



*Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea*

[www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net](http://www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net)

**Swansea Environment Forum Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday 11th May 2023 at The Environment Centre**

**PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Hamish Osborn	Co-chair	Natural Resources Wales	HO
Alyx Baharie	Treasurer	Swansea CVS	AB
Philip McDonnell	Secretary	SEF Coordinator	PM
Chris Howell		Swansea Council (Waste & Parks)	CH
Teifion Maddocks		Swansea University	TM
John Sayce		Wheelrights	JS
Mary Sherwood		Gower Power	MS
Helen Grey		Natural Resources Wales	HG
<i>Jules Wagstaff</i>	*	<i>Climate &amp; Community</i>	<i>JW</i>

*\* Unable to participate in meeting due to technical issues*

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>
Deb Hill	Co-chair	Swansea Council (Nature Conservation)	DH
John Childs		Friends of the Earth	JC
Peter Jones		Iberian Latin American - Wales	PJ
Iwan Davies		Royal institute of South Wales	ID

<b>Item</b>		<b>Actions</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Intros, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest</b> HO welcomed everyone and suggested those present declare any conflicts of interest where necessary during the meeting. Apologies received prior to the meeting were reported.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of last meeting held 16/03/23</b> PM explained that only two actions were noted in the previous minutes and both were covered on the agenda. PM confirmed that the Carbon Copy presentation has been circulated but that plans for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> July had changed significantly (see below) and that it was therefore unnecessary to convene a task group.	



*Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea*

[www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net](http://www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net)

	<p>PM also confirmed that the date for the visioning workshop had been circulated but that few could make it so an alternative date had been agreed – 23<sup>rd</sup> May (more on this below). The minutes were approved as a true record.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <p><b>a) Update on Climate Relay proposals (2nd July)</b> PM explained that due to a clash with air show it had been decided not to hold the main Wales event for the Climate Relay in Swansea. However, it is proposed that the relay will visit Bay Campus and Crymlyn Bog – PM has linked up the organisers with both sites and the hope is that a welcome reception will be held in the Active Classroom on Bay Campus with partners invited to com along.</p> <p><b>b) Great Big Green Week and Big Ride plans (10th June)</b> The loss of the major event for the Climate Relay has meant SEF and partners can focus more on the GBGW. The Environment Centre, Wheelrights and SEF have come up with a plan for 10<sup>th</sup> June to launch the week, host the start of Climate Cymru’s green tour and mark Bike Week too. JS outlined the plans for a large gathering on Pier Street and in the Environment Centre with a variety of activities including cycle maintenance and planting workshops. There will also be a number of cycle rides taking place ending up at the Environment Centre, where there will also be activities linked to recycling and other issues, music and food. PM mentioned that HTC signatories had been invited to organise a cycle ride and/or support the event in Pier Street. TM asked about promotion – PM said Chris at the Centre was drafting an initial flyer. The three lead partners are meeting again tomorrow afternoon and it is hoped publicity will begin next week.</p> <p><b>c) SEF forward planning workshop (23rd May)</b> HO invited suggestions for how the workshop could be organised and what it might try to cover. AB said that future finances was a key issue that needed to be considered. HG said that we also needed to identify actions that SEF could do without the need for resources. She also suggested that some focus questions could be circulated ahead of the session for consideration – this would also give those unable to attend an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas.</p> <p><b>d) Other events from members</b> No other events were mentioned at this point but TM mentioned a recent meeting where universities across the UK shared their work – he was particularly taken by activities in Strathclyde and suggested this might be interesting for SEF – it was proposed that he approach them about presenting to SEF.</p>	<p>PM to arrange a meeting with HO and DH to plan the workshop</p> <p>TM to invite Strathclyde to present on their activities.</p>



*Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea*

[www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net](http://www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net)

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Finance and Funding</b></p> <p><b>a) Approval of updated 2023/24 budget</b>  PM referred to the final 2022/23 budget sheet circulated ahead of the meeting and highlighted that due to some last minute funding from Swansea Council (ENRaW and EPF) the closing balance had increased.  PM also referred to the updated 2023/24 budget sheet and pointed out that the only major change since the initial version in March was the inclusion of additional ENRaW and EPF funding which not only enables further work to be undertaken but also improved the predicted end of year balance by just over £500.</p> <p><b>b) Update on future funding opportunities</b>  PM said that we are still awaiting news on the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Community Fund, which is being managed by SCVS. AB said that they are expecting approval from Swansea Council in a couple of weeks and will then try to launch the fund a.s.a.p.  PM also said that this year's potential contracts through the Environmental Partners Framework (EPF) haven't yet emerged and are not expected to until late May at the earliest.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Updates on SEF Projects</b></p> <p><b>a) Low Carbon Swansea Bay</b>  PM reported on the recent Greener Homes Revisited event hosted by the Down to Earth Project. This was the first in-person LCSB network event for three years and was well attended – 22 attendees from 12 different organisations. Pobl has arranged for a follow-up visit to their Gwynfaen site and SO Modular factory in Neath. PM said he is discussing several other visits and network events with various partners. The LCSB Project Board reconvened recently and have asked PM to conduct a survey of members about what activities they would like to see LCSB organise e.g. what themes to cover.  PM also mentioned that the Community Lives Consortium has recently joined LCSB for the first time.</p> <p><b>b) Green Spaces Project</b>  PM reported that the steering group met recently to discuss the projects current work and future plans. The ENRaW funding is the only source of funding at present and this finishes at the end of June. Josh has been engaging lots of projects to get feedback on what barriers they are facing and what support they might want in the future, which may help determine future priorities and secure funding – he will prepare a report on this by the end of May.  PM also reported that recently he had supported a couple of CSAs with funding bids and is currently helping a new community growing project in Llansamlet. AB reminded PM to circulate the 2022 report that Josh had prepared.</p>	<p>PM to circulate Josh's 2022 Green Spaces newsletter</p>



*Promoting and facilitating environmental sustainability in Swansea*

[www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net](http://www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net)

6.	<p><b>Update on PSB and Wellbeing Plan</b>  HG gave an update – the new Wellbeing Plan has been signed off by PSB members and has been published. The next stage involves agreeing two actions for each of 8 steps. HG and PM have been involved in shaping the actions for the climate and nature step. HG outlined these and highlighted the indicator/outcomes. However, it has also been proposed that this step is lead by the health board and, as yet, the operational lead (previously shared by HG and PM) has not been agreed. There was then some discussion, and concern expressed, about the future role of both NRW and SEF in relation to the PSB and the Wellbeing Plan.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>  MS mentioned that Gower Power are still looking for additional board members and that their grants scheme has now reopened. She asked for committee members to inform those that might be interested in either.  JS mentioned that Swansea Council’s consultation on active travel options around Blackpill closes today.  AB mentioned that SCVS is facilitating a Green Recovery training session on 24<sup>th</sup> May and asked for members to promote this.</p>	
	<p><b>Next SEF Exec Committee Meetings</b>  13<sup>th</sup> July / 14<sup>th</sup> September / 16<sup>th</sup> November  all in-person at Environment Centre starting 10am</p>	