



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

Executive Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2015

At 10am in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Members Present

Chair	Deb Hill	Nature Conservation, CCS
	Philip McDonnell	PM Developments
	Jenny Edwards	Environment Centre
	Alyx Baharie	SCVS
	Delyth Higgins	Sustainable Swansea
	Hamish Osborn	NRW
	Heidi Smith	Swansea University
	Rebecca Wright	NRW
	Jill Williams	Housing, CCS
	Ben George	Highways, CCS (for SD)
	Penny Gruffydd	Sustainable Development, CCS (for TN)

1. Apologies for absence

Chris Howell	Waste, CCS
Ant Flanagan	Gower Power Co-op
Stuart Davies	Highways, CCS
Tanya Nash	Sustainable Development, CCS
Gail Evans	Housing, CCS
John Childs	Friends of the Earth
Chris Linley	AONB, CCS

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted as a true record. Correction needed in agenda item 9 – Lee Wenham not Williams

3. Matters arising from minutes

JE emailed the contact TN gave her to ask for a speaker on economic regeneration to come to SEF exec. She was passed to his colleague, who was not available for this or the November meeting. However, she has asked about May and is awaiting a reply.

DHil said that there had been a green economy conference last week and ask if anyone had been able to attend. Nobody had and most people had not heard about it.

The details of the WG Small Environment Grant were finally announced in August and turned out to be £15k not £50k to spend by March. As most people were on leave she worked on an application with DHig and then shared the details with PM and DHil and AB. The project would allow us to extend staff hours and explore some ideas we have about supporting the environment sector and potential volunteers. We have also put a similar application into the Postcode Lottery. We should hear about both by end of October.

HO was unable to attend the recent Older Persons' Working Group. Also there was not an NRW representative at the recent LSB.

DHil and PM will be making a submission to the City Centre consultation late this week.

JE has put herself forward as a SEF/EC representative on the Rural Development partnership.

It was agreed that Andrew Davies will be nominated at our AGM in order to join the Exec. DHil will talk to him about who he intends to represent – either himself or the Health Board.

JE set around information about Green Capital and Biosphere awards ready for discussion at this meeting under item 8.

JE announced that she will be leaving Swansea for Luton in November for personal reasons and will be stepping down as Centre Manager. The process of recruiting a replacement has already begun and it is hoped the new person will be in post before the end of November. During November JE will be supporting the Centre and SEF remotely, putting in 1 day per week. Next week she will meet with the Contracts group to look at her priorities and to make plans for the interim period. This could mean extending PM's SLA to allow him to service the exec meeting in November and keep an eye on finances. Before she leaves she will complete the annual accounts and speak at the AGM as well as to continue to take forward a BIG People and Places funding application for SEF and the Centre. JE had shared a paper before the meeting on the ideas she has been developing for this application, which will be discussed further at the Contracts meeting.

JE's last day in the Centre will be 30th October and all the exec were invited to join her at 4pm for tea and cake to make her going.

DHil pointed out what a big loss this will be to the forum and the Centre and thanked JE for all her work and dedication over the last 13 years.

4. Future Forum Meetings

Our next forum meeting is our **AGM** on 12th October.

The presentation topic will be the NRW Trial work. HO has talked to the Tawe Trial Coordinators and they are happy to present an overview and to explain the next steps to the process of producing an Area Statement. JE asked HO for some wording to put on the event' poster. It will be good to target people like those who attended the Smart Nature conference with the publicity.

Action: PM send information about AGM to those who attended the conference.

JE has produced the AGM papers, including a list of Exec members. Looking at the rotations and those stepping down we have quite a few gaps, including a Treasurer, Vice Chair and Chair and a fairly low number of charity sector representatives. As usual these issues will be discussed at our November meeting.

Future forum meetings are now timetabled for February, June and October 2016. Ideas for future topics included Active Travel, university developments and Green Capital.

5. Sustainable Swansea

DHig reported on progress, a paper was also handed out.

Following the production of the **Penderry Green Map** JE and DHig have had discussions with CH about how CCS can support textile recycling by working with the local charity shops. DHig is taking this forward with 4 Penderry shops and CCS Recycling team.

Work on a city centre **Green Map** continues with discussions having taken place with a wide range of local organisations and local ward members. Consultations so far have included the Gwalia Big Day Out. September and October are going to be very

busy with a number of drop-in events and an arts programme taking place at Caerlas. A heritage and biodiversity walk is also planned using LH to lead it. As ever the maps boundary is still blurred, with a lot of good work happening in High Street and projects in Hafod as well as the city centre developments all possibly affecting the area it will cover when it is produced in March next year.

A display board is also in the central Library giving information about green mapping and all the maps available so far.

Digital Streams – The programme is coming to an end and the project will culminate with an exhibition at the end of October.

Renew Wales – 4 projects are still ongoing and 1 more project was begun this week.

6 Clear Streams

Now that the Tawe survey is complete is complete SEF's main activity under this initiative has been Digital Streams. JE has been keeping the Facebook and website alive and it is hoped it can be an element of the upcoming BIG grant application. HO said that he would also look at see if NRW's grant person can support us and how Fran can be integrated more too.

7. Low Carbon Swansea

PM reported that the next event is 7th October and will be at Gower College in Tycoch. The theme is lighting and will include case studies and REW talking about their services.

S & C Electric are sponsoring the December event, which has a "Smart" theme and will be held at the new Swansea University campus. PM will be meeting with Isobel from S & C to plan the event, which will be influenced by a SWALEC meeting on a similar theme. PM will send around the flyer to the Exec, it has already gone to LCS contacts.

PM is already looking at 2016 and it is hoped that by partnering with Cynnal Cymru we will be able to offer CPD credits too.

Membership sign up is continuing at a good rate.

8. Green Capital and Urban Biosphere awards

As agreed at our previous meeting JE sent around some information and links for these two awards and added them as an agenda item for this meeting.

DHil said that achieving either of these would be a huge project they would bring huge benefits to the area. Planning would need to be cross agency with buy in from all sectors and at the highest level. DHil is keen for SEF to float the idea with a wide range of partners. She said that she would like to do a paper on pros and cons for the Exec as a next step in our discussion. Obvious cons are that it will be expensive and time consuming but it would lead to the area having an integrated vision with cohesive concepts and shared goals, all things were seen as something we are in need of to really push the sustainability agenda forward. The NRW trial also leads in the same direction with other work we and others have already done giving us some of what we will need.

Brighton has Biosphere status and would be a good model to follow, we have all the ingredients they have and more. Bristol is a European Green Capital and this has definitely brought together groups in a major way behind the concept. JE said that Bristol are particularly keen to share their knowledge and HO said that he was very impressed with the work Brighton show-cased at a recent conference he attended. We could ask both to come and talk to us.

It was agreed that we will need to build a case before going any further with this. It was agreed that DHil would do a comparison of the two schemes for discussion at the next meeting. Then a plan for influencing others could be developed and relevant people invited to talk to us from Bristol and Brighton or even Dyffi Biosphere.

Action: DHil to produce a paper on pros and cons for the next Exec meeting.

9. LSB and Single Integrated Plan

As CH was not able to attend this meeting there was no report on the recent LSB meeting.

PM said that the Research group has been tasked with updating the Single Needs Assessment, but there is an argument for leaving this because of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act coming in in April. The work can then be done so that it fits with this new legislation. The latest developments in the production of Driver Diagrams, which is ongoing and the choice of 3 primary drivers will also influence the assessment.

The Coordinator's group is tasked with looking at the Driver Diagrams. They will be developing a tertiary level. The proponents of each diagram will be asked to present them and lead discussion to further develop them with more actions being pitched in. SEF has volunteered to go first at the group's December meeting. PM said that it would be good to have a discussion ahead of this at the November exec meeting. However, the speed of development is an issue, as at this rate it will take a year to cover all of them! There are also indicator issues to be ironed out, it needs to be clear what is driving what. PG pointed out that the WFG Act would also have its own indicators and review timetables. It will be important that everything aligns locally and nationally. The new PSB and its role will also have an impact. Public sector and stakeholder workshops are taking place on 22nd October which will look at the national indicators, it will be important to have SEF representation at this. JE has sent around the details. The written consultation closes on 16th November, it will be good to put something into this too. PM suggested we should point out the uncertainty of our role in the new structure, although NRW is named as a PSB member and SCVS are likely to be invited, there is no mention of the way strategic or community partnerships can get involved. It was agreed that we should put in a response after more is learnt at the October sessions. PG said that she is leading on the CCS response

The group has lost its Chair with Carol Green from SCVS retiring and it is not yet clear who will chair in the future.

10. Healthy Cities Update

PM reported that a meeting has not yet been set up to discuss the way we will contribute to phase 6. It is hoped this will happen next month. After this meeting it will be a case of drawing up an action plan, many of the actions will be ones we are already committed to. PG agreed to take part in the meeting too.

The Swansea Community Growing Network has taken on a one day a week officer to run a series of events and further develop the network. The next one will be on 29th September, PM said he would forward on details to the exec.

Action: PM send around details of Growing Network event.

11. More Homes Project Update

JW reported in GE's absence. She said that a project is going to the cabinet that has identified two sites both on housing owned land for a first phase of this project. The cabinet are being asked to commit resources to investigation work. There is potential for SEF to get involved, especially as one of the sites has an area of green space and an active community group interested in it. It was agreed that SEF would be keen to be involved and would welcome more discussion. The meeting understood that the first phase is very small and needs to be done quickly so the design will need to be fairly conventional, but hopes that they can input more into the 2nd phase where more exciting concepts can potentially be developed. Low Carbon Swansea and our Community Green Space Development officer can certainly support this work.

PG said that Housing are already taking forward sustainability in a big way with the use of Eco-tiles, which capture CO2 on 600 existing properties and maintenance programmes aiming to improve energy efficiency and reuse levels.

JW said that they will be using Code 3 for the buildings and wanting to have community involvement. HO said that land and infrastructure are also important elements and the use of SUDS could be included and biodiversity plans developed.

12. A.O.B

Recipro – AB said that yesterday SCVS was visited by this organisation. They have recently set up a project in Swansea's Enterprise Park and asked for help in spreading the word. It is a collaborative project between Constructing Excellence in Wales, Swansea Care and Repair and Recipro-UK, the project enables the construction industry to donate small quantities of unused, surplus construction materials to community groups, schools and social enterprises to access at heavily discounted rates for use in projects – giving useful materials a second chance and avoiding costly disposal. They will be working with Housing Associations to help with waste diversion.

HG is meeting with them soon. JE said that the Centre had also been approached and that they would help publicise the project.

RWE – A member of SEF was invited to join them at a recent Ospreys game and PM attended. He reported that they are keen to work with us and will be joining Low Carbon Swansea. They are also keen to talk to the Exec and may be interested in SEF being involved in distributing their community fund once they are up and running. PM said they are keen to work with SCVS too and would send his contact to AB.

Sustainable Wales Awards – PG said that a number of Swansea projects have been short-listed for this Cynnal Cymru awards scheme and asked everyone to vote for them, more details at <http://www.cynnalcymru.com/awards/>

EC20 Drinks Reception – JE reminded all Exec members that they are invited to the Centre's VIP celebration of its 20th anniversary taking place on October 8th. MPs, AMs, Peter Davies, partners and funders and CCS cabinet members are all on the guest list so far.

Dates of Next Meetings:

SEF Executives:

Thursday 19th November
Thursday 21st January 2016
Thursday 17th March
Thursday 19th May
Thursday 21st July
Thursday 15th September
Thursday 17th November

(All at 10am in the Environment Centre)

SEF Full Forums:

AGM Monday 12th October 2015
February?
June?
AGM Monday 10th October 2016

(All at 7pm in the Environment Centre)