



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

Executive Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22nd April 2010
At 10 am at The Environment Centre, Swansea

Members Present

Chair	Deb Hill	Nature Conservation Team Leader-CCS
	Phillip McDonnell	PM Developments
	John Childs	Friends of the Earth
	Jenny Edwards	The Environment Centre
	Kelvin Jones	Gorseinon Development
	Roy Jones	Friends of the Earth
	Hamish Osborn	Environment Agency Wales
	John Casey	Sustainable Swansea
	Elizabeth May	Swansea Metropolitan University
	Ann O'Brien	Spatial Plan Officer
	Alyx Baharie	Swansea Council for Voluntary Service
	Phil Marks	Cylch

1. Apologies for absence

Kate Sinclair	Enabling Office, Housing Dept, CCS
Sian Jones	National Trust
Nicole Jones	Groundwork
Rebecca Wright	Countryside Council for Wales
Paul Jones	Spatial Plan, Welsh Assembly Government
Tanya Nash	Sustainable Development Unit, CCS
John Llewellyn	City and County of Swansea
Jake Griffiths	Wales Green Business Centre
Reena Owen	City and County of Swansea

Presentation from Jill Ireland-Transition Swansea

Jl-Began the presentation by informing the meeting that Transition Town Swansea has now been re-launched as Transition Swansea .The three core elements of Transition Swansea are:

- ❖ Food Production
- ❖ Psychology of change
- ❖ Energy and Transport

Jl stated that a steering group of twelve has been established with usually eight members attending per meeting

At the present time Transition Swansea has a web-site that they use to advertise various events with the aim of building resilience for coping with the twin threats of climate change and peak oil. They do this by:

- ❖ Encouraging the purchase of Local food by consumers and Businesses
- ❖ Psychology of change through education such a Heart & Soul Group
- ❖ Energy Conservation

Jl informed the meeting that they have started Garden Skills Swap Groups where gardeners can swap skills with one another and offer a garden for others to work in. If someone lacks confidence in certain areas or has a particular interest in an aspect of gardening he or she can swap their skills for an area of gardening they don't like or feel confident undertaking. Transition Swansea will also run re-skilling sessions, such as bread-making, jams and chutney .They will also hold local workshops on growing your own and seed swaps.

Transition Swansea is trying to increase allotment space provision in Swansea as this is needed to extend and encourage the growth of local produce.

Another item on the Transition Swansea Agenda is to increase the awareness of permaculture.

Jl stated that the next Transition Swansea meeting will be in May and they will be discussing:

- ❖ Expanding Sub-groups
- ❖ Encourage Local Government
- ❖ Local Business

DH Asked how Transition Swansea can link into the Environment Strategy. She then suggested that Jill read the Business Plan and Constitution. **(JE to forward to Jl)**

DH was very anxious that the roles of Transition Swansea need to be clear in order for effective communication to take place. This will enable both partnerships to work alongside each other enhancing joined up working to benefit the citizens of Swansea.

PM requested a **copy of the presentation** .Jill said she would forward a copy to **JE** who would then cascade to all exec members.

Discussion took place around the need to formalise the link between the Forum and Transition Swansea. It was felt that one person be nominated from the two groups in order to establish an official two way feedback. The Environment Centre is currently represented by Carys Kelly and SFOE's RJ and JCh (SEF exec members too) both sit on the steering group. JE stated that the new member of Sustainable Swansea staff could get involved.

DH Asked is Swansea was an officially Transition Town. **Jl** stated that it was not at this present time and there were 12 steps to the process to be completed. Very early days yet

Jl informed the forum that they were hoping to win some grant money to enable them to concentrate on developing their website.

2. To confirm minutes of the meeting

Confirmed as true record.

3. Matters arising from minutes

Paul Jones passed his suggestion on (through Ann O'Brien) that as there is a Low Carbon Workshop being held in the Halliwell Centre Carmarthen on the 6th May there was no need to have a dedicated session. This we agreed

Low Carbon Wales: **JE** said she would amend this paragraph as Paul Jones does not remember saying this. The members of the forum felt the information had come from another source.

JE- has circulated the TB2 report.

4. Sustainable Swansea

Compact funding has been secured for 2010-11. A Steering group meeting was held and the group decided to split KT's post into two; two days-digital media and green mapping and three days-Carbon footprinting and activities. The vacancy has been advertised, short lists have been drawn up and interviews will take place on Friday 23rd April.

The outstanding issue at the moment is that there is no continuation funding for Trailblazers 2. Agreed that SEF would continue to fund JC's post until the end of June – with an emphasis on finding funding. It will then be reviewed again.

On April 3rd the launch of the new green community map for Mayhill/ Townhill took place. This was well attended and maps were delivered to every house in the Mayhill-Townhill area. JC said that he is planning a CV-job support session for every Wednesday for the young people involved in TB2.

Vital Signs: The 2nd tour has been completed which was very successful and well received. The funding has now been used. PM is in the process of writing the final report for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Other events and venues have been lined up e.g. Monday 27th April Saint Thomas school for 2-weeks and the food festival at Gorseinon Development Trust on 24th April 2010.

Sustainable Swansea Awards: The Awards will go ahead although we could do with a little extra funding. We have enough to cover the basics The awards will be launched on 17th May 2010 in conjunction with WAG's Sustainability week at an event held in the Community Farm in Cadle, Swansea.

A working group has been set up and will arrange to meet asap before the launch.

8. Full Forums

A report on bacterial pollution in Swansea has been commissioned by David Kay. **HO** is to request David Kay to come and talk to the Forum on the issues. A Swansea Bay task group has been established and is due to meet in the next few weeks.

PJ is to arrange a speaker to attend the Forum on 11th October 2010 regarding Severn Tidal Power.

9. BSP

The Policy task group has met. The Forum was informed that a new monitoring system is being developed. Each partnership will be report annually, the first report is required by the end of June. The report will have to be presented by the BSP as an evaluation panel.

The rolling programme of partnership presentations has been dropped.

Two LSB projects have also been dropped: NEETS and consultation.

The LSB is due to select new projects shortly. Suggested we put ideas forward, but we do need to consider both the benefits and the drawbacks of

being an LSB project. Npt offering funding – but could be a partnership project.

The forum decided that Low Carbon Swansea should be considered as an LSB project. We will need to be ready when submissions are asked for.

10. Green Jobs

The forum discussed the green job report, prepared by JCh and KJ. All agreed that this issue needs addressing as nobody is doing this at present. KJ agreed to co-ordinate a sub group to look at green jobs as he feels very strongly about this issue.

JE to action KJ and co-ordinate group.

11. Big issues

Climate Change-carbon Management

Two sub –groups will meet in the next few weeks to explore issues:

Air Quality- Little new development

Bio-diversity- DH said that there was now some funding for training in the NERC responsibility for public bodies.

12. Environmental Strategy

The draft has now been completed, most members have feedback with little changes. The summary document will compose of key comments.

13. Constitution-it was agreed to take the constitution to the June full forum meeting, where it will hopefully be accepted.

14. A.O.B.

RCE Wales-Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship

JE to arrange for a spokesperson to come and talk to the Forum

Low Carbon Region Workshop on the 6th May 2010 at the Halliwell Centre Carmarthen.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 8th July ,

Thursday 16th September,

Thursday 28th October,

Thursday 9th December

N.B.-meetings start at 10am and are at the Environment centre, unless otherwise notified.