

MINUTES OF STEERING GROUP MEETING 15TH June 2009 AT WHITE HORSE, LLANDEILO

Present: Gerry (chair), Rhiannon, Sue, Colin, Isabel, Adam, Steve B
Apologies: John

Climate Camp

Taking place at Ffos-y-Fran opencast mine near Merthyr 13-16 August.
Preparatory weekend at Newport Pems., 18-19 July.
More info at <http://climatecampcymru.org/>

Carbon Conversations

Sue has contacted Sian Merlys, from the CCC Community Education Dept. This course will go ahead this autumn, on 10 Wednesday evenings, at the Community Education Centre. Sian will come to the August Steering Group meeting – she's interested in being more involved. **Sue will send Steve B publicity materials for the website / newsletter.**

Interreg bid

The Welsh side of the bid will involve 5 Welsh communities (St David's, Lampeter, Fishguard, Blaenau Ffestiniog and 1 other) and CCW. It is expected that employing "Champions", one per town, to act to stimulate more activities locally in response to Climate Change and Peak Oil, would be one of the main ways in which the money would be used. Several people were concerned about our ability to steer the project locally, once launched. Gerry pointed out the mention of a 'growth agenda' in the EU documents related to the scheme. After discussion, it was unanimously decided that we should go ahead. Rhiannon suggested that 2 or 3 people at least are needed to form a specialist group to deal with the bid. It was agreed that these should come from the steering group, or from those actively involved in subgroups. These people need to be ready to turn up to meetings at short notice. Sue suggested that we should have input into drafting the bid, contributing to the agenda, and choosing the employee or 'Climate Change Champion' that we anticipate employing with some of the money, if the bid is successful, and we were agreed on these points too.

Adam pointed out that CCW has a Llandeilo office and they have videoconferencing facilities, which might reduce the need to travel to meetings.

Rhiannon will contact Martin Fitton to let him know our decision, then let Steve B know so that he can ask for volunteers to be in the specialist subgroup.

Meeting of Transition Network Wales at Hay, May 28th

Rhiannon, Steve B and John attended and Rhiannon was chosen as co-ordinator for the group. Steve's notes follow:

About 22 people attended.

Rhiannon Rowley began a discussion about the role of Transition Wales and the need for a 'chair' by saying that a representative body is needed to speak to the Welsh Assembly and local authorities. She said that the movement in Wales is not yet representative of the community, in that it has failed to engage very much with Welsh people and with

Welsh speakers. Ideally each transition initiative in Wales should have someone bilingual involved, in order to help with connecting to the Welsh-speaking community.

Sara and Iona from Blaenau Ffestiniog said that a focal point was definitely needed. Eva from Cardiff thought that perhaps a very loose structure with opportunities for exchange of information was all that was needed, but Rhiannon was convinced that this kind of structure would not help attract people in the Welsh-speaking community. Vicky Moller from Fishguard(?) said that no one should feel able to say to the public 'I represent Transition in Wales'. A person from Cowbridge – a new initiative - stressed the importance of sharing experience, which provides useful support for new groups. A person from Hay suggested that communication and representation were two different issues. Geoff from Llandrindod stated firmly that no one present could be said to 'represent' transition in Wales; however, there should be a bilingual point of contact for WAG. Di from Llandrindod was unhappy that Rhiannon was now standing unopposed for the role described until now as 'chair'.

A consensus gradually began to emerge – in my words (this is not an agreed communique) -

There is a need for a co-ordinator, who can act as a focal point for contact with outside bodies including WAG, but the role of the co-ordinator should be helping the various initiatives in Wales to work together, and passing on requests for information. To be effective, the co-ordinator should be bilingual. The co-ordinator is not representative of the transition initiatives in Wales, and is not a spokesperson for the Welsh transition movement.

This was agreed by those present, who also agreed that it should be recorded that they did not claim to be there as representatives of transition initiatives in Wales.

In a discussion around the frequency of Transition Wales meetings, Steve from Llandeilo suggested that once a quarter was too often if we wanted good attendance. Meetings could be more fun if they were less frequent, longer, perhaps with some evening entertainment, and with some shared activities around e.g. energy descent, like the ones held at the recent Transition conference in London. Such meetings, held maybe 6 months or 12 months apart, would be worth travelling for. This suggestion was well-received. Blaenau agreed to host the next meeting, probably in October, and would try to incorporate some of those ideas into their planning.

Pete and Martin were thanked for their work on behalf of the group.

Sue congratulated Rhiannon on her new role.

Films

We will show The Age of Stupid again at the Civic Hall on Saturday 22nd August, possibly as early as 6 pm – to be decided. **Steve B to start advance publicity now.**

Rhiannon mentioned the French film “Home” – available in its 90 minute entirety at : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqxENMKaeCU&feature=related> We might choose to show this at an event. Steve B has seen it and isn't sure how effective it would be, so invites others to see it too.

Steve mentioned the 17 minute films in English and Welsh available on the Cynnal Cymru website at

http://www.sustainwales.com/home/en/campaigns_climate_film.aspx and http://www.sustainwales.com/home/cy/campaigns_climate_film.aspx

These can be ordered (free) on DVD – again Steve would like others to try them before he places an order.

One Wales, One Planet

This is the WAG document that was launched at the Hay Festival.

Its three parts can be downloaded from

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en>

or

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=cy>

The Cynnal Cymru AGM is combined with a meeting, also involving the Institute of Welsh Affairs, on ‘Life Change in One Planet Wales’. This takes place at the National Botanic Garden on 25-26 September (Friday and Saturday). **Rhiannon will be able to make a block booking and will let us know as soon as tickets are available.**

Skills share programme

This was discussed again at Heart and Soul. **Sue and John will put together a ‘taster day’.**

Rhian Owen – Carmarthenshire Energy Agency

Rhian will meet us on June 29th at 7.30 at Sue's to discuss how we can collaborate with them.

Small Nations Festival

This year this a one day event in Llandovery. Ben will be there, and Isabel will ask him if he'll hand out some flyers for us.

Reports from Groups

Allotments (CyD): Katka reported by email that:

61 plots are allocated (one of them shared) and 15 people are on the waiting list. There still can be changes as 6 of the allocated plots haven't been touched yet. At the moment we are mostly sorting practical problems concerning running the allotments and will have first meeting for all the ploholders on site soon.

We had some publicity recently with articles in local papers and The Post, there was a six minutes block on Cymdeithas y Dalr on Ffermio on Monday the 8th of June and on the coming Saturday we should have a small exhibition at the 'Revels at the Park'.

CyD are setting up their own website, with two-way links to ours.

H & S The next meeting is on the 26th June at Sue's and includes a midsummer celebration and Journey to the Great Future adventure game!

New Economics Two speakers came to the last meeting to discuss Credit Unions and the SoftTech 'closed loop community' electronic currency scheme. The group is pursuing the Credit Union idea but is lukewarm about the electronic currency, which effectively involves a stream of revenue leaving the community.

Permaculture A successful meeting at Lucie's this month. The group is having a rest for July! Looby and Chris are finalizing dates for a full PC Design course to take place locally this autumn/winter.

Habitable Adam spoke to Transition Cwm Gwendraeth about waste projects. They may adopt our constitution.

NEXT MEETING July 19th at the White Horse...7pm. All welcome