



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

Executive Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2015

At 10am in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Members Present

Chair	Deb Hill	Nature Conservation, CCS
	Philip McDonnell	PM Developments
	Jenny Edwards	Environment Centre
	Chris Howell	Waste, CCS
	Alyx Baharie	SCVS
	Delyth Higgins	Sustainable Swansea
	Hamish Osborn	NRW
	Ant Flanagan	Gower Power Co-op
	Gail Evans	Housing, CCS
	Rebecca Wright	NRW
	John Childs	Friends of the Earth
	Winter Dotto	Clear Streams
	Ben George	Highways, CCS (for Stuart Davies)

1. Apologies for absence

Stuart Davies	Highways, CCS
Chris Linley	AONB, CCS

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising from minutes

Action: JE ask TN about economic regeneration speaker for Exec.

The WG Small Environment Grant (up to £50k to spend by March) has still not been launched. DH said she expected this to happen in September. AF said that Environment Wales grant recipients have been given another year's funding. HO said that Claire Sutherland may still be available to help with funding. It will be good to get ready.

Action: JE to set up a meeting to discuss grant application once we hear. HO and GE went to the Older Persons' Working Group. They had presentations for different lead areas. Headlines included: Aging well, Dementia Friendly and big actions. JC asked if TN was there. GE didn't think she was. DH was not involved either. This is a LSB priority at the moment, so not just CCS. HO saw many opportunities to interact on behalf of both NRW and SEF. There are many areas where we could input – like transport, housing and green spaces. HO suggested that each group in LSB be asked what they do and be asked to take the lead. Health issues seem to be dominating at the moment but done in context of WG framework where the environment aspects are strong.

Action: HO agreed to keep Exec informed of what is happening in the Older Persons Working Group.

DH is about to put in a response to the City Centre consultation. Only had views from HO so far. PM offered to help her pull it together.

Action: All send DH comments on city centre consultation.

JC said that there will be a new round of the Rural Development Plan shortly and asked if SEF could get involved. He felt they had failed to deliver on green jobs. HO and AF are already on the partnership, but it is understood that there will be a call for new members shortly. Paul Relf has mentioned this to JE too. It was felt that a voluntary sector rep would be good and it was suggested that JE apply when the time is right and offer DHig as an alternate if allowed. DH said it would be a good way of insuring SEF is not seen as only an urban group.

BG said that the electric vehicle bid put together by Low Carbon Swansea's Electric Vehicle group and put in as a consortium was unsuccessful – no Welsh bids were. He said that Baroness Cramer visited Swansea and was keen for them to keep up a dialogue with her Office for Low Emission Vehicles. BG said there was likely to be a bus bid from CCS and NPTCBC going in to a £30mln pot this October. They hope that the Bay Campus and Tidal Lagoon may make the bid stronger.

DH asked about the Bendy Bus replacement. BG said that it was likely to be the Euro % which will have wifi and leather seats and much better for air quality and particulates.

4. Forum Meetings

The Forum meeting on “**Community Energy**” went well and was quite well attended. Some new people were there too. JE contacted those who had given details to ask if they wanted to join SEF and has had 2 back. JE has sent out a link to the presentations to all those who gave their details – they are all on the SEF website. It was thought that 2 councillors attended, one of them was Cllr Crouch. Many people stayed around afterwards discussing, but there was no interest expressed for a follow up session on financing.

JE talked about the business part of the **October AGM** on 12th October.

As per our constitution each full exec member needs to step down every 3 years on rotation. The people due to step down are JE, JC, AB and RJ. The first 3 agreed to stand again. JC will check with RJ. Due to his health he has already stepped down for the Centre board. JE has also had a letter of resignation from Terry Scales.

RW and HO said that as they were both in the same team and RW's role has become more regional than HO would be the main SEF representative for NRW, but that RW would remain as a co-optee. This can be announced at the AGM

This does mean that we have no Forum Chair or Vice Chair. Nobody seems keen to take this on. Role on LSB may come to an end soon, so the main job of the Chair may be lost. CH with DH as deputy are attending these on SEF's behalf currently.

DH has been approached by Andrew Davies, former AM and now Director of the local health board – ABMU about getting involved in SEF. He was inspired by the conference and said he had made some good connections. He could act as a health rep on the exec.

Action: DHil tell AD that he can be nominated at the AGM. **PM** to tell Nina Williams and Sharon Miller of Heathy Cities that has been suggested.

It still seems feasible for the topic to be the NRW Trial work. It is still not clear at what pint NRW will be at come October.

Action: HO to talk to Tawe Trial Coordinators about feed back to SEF in October.

All the trial projects have done reports so these could be part of the evening too, although there would be some overlap with the Smart Nature conference. DH said that Natural Resource Management is of relevance to other strategies and Acts like the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

5. Sustainable Swansea

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

The **Green Map** for Penderry has now been distributed to public access buildings and agencies. A display about the map has been in the library and will now go to other places in the area. Meetings have been held with Caerlas, Gwalia, Costal Housing and Family Housing and they are all very keen to work with the project and the Centre. Their housing magazines have given the project lot of publicity.

Digital Streams – The taster sessions with SANDS went very well. There was real enthusiasm and the group are keen to carry on doing photography.

Renew Wales – 4 projects are now underway: Penllegare Trust, Swansea Mind, the Quakers and Wheelrights. DHig is also still supported Bikeability, who started work on their action plan last year...

DHig attended a “**Climate Change Commission for Wales- Adaptation event**” in Cardiff. The impact of climate change was discussed by people such as Alan Netherwood, Rhodri Thomas from Cynnal Cymru and Jim Hodgson from EA England. A number of case studies were presented, including educating community councillors. The Health Sector adaptation plan for England was shared at the meeting too.

Action: DHig send around COIN info. and Health Sector adaptation plan.

Attendees contributions were collected. The plan is to be Wales wide - but DHig and others attending felt a more community scale plan would be easier to grasp. The plan is being prepared to influence the Paris talks in December.

6 Clear Streams

Tawe User Survey - WD reported on progress, and shared a draft of the User Survey's report's Executive Summary.

The full report is now with NRW. Many of the recommendations link to the health agenda. There are also suggestions for mediating conflict between different users. Many respondents also wanted the profile of the area to be raised.

WD is now working over the next 2 weeks to deliver some talks about a new Marine users code, which DH's team has been developing.

7. Low Carbon Swansea

PM reported that the recent training event was successful. There were 30 attendees from a wide variety of organisations, who got to try out 7 vehicles, enjoyed the networking opportunity and had a good variety of presentations.

PM continues to regularly update the website too. He said that memberships are trickling in – with 7 paid up and 3 in process. The target for September is 10. Once this is reached it will give a good foundation of confidence to build the membership further in the next phase of development.

The next training event will be in late September. It is being run in partnership with Resource Efficient Wales and it may be possible for it to be CPD accredited, which will make it more attractive.

8. SEF Tawe Consultation project

PM reported that there are a number different elements to this project: website, conference, consultations and street surveys.

The website is now live – Smart nature has been a priority. It is ow live ad getting plenty of clicks, but not many comments yet. PM handed out a branded post card, which will be used alongside Facebook adverts and one in What's On to publicise it. JC suggested putting a poster in the civic centre. The image has been a very successful way of spreading the word.

Action: DHil ask if we can display Smart Nature poster in civic centre

The conference was well attended, with over 90 people. There was some very good feedback too.

The report on the activities will go to NRW in next couple of weeks. Once this is accepted this and the User Survey report will be shared with the Exec.

9. LSB and Single Integrated Plan

There has not been a meeting since the last Exec. However, work has been going on preparing driver diagrams. Outcome F – Great place – has been the one SEF has been involved in producing. A quite diverse group began the process, including people from our Exec and LSB co-ordinators and research group members. The process started with a clean sheet. There have now been 5 drafts. The meeting discussed various points of both structure and wording.

The LSB on 21st July will look at all 5 driver diagrams. It will also be the first one that is open to the public.

DHig said that the LSB Engagement group has been told that it is to be disbanded. It seems Lee Williams is taking the lead to look at its terms of reference and its role.

10. Healthy Cities Update

PM reported that the second network meeting had been held. The group talked about old people and there was also a discussion about food and growing. The Sustainable Food Network is visiting in August and a few projects will be invited to talk to them.

The idea is to look at options for moving towards a g=food strategy for Swansea.

PM is currently the Chair of the Swansea Community Growing Network. They have been awarded £5,000 by Swansea's Growing Local fund to run 4 training sessions and help network members link up, including through a website and social media.

SEF is holding the funds for them whilst they set up a bank account.

Rupert from Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens had been very supportive, however his post has just ended and his input will be greatly missed. It is hoped someone else from FCFCG will be involved.

Developing Community Green Spaces: JE presented LH's report. The steering group met recently and was very happy with progress, as is SCVS. The plan for next few months is to start in 2 new areas, whilst still supporting the others we have already worked in. The project is now half way through.

11. More Homes Project Update

GE said that there was nothing new to report, other than the fact that things are still moving forward.

12. A.O.B

Biosphere and Green Capital awards: DHil introduced these 2 international schemes and said that although it would be very ambitious that Swansea should be thinking about working towards one of these.

Brighton has the biosphere award and Bristol is this year's European Green capital.

JE said that she had gone to a GC event in Bristol and was very impressed, however the scale and costs would be hugely above anything else we have ever achieved.

DHil suggested inviting people to talk to us about them, but it was felt the Exec needs to discuss this first.

Action: JE send around information on both schemes ready for next Exec, so that we can have a discussion.

Dates of Next Meetings:

SEF Executives:

Thursday 17th September

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)