

MINUTES OF STEERING GROUP MEETING 7th December 2010 AT THE SHIRE HALL, LLANDEILO

Present: Tim (chair), Katka, Anson, Colin, John, Steve B
Apologies: Gerry, Sue Weaver

Matters arising

The meeting between Tim and Anson took place.
WI – John didn't contact Tim.

WI and other local groups

Colin has obtained a list of all local WIs, YFCs etc. He has learned that we can use the Young Farmers' hall in Ffairfach for a small fee.
Tim did speak to Ruth Watkins. Most WIs would welcome speakers. Tim and Gerry are willing to make presentations.

Carmarthenshire Community Challenge

Tim thinks that future meetings will be roughly quarterly and that it is worthwhile for us to be involved.

Alexis Rowell

Steve will ask Gerry about progress towards arranging a meeting.

Hemp

Anson has spoken to Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd – who are interested - and also to Jonathan Edwards about licensing problems with the Home Office.
Cywarch Cymru / Hemp Wales isn't really a TL2 group but Steve is happy to provide space on the website for anything that furthers the transition agenda and is relevant to the Tywi valley. **Anson will write something for the website and newsletter.**

The future of TL2

Heart and Soul has gone into hibernation due to falling attendance. This led to a discussion about the future of the group. The consensus is:

- For now, we don't want TL2 to be dissolved.
- The current structure of TL2 was adopted from the Transition model proposed by Rob Hopkins et al. and does not appear now to be working well for us.
- We now have just two core subgroups - Energy and Transport and New Economics - which have regular meetings in Llandeilo itself. The only other real subgroup still operating is Permaculture, and that is a bit of a special case - it could operate completely autonomously.
- The overlap in membership between the steering group, the Energy group and NE means that attending meetings has become a substitute for action.
- We may agree to reduce the number of groups to just one, dissolving the boundaries between the steering group, the Energy group and NE. Alternatively, the groups may stay but the number of meetings should be reduced.
- We should focus on what we do well - public meetings and consciousness raising - and aim to build on the successful talk at Llanddeusant WI by talking to other WIs, the YFC, schools etc. Education and networking should be to the fore.

- The website presents an idealised picture that refers to groups that have folded or that barely got off the ground. Presenting a picture of more activity than is actually happening might make us look a little foolish, for a number of reasons. It allows CCC for example to refer to us as if we were a thriving example of sustainable community action when we're not. The website should be changed to reflect the current reality. If this makes us appear an unconventional or even unconvincing example of a Transition initiative, so be it. We don't need spin.
- We should be communicating with the public more through e.g. The Post about ideas, not just 'forthcoming events'.
- A public AGM in which we do our best to show how busy and useful we have been would be a sham; one in which we 'wash our dirty linen in public' would serve no useful purpose. We should have a small AGM, not advertised outside the TL2 mailing list. We think it should be combined with a screening of the UK Crash Course video. The meeting with Alexis Rowell and the town or county council should be a separate event.
- Perhaps the answer lies with seeing ourselves as one big group, with all business discussed between the lot of us, and then having additional meetings to further particular projects, study particular texts or whatever.
- In any case, all of the people who regularly attend any of the groups should be consulted, and more than one option for restructuring should be proposed to the AGM.

Steve to report on this to Gerry. Further discussion will take place in the lead up to the AGM and at the AGM.

AGM

Will be on 11/01/11 and will not be advertised widely outside the TL2 mailing list.

Party at the Civic Hall, 12th December

Sue and John are providing cawl. Steve will request TL2 people to bring bread or a savoury dish or a bottle. Steve will provide leaflets and he and John will put together a display.

Gardening Club "Gardeners Question Time" event, 6th January

Katka passed on an invitation to attend.

Colin King, Building Research Establishment

Anson heard Colin King speak at an event organised by Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd on 16th November. The event was a seminar on the "Conservation of Energy and Building Fabric in Pre-1919 buildings" and Colin spoke on "Pre 1920 Building Refurbishment, Policy Context and the Challenge". It was agreed that **Anson will invite him to address a TL2 meeting.** The Civic Trust should be involved too – Gwilym Hughes and Edward Thomas are the contacts.

NEXT MEETING 11th January at the Shire Hall...including the AGM. Start time to be announced. All welcome.