



Swansea Environment Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday 16th January 2020
at the Main Hall, The Environment Centre, Swansea

PRESENT

Name	Role	Representing	Abbrev.
Deb Hill	Chair	Swansea Council (Nature Conservation)	DH
Hamish Osborn	Vice Chair	Natural Resources Wales	HO
Alyx Baharie	Treasurer	Swansea CVS	AB
Philip McDonnell	Secretary	SEF Coordinator	PM
John Childs		Swansea Friends of the Earth	JC
Andrew Davies		individual	AD
Ruth Williams		Royal Institution of South Wales	RW
Ant Flanagan		Gower Power	AF
Heidi Smith		Swansea University	HS
Chris Lindley		Swansea Council (AONB)	CL
Peter Anderson		VocalEyes	PA
Fran Rolfe		Natural Resources Wales	FR
Steve Bolchover		The Environment Centre	SB
Jill Goddard		Swansea Council (Housing)	JG

APOLOGIES

Name	Role	Representing	Abbrev.
Helen Grey		Swansea Council – (External Funding)	HG
Chris Howell		Swansea Council (Waste Management & Parks)	CH
Ciaran O'Brien		Penllergare Trust	CO
John Sayce		Wheelrights	JS

Item No		Action by
1.	Intros, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest Apologies were listed. No conflicts of interest were declared.	
2.	Minutes of last meeting held on 21/11/19: These were accepted as a true record and each of the listed actions were reported on, in turn, as follows:	

	<p>Min. 3a: NRW funding – a new opportunity to bid for a ‘Shared Outcome Request’ grant had been explored, but best to apply early for the next round. HO has offered contract funding for PM to support the Working With Nature group and the NRW rep (Martin Evans) on the Public Service Board, for this financial year.</p> <p>Min. 4a: Phil updated that committee co-optees had been approached about rejoining. Fran and Jill agreed but Patrick will now just be an alternate for Jill (along with Julia) so we have just one formal representative from the Council's housing department. Patrick will continue to be involved with LCSB.</p> <p>Min. 5: RW had publicised the City Centre Green Infrastructure Strategy consultation to RISW members. FR reported that 55 responses had been received to the consultation which were all very positive. The draft strategy was already being actively used by developers.</p> <p>Min. 6: A representative from the Health Board had not yet been secured.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Climate Action Task Groups & discussion</p> <p>a) Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -awaiting a date from Swansea Council on their proposed big event. -PA reported back from the SEF task group on Public Engagement. A matrix on topics, geographic areas and capacity is needed. Many good community-based solutions exist – they need to be written up as case studies and put on a website, with links to training and funding. A researcher needs to be funded and recruited to pull all the information together and build connections for a website. -HS said the University is planning a Climate Action Week at the end of March which had started as a research-planning event but is gathering support and widening to a 5 day engagement week which SEF could get involved with. She said the University has decided to launch its own climate change plan to coincide with COP 26 in November in Glasgow. -PA said the VocalEyes bid to the Charities Aid Foundation had been successful and had just come through. It will fund 2 people to work 2 days per week with communities at the Ward level. PA has also submitted an Expression of Interest to the Lottery's Climate Change Fund with SEF as a key partner. Should hear soon whether invited to submit a full application by March. <p>b) Discussion & next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -DH said Martin Nicholls (MN), who is leading on the Climate Emergency declaration by Swansea Council and who presented to the last meeting, wants SEF's input to the Council Plan. Also SEF wants a plan for wider public participation. The gap is that there is no common framework, so SEF's role could be to provide a web-based tool with links and advice on how groups and individuals can take climate action. She proposed that SEF set up an online umbrella with the title of “Climate Change 	

<p>Swansea” which would have a logo. Everyone can link their initiatives to this. She proposed a template for this.</p> <p>-HS agreed but with the caveat that many different sectors are drawing up their own frameworks. She queries the 4 possible levels of scope that MN had listed in his presentation and felt it was vital to know what level the Council was aiming for.</p> <p>-FR advised the need to engage people with any online resource that’s created.</p> <p>-RW advised a focus on actions that would have the greatest impacts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. She proposed the actions be on Nature Recovery as well as Climate Actions. She advised focussing on ‘what is SEF’s added value?’.</p> <p>- SB said we need to help people overcome the hurdles to taking action, like retrofitting their homes.</p> <p>-JC said national government is not providing the funds to enable local action.</p> <p>- JG said the Council is aiming for zero carbon house building but is totally reliant on grants from Welsh Government.</p> <p>-AD said 50% of Welsh Government budget goes to Health. The Future Generations Act doesn’t impose duties so it has no teeth. It’s vital that politicians are lobbied by individuals and organisations so they feel the public pressure.</p> <p>-PM recommended that SEF could focus on the major climate change priority of Transport and challenge the council’s policies in particular. He hoped Cardiff Council’s new proposals for congestion charging may prompt action in Swansea.</p> <p>-AD supported Transport as a priority and said the Welsh Government is not funding actions which tackle the climate emergency.</p> <p>PA suggested a bottom-up template to remove top down barriers. He proposed that SEF fund a person for 3 months to prepare practical case studies.</p> <p>-FR said SEF should provide a mechanism for the electorate to send clear messages to their politicians.</p> <p>-SB said SEF needs to be more direct.</p> <p>-AD agreed citing the success of SEF directly lobbying the Public Service Board had directly influenced the Wellbeing Plan.</p> <p>-DH summed up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >use council contract funding to fund a part time, fixed term post >help Swansea Council as per MN’s request >agreed Nature Recovery would be in SEF’s plan alongside Climate Action >it would be linked to her draft framework and proposed branding <p>-PM asked ‘how much will this cost?’</p> <p>-RW offered to help write a brief from which a contract could be agreed.</p> <p>-HO advised SEF to use such a brief to make an early bid for the NRW’s ‘Shared Outcome Request’ funding.</p>	<p>RW, PA & PM to meet ASAP to draft a brief. All welcome.</p> <p>HS offered to share good practice e.g. from Bristol.</p> <p>PM to circulate draft for comment.</p> <p>DH will report to MN once brief agreed.</p>
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	<p>-PA said social prescribing is a win-win for health and the environment. -AD said we need to change the terms of the debate from a 'nice to have' to a 'must have'. There needs to be huge system change.</p>	
4.	<p>SEF Finances and Meetings a) Budget 2019/20 update: PM reported on the current position. A balance of £13k of unrestricted funds is predicted by 31st March but £1k of the Swansea Council funding for this year is still not allocated and if NRW contract for WWN work to the end of March then more Swansea Council funding will be released to spend on other work e.g. short-term worker to help with climate work. HO strongly advised SEF to bid soon for a 'Shared Outcome Request' grant from NRW. b) Plans for future meetings – potential speakers: AD recommended Carwyn Davies of Hacer Developments who are developing the old Woolworths site in the city centre with assistance from the Wales Innovation Fund. c) Membership of Exec. Committee: AD suggested private sector involvement. PM explained the constitution only allows for commercial organisations to be associate members of SEF and that only public sector and NGO representatives and individuals can be elected to sit on the Exec Committee. However, the private sector is strongly represented on LCSB and could perhaps be co-opted onto the Exec. Committee, as has happened previously, when there are spaces.</p>	<p>PM to bid in Feb for new NRW grant.</p> <p>PM to invite Carwyn Davies to speak at next meeting.</p> <p>All to send PM ideas for future speakers.</p>
5.	<p>SEF Partnerships and Projects Updates a) Community Green Spaces: The Green Spaces Working Group met recently for an update from Neil and to agree plans and days allocated to March (approx.. 1.5 days a week). Some additional funding for the project has come from Deb which will support additional days of Neil's time to work at the Clydach Community Garden and some activities of the Swansea Community Growing Network. Neil has been assisting the Council's Coed Cymru Officer on a Glastir scheme. He has also been supporting/advising groups in Mount Pleasant, the Marina, Pennard and Morryston. b) Low Carbon Swansea Bay: The next LCSB network event is on 22nd January at the National Waterfront Museum and will focus on Travel and Transport, including a presentation from Public Health Wales' Tom Porter on the Healthy Travel Charter in Cardiff. Swansea Council housing colleagues have offered site visits to the retrofit scheme in Craig Cefn Parc and an active home development in Birchgrove. c) Working with Nature Task Group (& Swansea PSB): The Task Group hasn't met for some months and PM was unsure what progress was being made with the PSB. With funding from NRW, PM will now reconvene the Task Group and hopes to support NRW on the PSB.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Stories from Around the Table: Members Networking a) Sharing updates and information and b) forthcoming events and meetings: >PM said SEF is co-hosting a talk on ‘Climate, Farming & Fairtrade’ at the Environment Centre by the Chief Executive of Traidcraft on 20th Feb just ahead of Fairtrade Fortnight. >HO said NRW’s area Statement for SW Wales should be available by the end of March. The emerging themes are already on NRW’s website. >CL said the AONB Management Plan review is commencing. The AONBs across England & Wales have made a Declaration on Nature with commitments for improvements. >JC said Friends of the Earth had held a Climate Action event in November. They want to engage all groups for more co-ordination of effort. >SB said Rhian Corcoran had been appointed manager of the Environment Centre, starting at the beginning of January. >AD said he is a member of Swansea Council’s policy & development committee on Reducing Poverty. >FR said that consultation events are in train for the county-wide strategy. >PA noted that Friends of the Earth had come up with the same name ‘Climate Action Swansea’ as the name DH had proposed. > JG said 6 homes are being retrofitted for green energy at Craig Cefn Parc. A SEF/LCSB visit will be planned. >HS said an Environment Manager post (3 days per week) is advertised at Swansea University. Also a sustainability ‘train the trainer’ summer programme is being developed and there is scope to link this with SEF. >RW said RISW has a lunchtime series of talks in February on ‘Ageing Disgracefully’ with potential links to environmental action. >AF shared information about the new energy supply scheme being offered by Gower Power. There will also be a share offer scheme in the near future.</p>	<p>HS to circulate details of University Climate Action Week.</p> <p>RW to recirculate RISW events programme.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>AOB PM reported that David Thorpe had also submitted an EOI for Lottery climate action funds for a One Planet carbon footprint project, previously discussed with SEF. As SEF has been identified in the EOI as a key partner, we will need to work with David on the full application (and Peter on the VocalEyes bid) if the Lottery support the EOI. >All wished FR the best for the safe arrival of her baby.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Next SEF Exec. Meetings all 10am at The Environment Centre: Thursday 19th March 2020 Thursday 21st May 2020 Thursday 16th July 2020 Thursday 17th September 2020 Thursday 19th November 2020</p>	