



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

**Swansea Environment Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday 10th May 2022 (online via Zoom)**

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
Heidi Smith		individual	HS
Chris Lindley		Swansea Council (AONB)	CL
Julia Owens		Swansea Council (Housing)	JO
Teifion Maddocks		Swansea University	TM
Ciaran O'Brien		Penllergare Trust	CO
John Sayce		Wheelrights	JS
Jules Wagstaff		Climate & Community	JW
John Childs		Friends of the Earth	JC

APOLOGIES

Name	Role	Representing	Abbrev.
Iwan Davies		RISW	ID
Helen Grey		NRW	HG
Josh Pike		Swansea Community Green Spaces	JP
Howard Stevens		Swansea Bay University Health Board	HS
Fran Rolfe		NRW	FR

Item		Actions
1.	Intros, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest Apologies were reported as listed above. No conflicts of interest were declared.	
2.	Minutes of last meeting held 24/03/22 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: - AB has managed to speak to the bank about sending the missing statements	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PM to resend Rob Hernando's presentation - Contracts Subgroup met to agree action to be taken regarding VocalEyes and the Inspiration Hub. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>SEF Finance and Governance</p> <p>a) Update on funding and finances PM reported that we are still awaiting an initial meeting with Swansea Council after the successful application to the framework. He also referred to a bid for NRW funding towards supporting them with PSB/WWN work and also that further CRF funding is there to be drawn down for delivering aspects of the community-led transport project – proposals have gone to the Contracts Group to agree extending the Coordinator SLA and the budget sheet will be adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>b) Confirmation on agreement to set up new bank account PM requested that the previous decision regarding switching the bank account and choosing signatories is confirmed as it is some time since this was last minuted, due to the ongoing problems in obtaining statements from the current bank. It was confirmed that the intension is to move to Triodos Bank and that the signatories would be Deb Hill, Alyx Baharie, Hamish Osborn and either Steve Bolchover or Rhian Corcoran. Philip McDonnell would also be registered as an authorised person or account operator.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Updates on SEF Projects and Partnerships</p> <p>a) Working with Nature / Public Service Board PM reported that the main focus recently has been completing the wellbeing assessment for publication – which was meant to happy in early May. A WWN Task Group meeting is planned for 9th June.</p> <p>b) Swansea Community Green Spaces Project PM reported that JP has been continuing to work with projects but at reduced hours. A steering group meeting will take place on 27th May when discussions will begin on the future shape and delivery of the project.</p> <p>c) Low Carbon Swansea Bay PM reported that much of the focus over recent months had been on the healthy travel charter which is being formally launched on 25th May. There was also a very successful LCSB webinar on 4th May which focused on the health board's decarbonisation and community projects.</p> <p>d) Climate and Nature Programme PM referred to earlier updates on the healthy travel charter and the Community-led Sustainable Transport Solutions project. He also outlined what the Contracts Group had decided to do regarding the situation with VocalEyes – a more formal letter/email was sent with an ultimatum to resolve the issues by a certain date or</p>	

	compensate for the funding invested. The website went back up online within days. The issue now is to determine the best way to launch and use the resource whilst ensuring that it is both secure and maintained. It was proposed that a group meet to discuss this further.	
5.	<p>Discussion on Engagement and Online Resources</p> <p>Following on from the previous agenda item, PM gave a short presentation about the main websites that SEF manages, including their purpose, content and status. He also demonstrated the interactivity of three of these sites – Smart Nature, the Green Spaces Toolkit and the Inspiration Hub.</p> <p>There was then a short discussion about how to improve and make the most of these resources. CL asked whether there were any analytics for the sites – PM suggested that was mixed. JW suggested approaching REACH for assistance with improving the sites. It was agreed that a task group would meet to work on this.</p>	PM to arrange task group meeting – CL, DH, JC, CO, HO, JW expressed an interest in joining the group.
6.	<p>Discussion on Swansea Council's Climate Plans</p> <p>JC raised concerns that a report from Climate Emergency UK gave Swansea Council a very low score in terms of its plans to address the climate emergency. PM suggested that this may not reflect what the Council have or are doing but rather that the researchers didn't obtain the information they were seeking. JC said he had emailed Andrea Lewis about this but hasn't yet had a reply. It was suggested that he also contact Jane Richmond. TM pointed out that each public body is now reporting extensive carbon information to Welsh Government which may be publicly available.</p> <p>PM reported that the meetings with Swansea Council haven't yet been re-established. He was urged to get in contact about this.</p>	<p>JC to contact Jane Richmond</p> <p>PM to contact Swansea Council</p>
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JC reported on an online event they had organised on 16th May about the nature emergency and biodiversity.</p> <p>CO updated on the LPN project at Penllergare and raised that attention needed to be given to improving access to technical support for managing sites and biodiversity projects.</p> <p>DH reported on having an additional 4 staff in her team that will provide support for developing the Nature Recovery Plan and deliver a Communities and Nature initiative at ward level. This will include offering technical advice and training.</p> <p>PM referred to the Green Recovery Business Conference, being organised by 4theRegion for 16th June (now delayed to 27th June).</p>	
	<p>Next SEF Exec Committee Meetings</p> <p>Thu 21st July, Thu 15th September, Thu 17th November</p> <p>All starting at 10am, and it is hoped that these meetings will be held in the Environment Centre.</p>	