



Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea

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**Swansea Environment Forum Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday 13th July 2023 at The Environment Centre**

PRESENT

Name	Role	Representing	Abbrev.
Hamish Osborn	Co-chair	Natural Resources Wales	HO
Deb Hill	Co-chair	Swansea Council (Nature Conservation)	DH
Alyx Baharie	Treasurer	Swansea CVS	AB
Philip McDonnell	Secretary	SEF Coordinator	PM
Iwan Davies		Royal institute of South Wales	ID
Mary Sherwood		Gower Power	MS
Rhian Corcoran		Environment Centre	RC

APOLOGIES

Name	Role	Representing	Abbrev.
Helen Grey		Natural Resources Wales	HG
John Childs		Friends of the Earth	JC
John Sayce		Wheelrights	JS
Jules Wagstaff		Climate & Community	JW
Howard Stevens		SBU Health Board	HS

Pre-meeting presentation and discussion: Human Rights City

Adele Dunstan from Swansea Council presented on the background and priorities of the Swansea Human Rights City initiative – a priority of Swansea PSB, Swansea Council and other partners. She pointed out that Swansea is only the second city in the UK to declare their commitment – the UN scheme has no accreditation system and requires self-declaration. Adele explained that the current five priorities were chosen following an extensive public survey undertaken last year. She also outlined achievements so far (e.g. publication of pocket guide, delivery of training) and the process to develop a five-year action plan (PSB partners are also expected to develop their own plans).

It was suggested that the two HRC priorities most relevant to SEF are ‘Tackling Poverty’ and ‘Human Rights Awareness’ and there followed a lively discussion with those present on these and championing of environmental rights. The discussion included the following key queries, comments and suggestions:



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- Concern about level of understanding about difference between poverty and deprivation. Decades of focus on mitigating deprivation but not addressing causes of poverty.
- Access to green space issue should not be about taking those deprived of it to the countryside but about building green spaces and nature into urban areas
- Poorer people are not responsible for causing climate change but will be most impacted.
- Concern that the HRC project so far had involved lots of talking and publications but not really practical action on the ground.
- UN formal declaration of environmental rights in 2022 – should be incorporated into future training programmes and awareness activities.
- Needs to be links between the priorities and not tackled in silos.
- Tended to be a focus on short-term steps to ease levels of deprivation to make lives easier. PSB was set up to take a longer-term focus.
- Nature Conservation is mapping biodiversity, green space, environmental quality at ward level – agreed to meet with Adele to discuss further.
- Who will deliver action plan? During process, action leads will be identified. Action plan will be SMART.
- Still lack of understanding of what human rights are.
- There are limited powers at a local level to change things.
- In the initial survey to determine the priorities, young people chose environment / climate change as their top priority – should this have been included as a priority?

Item		Actions
1.	Intros, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest HO chaired the meeting and those present were introduced to Adele. PM listed the apologies received. The meeting was initially not quorate with only 4 committee members present so the start was delayed to 10.30am when DH and RC were able to join. Due to the late start and the discussion had taken longer than expected, and as the numbers were so low and some members were needing to leave (so making the meeting inquorate again, it was decided to truncate the meeting and receive only a very short update on outcomes from the forward planning session and funding applications	
2.	Minutes of last meeting held 16/03/23 Not discussed.	
3.	Project Reports Not discussed.	



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<p>4.</p>	<p>Forward Planning and Future Funding PM fed back on the key actions from the forward planning session – exploring potential funding for four priority areas through the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Environment Partners Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable transport, active travel, air quality: PM had emailed the CTA (Community Transport Association) who is leading the follow-up to last year’s CRF-funded project about applying to SPF, but hadn’t had a reply. ○ Green spaces, food growing, green infrastructure, soil quality: The Environment Centre will be submitting a SPF application to continue/develop the green spaces project and RC and PM are working together on the application. ○ Environment Strategy review: PM spoke to Jane Richmond about potential for EPF funding for this but didn’t get a positive response. ○ Mapping of environmental activity, partnerships and groups: PM also raised this idea with Jane Richmond – it was suggested that this work would be led by the signatories group and there is a possibility of utilising the NRW/SEF contract to deliver some of it. <p>PM pointed out that as none of the above offered the opportunity for SEF to secure additional resources, the finances and SEF’s future were looking very challenging with the current SEF Coordinator contract due to end at the end of September and insufficient funds to continue the position at the current level to the end of year unless further funds were identified. It was agreed that the Contracts Group would meet ahead of the September meeting to explore and agree options for the future of SEF and the Coordinator contract. HO stated that good attendance at the next meeting was crucial.</p>	<p>Contracts Group to meet before September meeting</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Any Other Business No further business was discussed.</p>	
	<p>Next SEF Exec Committee Meetings 14th September / 16th November both in-person at Environment Centre starting 10am</p>	