

## Minutes of the TL2 Steering Group Meeting on 21/01/2008 at the Civic Hall, Llandeilo

**Present:** Rhiannon Rowley (Chair), Sue Weaver, Isabel Lovelock, Anne Van Mechelen, Anson Allen, Jo Horsley (Environment Wales – EW), John Gaffney, Neil Keidan, Gerry Gold, Steve Brown, Margaret Rees (Carms. Slow Food), Tony Graff  
**Apologies:** Aled Vaughan

### Introductions

Margaret started the slow food group 5-6 years ago. Tony is a smallholder particularly interested in Permaculture.

### Constitution and Policies

The constitution was debated and eventually accepted in the form attached. Jo made it clear that for most funding we will need both a constitution and a set of policies. Those things that we could not decide for the constitution could be left for the policies. Section 4 of the original draft, which defines a structure, has been omitted from the final version. This, and the Rights and Responsibilities of members, will be discussed at the AGM.

Policy templates will be circulated before the next meeting.

**Isabel will take responsibility for an Equal Ops policy.**

**Anne will take responsibility for a Volunteering policy.**

**Rhiannon will take responsibility for a Welsh language policy.**

**Steve will ask Ben Brangwyn (Transition Network) whether Totnes has an Environmental policy we could use as a model.**

### Patricia Dodd Racher

Anson has been in contact with this local economist who might be invited as a speaker. She is the author of 'Empty Plates Tomorrow?' and is thinking exactly along our lines – see [this article from the Western Mail](#)

**Anson will contact her and let Steve know the outcome.**

### A Crude Awakening

Including some generous donations from committee members, we made £45 on the door and from tea and coffee sales, plus an additional £15 from the bookstall. 55-60 people attended. Mr Dai Jones of Carmarthen Street said that the film 'should be shown in every village hall in the county'. **Rhiannon will phone him to see how he can get involved.** The film is available to buy from the end of March. Other films were suggested for future showing – The End of Suburbia, and What A Way To Go, being shown this week by TT Brighton (see <http://www.whatawaytogomovie.com/>).

### Skills Sharing

A skill sharing programme would be good way of increasing community involvement, Sue suggested. One Saturday meeting per month might be the right frequency. She volunteered Sourdough Baking. Margaret or Isabel could offer Food for Free, Jo Beekeeping for Beginners, Annie Anson possibly Rag-Rug Making. Other ideas were: knitting, preserving, fungi, wine-making, composting, cookery.

### Visits from Rob Hopkins (29/04) and Ben Brangwyn (05/03)

There was debate about whether we could afford both speakers, until we decided that we would apply for an EW start up grant. **Rhiannon will do this.** Sue suggested that, if Rob were available for long enough, we could have both an evening public meeting and a daytime 'invitation-only' meeting involving town and county councillors. **Steve will liaise with Ben about both visits.** Following the meeting, Steve circulated an article about Rob talking to a meeting in Cornwall that was also addressed by an NFU official and included 40 farmers in the audience. This suggests another direction for the evening meeting with Rob.

### Transition Training

Transition Network will be running a training course at Sue's barn on April 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. This is open to all of Wales. The cost is £90 per person for the weekend, but bursaries will be available. Places are available on a 'first come, first served basis'. Some profit from the weekend will come back to TL2. Anyone interested should contact Sue.

### Slow Food

Margaret explained what Slow Food was and described how the Slow Food group is lacking in committee-level input in Llandeilo itself. It was suggested that our Food and Farming group could join in with a local Slow Food event. Margaret will attend the next Food and Farming meeting to discuss this further.

### Feedback from Subgroups

**Hemp** (Anson) – Anson does not currently have time to lead this as a separate group and will affiliate to Food and Farming unless a new leader can be found.

**Permaculture** (John) – The first group meeting will be on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and Angie Polkey will run the first 3-day Permaculture course at the beginning of March.

**Food and Farming** (Isabel) – The Apples project involves Isabel, Paul Davies and David Darrell. The 5-acre orchard will be on a site related to the allotments. There are plans for cider production. On February 9<sup>th</sup> – St Teilo's Day – there will be stall at the church. There will be a public meeting related to Apples on Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>. Salvador Deli has become an outlet for local organic veg.

**Heart and Soul** (Sue) – The first group meeting will be on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Iaith a Dywylliant** (Rhiannon) – An invitation to a new Welsh-language cultural group has been placed on the website and **Steve will send a message to everyone on the mailing list.**

### Publicity

Hywel Davies from Y Papur Gwyrdd has joined the mailing list and has published small pieces about TL2 in the paper. There will be bigger pieces in future.

Carmarthen Life is looking for content – **Isabel will produce something for the website and The Post about the Apples project** which could also be submitted to Carmarthen Life, perhaps for incorporation into a bigger article.

The next meeting will be held at the Civic Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm. **Sue will book the room.** All are welcome to attend and participate, not just those listed above.