

MINUTES OF STEERING GROUP MEETING 16th November 2009 AT WHITE HORSE, LLANDEILO

Present: Ben (chair), Gerry, Anson, Colin, John, Steve B  
Apologies: Sue Weaver, Rhiannon

Matters arising

Skills sharing – Sue and John will have a fuller skills sharing programme available on 22 Nov

Visit by HRH the Prince of Wales

The Prince wrote to convey his thanks for the walnut tree.

Steve said that the fact that the press were not allowed into the room where the Prince met TL2 members meant that we failed to get as much publicity as we had hoped for. Clearly in future we need to consider more clearly the workings of the press.

Draft proposal Llandeilo Northern Residential Quarter

An objection was sent to CCC. Martin Golder (Calon Cymru) assisted with the content. The group agreed that **Steve should post this on the website.**

Meeting with Tyssul Evans (chair, CCC) and Charlotte Leadbeater (Mayor, Llandeilo), 9<sup>th</sup> Nov

This meeting will have helped with raising our profile. Colin has emailed every CCC councillor about Peak Oil and has received a few positive replies. It is clear however that the subject is not yet generally 'on the agenda'. Tyssul suggested that farming is "going in the wrong direction" and a wider product range is needed. We then discussed our lack of a Food and Farming group, and John pointed out that Dai and Karen Harris have experience of agri-environment schemes. **John will speak to them about getting involved with us on these issues.**

Meeting with Martin Golder (Calon Cymru) and David Edwards and Gill Wright (HoWL), 9<sup>th</sup> Nov

Calon Cymru has a vision of a necklace of settlements along the Heart of Wales line. Population would grow and communities be revitalized, as self-builders were encouraged in, and affordable housing was provided along with jobs in forestry and small-scale farming. They will also be represented at our AGM and we deferred discussion of how we might get involved after that. Meanwhile on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Gerry and Rhiannon, plus Martin, David and Gill will meet Malcolm Davies of International Business Wales. IBW also has a vision of development along the railway line.

Skills sharing event - 22 Nov Civic Hall

Set up from 1 pm

**Gerry to contribute A-boards**

**Colin to bring polythene**

Leaflets for distribution within Llandeilo

Colin has been told by the printers that 7-8 days is required. This means that the references to the skills sharing event will be out of date, and so must be removed. He will let John know if help is needed with distribution.

### CSA

Anson was at the recent CSA event which was inspiring, especially the reports of Local Food projects in Stroud. Gerry mentioned that the manager of a care home in Cwrt Henry who is a customer of the Dryslwyn shop would be happy to offer 4 acres for community food production. **Gerry will find out more about the land.** This is something that can be used as part of the Food discussion at the AGM.

### Microhydro

Anson took part in a tour organized by The Green Valleys. He mentioned a number of places where microhydro schemes could be started. Again, this can feed into the Energy discussion at the AGM.

### Local currency

Steve mentioned meeting Bonnie Hewson, who has recently left Brixton. She found that starting a local currency there had made a huge difference to the visibility of the Transition project, and had helped pull in members of the West Indian community, which had seemed hard to reach. Steve passed this information to the New Economics group.

### ATS

The ATS property in Ffairfach is coming up for sale. Anson thought this was an ideal opportunity for a TL2 community shop. £100,000 would need to be raised. John thought that the old Market Hall was a more interesting proposition.

### “In Transition”

This film is available for free download from 1<sup>st</sup> December. Several of us should watch it and decide whether to arrange a public showing.

### Transition Wales event in Blaenau Ffestiniog

Nov 20-21. We expect that Rhiannon will be going, but no other steering group member.

### Co-op meeting at Blaenau Gwent

Nov 21. Gerry is speaking, and is prepared to be challenging on the subject of local food not being provided in Co-op stores.

### News from Groups

Permaculture – next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, with celebration of St Lucy’s Day (midwinter festival of lights) to follow.

Allotments – Katka has asked what CyD can do for the AGM. We decided that they should be asked to give a short presentation.

Heart and Soul – next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, facilitated by Ben. Sue is co-facilitating a ‘Work that Reconnects’ event, 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan

Afallon Teilo – Ben has written to the town council about having an ‘edible landscape’, with planting of nut and fruit trees

New Economics – members visited the Credit Union at Narberth. The Dryslwyn shop will be one collection point. Pete Arnold is organizing another in Bethlehem.

### AGM

November 30<sup>th</sup>, upstairs at The Angel.

Rhiannon to provide introductions. Steve will run through what the steering group and subgroups have achieved, **and will ask the convenors to send him short updates in good time.**

We will then divide into 2 or 3 groups - Energy, Food, and perhaps Transport. Ben has offered to facilitate the food discussion. We need volunteers to facilitate the other discussions - preferably people who are good at that kind of thing (therapists? PC teachers?) We are expecting Martin Golder from Calon Cymru and Gill Wright from the Heart of Wales Forum to be there.

NEXT MEETING January 18th at the White Horse...7pm. All welcome