

## MINUTES OF STEERING GROUP MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 AT THE CASTLE, LLANDEILO

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

### Matters arising

Car Club. Steve hasn't yet emailed the members to see how much support there is for a Car Sharing scheme in Llandeilo. **Steve will email membership this week.**

Anson's Project Proposal. Anson initiated further discussion of his proposal. Tim said that he rejected the actual proposal Anson presented us with, but not the concept. Sue said that the document Anson proposed writing could not be compared to an EDAP: the Totnes EDAP is the result of many months of collaborative working, with a different subgroup being responsible for each chapter. Tim said that the research might simply duplicate work being performed already by Carmarthenshire County Council, WAG or the Brecon Beacons National Park; to be justifiable, Anson needed to be doing something different. Steve said that if we were appointing someone to do this proposed work, it would almost certainly be someone fluent in both Welsh and English.

### Report from Transition Network Conference, 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June

Looby had attended the conference and found it very stimulating. She was surprised by the range of workshops and the depth of discussion. She mentioned as a development in the movement, the birth of Transition Youth at the conference. She had noted that expanding groups beyond 'the usual suspects' was an issue for many Transition initiatives.

The well-publicised talk by Stoneleigh about a probable imminent financial cataclysm had affected many people deeply, and raises a question about how we can communicate this third aspect of the current crisis, alongside climate change and Peak Oil.

Looby will provide a written report for publication on the website. Meanwhile, she will offer the steering group a workshop around holding effective meetings. She will produce a proposal for this event during August, and Steve will circulate it to those who have recently attended a steering group meeting.

### Report from Community Action for Climate Change Network conference in Carmarthen 24th June 2010

Anson and Adam had attended. Helen Nelson, Executive Director of Cynnal Cymru, was the main speaker. She presented Anson and Adam with a copy of the new CAT Zero Carbon Britain report.

### Anson and Gerry's meeting with the Head of Ysgol Tregib

Anson reported that this was a successful meeting, and that Mrs Griffiths is happy for us to communicate with the school governors. She will arrange this and get back to us.

### Diversity workshop in Lampeter, 6<sup>th</sup> July

Sue and Steve attended this meeting, led by Catrina Pickering. This was the first part of a two part workshop, and focused on principles. The second part is due to focus more specifically on what can be done in Lampeter and here in Llandeilo. Sue had noted that Catrina challenged the idea of needing to go out and get many people in the community involved in our activities. Instead, we should look at exploring what groups are out there, overlapping with our concerns, and think about making friends, liasing and exploring how to collaborate.

#### Food Festival in Llandeilo, 11<sup>th</sup> September

Alice attended a second planning meeting for the festival. TL2 is due to have an indoor stall. The festival will highlight the CyD allotments at Home Farm. Since we again have no Food and Farming group, it was agreed that the Permaculture group should take over organising a stall on behalf of TL2.

### Reports from Groups

Energy and Transport – there have been problems with raising finance for the bulb swap. Tim is convening a meeting this week to discuss ways forward.

Hemp – Anson has contacted Gerald Miles, a farmer in Pembrokeshire interested in making Hemp a significant crop in this region. It seems that the TL2 Hemp group might be about to be relaunched.

Heart and Soul – meeting 21/6 at Esvllt's was well attended. The group is now switching to quarterly meetings, the next one being in September.

Permaculture – 26/6, visit to Denmark Farm went well. Next meeting is at Kathleen's in August. Several people have agreed to help organise the A-bundance celebration.

New Economics – met 14/7. From Gerry's notes:

In the wake of funding problems encountered by Landsker Community Credit Union and experiences with grant applications we discussed a range of savings/loans/investment alternatives, including those that would reduce our dependence on external sources and regulation. A proposal from Pete for a community-supported fund was received warmly and we agreed that he would draft a constitution for discussion.

Patricia has been in contact with Pantycelyn Action Group (PAG).

The County Council submitted its funding bid for a new super school to the WAG at the end of May. A decision is expected in August.

The rationale for the school is driven by the previous government's expanded curriculum choice of 30 subjects for 14-19 year olds. The Action Group, with the support of Llandovery Town Council has decided to pursue a judicial review to

challenge the validity of the bid on the grounds that the Council's decision was taken before (or perhaps irrespective of?) the public consultation.

Concerns relevant to TL2 associated with the new school include: the site for the school in Ffairfach is on a flood plain; a centralised super-school will add to the need for road transport through Llandeilo; the closure of Pantycelyn will damage or destroy the economy of the upper Towy valley; educating children from the upper Towy in Ffairfach will damage community cohesion.

Given the likelihood of slow progress with a judicial review we decided not to proceed with the proposal for a public meeting in September. Patricia will strengthen our links with PAG. She will offer whatever support we can to the PAG, find out about action groups in Llandeilo, and suggest that we could also talk to Pantycelyn school council in September.

### AOB

Home Planet : an edition of this Radio 4 programme will be recorded in Llandeilo on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Some questions will be taken from the floor. Steve to let the mailing list know and ask for suggested questions. John will attend, others possibly.

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rhayader Green Fair, July 10th : Steve had a copy of The Free Flyer referring to this event, organised by Transition Town Rhayader. Steve thought this could be a model for us. The idea will be brought to an autumn steering group meeting for discussion.

NEXT MEETING August 16th at The Castle...7pm. All welcome