JE & DH has said that SEF and the Centre in particular will want to have a leading role – opportunity for a satellite Environment Centre?
National Trust Ecohouse may be useful model. Phil Roberts of Warm Wales is interested in getting involved and may be able to offer some funding. The garden also has potential and may be of interest to the transition group which is currently reforming.

11. A.O.B.

Regional Transport consortium – RO said that Swansea's bid for this is in 2nd place of 4. There is still some hope though.

12. Date of Next Meeting

17th December: 9.30am at Swansea Metropolitan University. Followed by lunch at Café Nissé.