



*Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea*

www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net

**Swansea Environment Forum Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday 17th November 2022 at The Environment Centre**

**PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Hamish Osborn	Vice Chair	Natural Resources Wales	HO
Chris Lindley		Swansea Council (AONB)	CL
Hayley Beharrell		Swansea Bay University Health Board	HB
Ciaran O'Brien		Penllergare Trust	CO
Teifion Maddocks		Swansea University	TM
Iwan Davies		Royal institute of South Wales	ID
Jules Wagstaff		Climate & Community	JW
John Childs		Friends of the Earth	JC
Mary Sherwood		Gower Power	MS
Philip McDonnell	Secretary	SEF Coordinator	PM
Alex Bryant-Evans	Guest	Transport for Wales	ABE
Tomos Davies	Guest	Transport for Wales	TD

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Deb Hill	Chair	Swansea Council (Nature Conservation)	DH
Alyx Baharie	Treasurer	Swansea CVS	AB
John Sayce		Wheelrights	JS
Jill Goddard		Swansea Council (Housing)	JG
Helen Grey		NRW	HG
Howard Stevens		Swansea Bay University Health Board	HS
Rhian Corcoran		The Environment Centre	RC

<b>Item</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<p><b>Presentation and discussion: Transport for Wales</b> Alex Bryant-Evans and Tomos Davies gave a presentation on the work, priorities and aspirations of Transport for Wales – including relating to rail, bus, active travel and community engagement.</p>	<p>PM to circulate presentation and information</p>

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	<p>Highlights included proposals for a hydrogen bus trial in Swansea and the introduction of new electric buses for Traws Cymru network. There followed a Q+A session with lively discussion.:</p> <p>JW enquired about freight rail but ABE said this doesn't currently come under TfW.</p> <p>CL asked about the use of the term active travel in relation to train carriages with cycle storage space being introduced on the Heart of Wales Line – ABE said that was a temporary description and that the term 'explorer' would be used to better reflect that the main use for the bikes in those circumstances was for leisure and that the carriages also supported walking/hiking.</p> <p>ID raised the lack of rail electrification in most of Wales – TD pointed out that much of the new rolling stock will be suitable for conversion.</p> <p>TM asked about the Swansea Gate alternative fuel hub proposals and encouraged introduction of electric buses rather than hydrogen. The discussions included reference to behaviour change, improving use of active travel funding and expertise, the cost of public transport (particularly buses) and the perception of public transport. HO thanked the TfW guests for their presentation.</p>	<p>next stakeholder meeting</p>
<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Intros, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>Apologies were reported in the meeting with additional apologies received later and added to the list above.</p> <p>HO chaired the meeting in DH's absence.</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting held 21/07/22 and matters arising:</b></p> <p>PM referred to the notes circulated in October in lieu of the cancelled September meeting which included updates on action listed in the minutes of the July meeting. It was agreed not to go through these again and most were already dealt with or covered on the agenda. The minutes were accepted as a true record.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Updates on SEF Projects and Partnerships</b></p> <p><b>a) Updates on healthy travel charter &amp; community-led transport</b></p> <p>PM gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the transport-related initiatives supported/lead by SEF over the past couple of years with updates on the Healthy Travel Charter and the CRF Community-led Sustainable Transport Solutions project, soon to come to an end. He highlighted that the HTC was continuing with support from the Swansea Bay Sustainable Travel Planning Group, and that partners were keen to see the Community-led Transport project built on.</p> <p><b>b) Report back from subgroup re: Inspiration Hub</b></p> <p>HO explained the background and reported that having met with representatives of VocalEyes it was felt that it didn't seem appropriate for SEF to continue the collaboration – to wish them well</p>	<p>PM to circulate presentation</p> <p>HI to write to VocalEyes to express SEF's position.</p>

	<p>with the resource and, if they no longer wanted to take it on, to seek a way for SEF to obtain the content.</p> <p><b>c) Update on PSB / Wellbeing Plan</b> PM reported that the draft new wellbeing Plan would go out to consultation shortly but that it was largely the same as the previous one. There is some uncertainty about the transition from the Working with Nature Task Group to a new environmental objective group.</p> <p><b>d) Swansea Council Framework projects</b> PM reported that SEF hasn't benefitted much from the new arrangement – the Environment Centre is leading on a community survey and SEF is provided some support for this. There is a second project being discussed with the Centre.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>SEF Finance and Governance</b></p> <p><b>a) AGM Arrangements</b> PM reminded that the AGM will take place online at 7pm on 5<sup>th</sup> December and will feature presentations from DH's team on GI and the nature recovery plan. The group approved the outline annual accounts.</p> <p><b>b) Updated budget sheet</b> PM highlighted that the only changes to the budget sheet since the last approved draft is additional income and expenditure related to the community-led transport project. The new draft was approved.</p> <p><b>c) Planning SEF's Future</b> PM suggested that given the changes to SEF's funding sources and the changing wider context that it might be useful to hold a separate workshop session early in the new year to explore SEF's future.</p> <p><b>d) Dates of 2023 Exec. meetings</b> PM pointed to the proposed meeting dates for 2023 and asked for feedback on any clashes. He also suggested the possibility of alternating between in-person and online meetings. It was suggested that hybrid provision could be offered.</p>	All to let PM know of any clashes
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JC raised the issue of the City Deal having £505 million to spend on energy efficiency in domestic properties e.g. PVs and insulation, but struggling to recruit staff to make use of this.</li> </ul>	JC to circulate article about this funding
	<p><b>Next SEF Exec Committee Meetings</b> The proposed dates for next year's meetings are: 12<sup>th</sup> January / 16<sup>th</sup> March / 11<sup>th</sup> May 13<sup>th</sup> July / 14<sup>th</sup> September / 16<sup>th</sup> November</p>	