



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

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**Swansea Environment Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday 15th July 2021 (online via Zoom)**

PRESENT

Name	Role	Representing	Abbrev.
Deb Hill	Chair	Swansea Council (Nature Conservation)	DH
Hamish Osborn	Vice Chair	Natural Resources Wales	HO
Philip McDonnell	Secretary	SEF Coordinator	PM
Alyx Baharie	Treasurer	Swansea CVS	AB
Heidi Smith		Swansea University	HS
John Childs		Friends of the Earth	JC
Chris Lindley		Swansea Council (AONB)	CL
Steve Bolchover		The Environment Centre	SB
Jules Wagstaff		Climate and Community	JW
Iwan Davies		RISW	ID
Mary Sherwood		Gower Power	MS
Peter Anderson		VocalEyes	PA
Helen Grey		NRW	HG

APOLOGIES

Name	Role	Representing	Abbrev.
Rhian Corcoran		The Environment Centre	RC
Patrick Holcroft		Swansea Council (Housing)	PH
Ciaran O'Brien		Penllergare Trust	CO
John Sayce		Wheelrights	JS
Jill Goddard		Swansea Council (Housing)	JO
Andrew Davies		individual	AD
Howard Stevens		SBUHB	HS
Chris Howell		Swansea Council (Waste/Parks)	CO

Item No.		Action by
1.	Intros, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest	

	<p>Apologies were reported as listed above. DH welcomed Iwan Davies as the new representative of RISW. No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting held 20/05/21 and matters arising: The minutes were accepted as a true and each of the listed actions were reported on or discussed, in turn, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PM was to seek date for follow-up meeting with Council on climate – this took place on 30th June. - PM was to arrange setting up new bank account but no progress made on this with this due to time constraints - PM agreed to liaise with RC about a joint event and check NB availability. Arrangements were made but altered at short notice due to ongoing concerns about Covid and availability of committee members to attend an in person meeting. - PM circulated information on the Lottery webinar and subsequently circulated links to recordings of the webinar. 	
3.	<p>Update on Green Spaces Project</p> <p>a) Clydach visit PM reported that only he and John Sayce participated in the site visit. PM declared that the project was very impressive and encouraged all members to find an opportunity to pay a visit.</p> <p>b) Officer recruitment AB reported that there were five applications to the post, that three candidates were interviewed and that the contract had been offered to Josh Pike who works at the Summit Good CSA. It was also fed back from the Working Group that the project would be reviewed over the next months with the possibility of handing the project over to the Environment Centre to manage and develop. HG said she was keen to be involved in this review. MS the issue of mapping available land and the Council having a policy for supporting community growing. There then followed a discussion on mapping and PA suggested setting up a working group to explore mapping (not just related to growing) – PA also reported on the Sweet Pickings project.</p>	
4.	<p>Updates on Climate Action and Nature Recovery Programme PM referred to an update paper prepared ahead of the meeting which highlighted the four agreed workstreams proposed in response to the climate and nature emergencies and provided updates on what had been achieved over the last year and what the next steps might be.</p> <p>a) Workstream 1: Targeting Transport</p>	



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<p>PM referred to the regional transport conference – <i>Moving Forward Together</i> – organised in collaboration with 4theRegion and others which resulted in a regional transport manifesto.</p> <p>He went on to mention upcoming activities/initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Healthy Travel Charter for Swansea Bay which will be kicked off with an initial meeting of partners on 15th September - the ‘<i>Community-led Transport Solutions</i>’ project bid submitted by SCVS for CRF – awaiting confirmation - a regional transport forum (conference follow-up) to be organised by 4theRegion in October <p>PM also said he was looking to strengthen links with the Council Transport Team on these initiatives</p> <p>b) Workstream 2: Solutions for All</p> <p>PM reported that the online resource was about to go live and that a the management and further development of the resource would now be transferred to VocalEyes. PA demonstrated the website and also showed how it would like to VocalEyes other resources. PA also called for support for funding bids to enable the community engagement aspects of the project.</p> <p>c) Workstream 3: Progress through Partnership</p> <p>PM explained that this was largely focused on supporting the Council on their climate strategy work and wider engagement on action towards the 2050 net-zero target. It would also be useful to offer continued support for the WWN Task Group and the development of the new Wellbeing Assessment..</p> <p>d) Workstream 4: Awareness and Engagement</p> <p>PM referred to the programme of webinars organised earlier in the year in collaboration with the Environment Centre; the LCSB webinars; a Lottery funding webinar organised with SCVS and also the development of a green recovery toolkit in collaboration with the Centre and SCVS.</p> <p>PM suggested that SEF hopes to work with partners to organise and/or promote climate and nature related events linked to COP26 ; to reintroduce physical LCSB network events and site visits; and to support a regional food conference coordinated by 4theRegion.</p> <p>e) Offer of free climate leadership training programme</p> <p>PM highlighted the offer received from Tanya Nash for coaching on climate leadership. There was much interest in this and it was agreed to arrange an initial exploratory session with Tanya.</p> <p>At this point in the meeting, JC raised concerns about air quality and referred to a letter he had written to Swansea Council. This</p>	<p>PM to liaise with Tanya to arrange an initial session</p>
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	prompted a lot of discussion about air pollution which led on to lots of discussion about tree planting.	
5.	<p>Food and Growing Theme</p> <p>a) Food resilience group / regional conference plans PM said that a series of food resilience meetings had taken place, organised by the Swansea Community growing Network and prompted by the lack of reference to food in the Council's climate survey. These meetings have prompted discussions and plans around food related asset mapping, the Sustainable Food Place initiative and also a regional food conference.</p> <p>b) SEF representation from agriculture/growing PM raised this issues but it was not discussed.</p> <p>c) Food poverty funding opportunities PM referred to two food related funding opportunities on offer from Swansea Council and Welsh Government.</p>	
6.	<p>Update on PSB / Wellbeing Assessment / WWN PM reported that work was starting on the new Wellbeing Assessment.</p>	
7.	<p>Finance and Funding DH reported from the Contract Group that in order to deliver some of the work discussed e.g. supporting the Wellbeing Assessment process and supporting the Council with climate engagement activities would require time and resources. It was proposed that a further 10-20 days' worth of officer time may be required and would involve either extending the coordinator's contract and/or contracting others. PM suggested that there was sufficient unrestricted funds to cover this but that there is also the potential to bring in additional resources e.g. from NRW or ENRaW grants. It was agreed that the Contracts Group could have delegated powers to make the necessary arrangements.</p>	Contracts Group to determine how best to meet additional resource needs
8.	<p>Any Other Business Hamish offered to set up a Paypal collection facility for donations to Neil's retirement gift. JC pointed out that SEF has joined the Climate.Cymru campaign and urged the Environment Centre and others to do the same. SB suggested that mechanisms be put in place for SEF and EC to share information better both across the committee and their respective memberships.</p>	<p>HO to set up collection for Neil.</p> <p>PM and RC to discuss information sharing</p>
	<p>Next SEF Exec Committee Meetings Thu 16th September 2021 (time and venue TBC) Thu 18th November 2021 (time and venue TBC) AGM provisional date: 7pm, Monday 6th December (TBC)</p>	