



*Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea*

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**Swansea Environment Forum Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday 16th July 2020**

**PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
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
Andrew Davies		individual	AD
Heidi Smith		Swansea University	HS
Chris Lindley		Swansea Council (AONB)	CL
Peter Anderson		VocalEyes	PA
John Sayce		Wheelrights	JS
Steve Bolchover		The Environment Centre	SB
Ciaran O'Brien		Penllergare Trust	CO
Jill Goddard		Swansea Council (Housing)	JG
Helen Grey		NRW	HG

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Ruth Williams		RISW	RW
Rhian Corcoran		The Environment Centre	RC
John Childs		Friends of the Earth	JC
Chris Howell		Swansea Council (Waste/Parks)	CO
Ant Flanagan		Gower Power	AF

<b>Item No</b>		<b>Action by</b>
1.	<b>Intros, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest</b> Apologies were listed.  No conflicts of interest were declared.	

	DH introduced HG to the group. Helen has recently commenced work with NRW on the delivery of the Area Statements especially related to linkage with PSBs, the Reducing Health Inequalities agenda and grants / funding.	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting held 16/01/20 and matters arising:</b> These were accepted as a true record and each of the listed actions were reported on, in turn, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HS to resend feedback from visit to Bristol so PM can share.</li> <li>- Finances – No changes made, as yet, to account signatories and authorised users.</li> <li>- AD initiated a discussion regarding which bank SEF should deal with in terms of its ethical credentials. DH agreed to bring this topic forward at a future meeting for further discussion</li> <li>- Carwyn Davies of Hacer Developments agreed to come and talk to the Exec at the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Other matters arising were addressed under other sections of the agenda.</p>	<p>HS/PM to send link</p> <p>AB/PM to action</p> <p>HS to investigate ethical bank options</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Updates on SEF Project and Proposals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Climate Action Task Groups &amp; discussion</b> – PA reported that David Thorpe (DT) and Bethan John (BJ) are in post. Listing of stakeholders is underway, surveys to stakeholders have been undertaken and interviews commenced. A working list of twenty “solutions” is being worked up. Technical developments for the project are behind by a few weeks due to Covid related layoffs at VocalEyes. Offers of support and collaboration have come from the British Council, The Centre for Alternative Technology and The Eden Project. Contact will be made with the Scottish Govt., which is developing a very similar project. Potential to link with NRW to harness data on soil and air quality from Area Statements to inform and support communities to drive appropriate local solutions. Potential use of GIS mapping technology discussed. Bid to National Lottery for Participatory County Project with decision on 6<sup>th</sup> October.</li> </ul>	



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	<p>SEF Exec members to be asked to contribute to solutions list and provide feedback. HG suggested feedback should also be sought from end users.</p> <p>HO raised concerns that promotion of beneficial solutions may not be enough to change behaviours.</p> <p>PM noted that SEF funding is available if we choose to extend the contracts of DT and BJ beyond the current end of August termination, if necessary.</p> <p>DH suggested a meeting at end July/early August for a presentation on the project and progress so far. PA agreed.</p> <p>- <b>Community Green Spaces project</b> The Working Group met last week. Various projects are progressing with support from Neil. There was a discussion of up-coming projects including potential support to 4thRegion/CRP for greening stations. Agreed to extend Neil's position for another quarter.</p> <p>- <b>Transport and travel</b> Re WG Covid monies, JS reported that SCC did not take up any of Wheelright's suggestions around active travel and protection of schoolchildren from traffic but did secure funding for additional secure cycle storage in the city centre and enhanced cycle provision at Park&amp;Ride sites. Several participants expressed disappointment at this outcome.</p> <p>AD noted that Swansea had one of the lowest percentage of people using sustainable transport for commuting and the worst air quality in the UK and that an integrated transport policy was needed.</p> <p>It was suggested that SCC shows considerable resistance to interfering with car usage in the city.</p> <p>SB noted that "active travel" solutions were not open to all including the elderly and disabled and that other issues such as public transport and low emission vehicles have to be part of the solution.</p> <p>PM noted that SEF has been raising concerns about transport issues for years with limited success but that the issue may have more traction now and perhaps this was the time to push harder.</p> <p>DH suggested discussion of an autumn conference / seminar on transport at the next meeting.</p>	<p>PA/DH to arrange</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Low Carbon Swansea Bay</b> PM reported that two webinars have been delivered and were well received. A list of further webinars for this autumn and next year will be circulated.</li> <li>- <b>Working with Nature Task Group / Swansea PSB</b> There have been discussions in the PSB core group about post-Covid recovery. This is an opportunity for SEF / WWNTG to push its priority issues, such as transport.</li> <li>- <b>Green Fairness Policy</b> SCC have asked SEF for assistance in developing this policy. Being done via WWNTG but anyone else interested in getting involved should contact PM.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Finance and Funding</b> DH reported back from the Contracts Group and noted that PM's workload is in excess of his allocated contract time and this needs to be addressed.</p> <p>PM gave an update on the "Shared Outcomes Fund" application to NRW. This is for approx. £5k for this year with a view to making a larger bid for the next three years in the autumn. The initial bid covers staff time to coordinate work with the PSB and WWNTG; the organisation of a regional workshop for PSBs to share their environment-related work; the organisation of a conference to focus on transport and travel and the delivery of a series of webinars around a green recovery.</p> <p>HG outlined NRW's assessment process. PM will share the outline of the proposal to SEF members for feedback.</p>	<p>PM to share outline</p>



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<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Stories from Around the ‘Virtual’ Table</b></p> <p>AB raised a query about the Local Nature partnership. DH responded that a Biodiversity officer is funded and that several projects are running including one mapping ecosystem resilience.</p> <p>CO reported that volunteer activity at Penllergare Valley woods had been severely curtailed but work on plans for a new visitor centre and redevelopment of the walled garden were on going. The planting of an orchard of Welsh heritage varieties is part of the latter. DH suggested The Orchard Project might be of interest.</p> <p>HG offered to make a presentation about NRW’s Area Statements to SEF along with detailed discussion about how this agenda can be progressed. Presentation agreed, possibly for the AGM.</p> <p>HO noted that NRW had small amounts of funds for cotoneaster removal, commons management and water quality issues in Swansea Bay.</p> <p>SB noted that the Environment Centre shop is now open on three days per week. Organising face to face meetings there remains difficult.</p> <p>DH noted a recent grant (£180k) for tree planting, wild flower planting and green infrastructure projects. Included will be a demonstration greenwall/roof at the Environment Centre.</p> <p>PM described an exciting potential collaboration with Swansea University School of Humanities.</p> <p>DH reported that Biophilic Wales wished to provide SEF with an update on its activities.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>A.O.B.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There was no other business</li> </ul> <p><b>Next SEF Exec Committee Meeting: 17.09.2020</b></p>	