

## **Minutes of the TL2 Steering Group Meeting on 21/11/2007 at the Civic Hall, Llandeilo**

Present: Isabel Lovelock (Chair), Alice Davies, Anne Van Mechelen, Anson Allen, Cathie Hasler, Dan Morris, Jo Horsley (Environment Wales – EW hereafter), John Gaffney, Neil Keidan, Rhiannon Rowley, Simon Bowkett, Sue Weaver, Steve Brown

### Chairing meetings

There was a discussion about how Steering Group meetings should be chaired. Suggestions included:

- Having a small pool (3?) of people who will rotate the chair.
- Allowing a representative from each sub-group in turn to chair.

It was decided to try for three consecutive meetings to have a volunteer endorsed by the majority as facilitator, to be responsible for collecting and staying with an agenda, allotting time, and ensuring everyone is heard. This system will be reviewed after three meetings.

### Rob Hopkins meeting

Rhiannon told us that Rob and Ben Brangwyn (Transition Network) will be visiting Fishguard on 6<sup>th</sup> March, and there was an offer for us all to go to Fishguard. We thought we would get more benefit from hosting a meeting here. This is likely to be on March 5<sup>th</sup> - something with local schools plus an open meeting in the evening. Coleg Sir Gar might provide a venue. The cost of holding a meeting is likely to be £300-400.

**Rhiannon to finalise arrangements with Rob and Ben.**

**The group will consider what we want Rob to do at these sessions before the next meeting.**

**Steve will circulate details as they become available.**

### Reaching out to the community

We're not visible enough. We need to make people aware of the issues and of what we're doing about the issues!

We will aim to get articles in the Post every month.

Rhiannon will look at getting articles into the Welsh language press.

Rhiannon is happy to talk to such groups as the WI and YFC.

**Steve will make contact with the WI via Jo**

**Alice will either make contact with the YFC or will pass contact info to Steve.**

**The group will bring ideas to the next meeting on how to root ourselves more deeply.**

### Constitution

We need a constitution before we can get funding (and policies as well, at least for EW).

Jo stressed the importance of a flexible constitution that will allow us to evolve as we want. A dissolution clause has to be there.

The TT Lewes constitution was not a legal constitution of the kind we need.

The Allotments group is forming its own constitution – but TL2 as a whole will need one to get funding for the group as a whole.

**Sue, Anne and Cathie will get together before the next full meeting to discuss possible templates, draft a constitution, and get it to Jo.**

**Jo will comment on the draft.**

**Steve will circulate this draft before the next meeting.**

### Environment Wales

Jo introduced herself and her work. She is the NT-linked development officer for EW and is based in Llandeilo.

She explained the kinds of funding that EW could make available to us – startup, pre-project, project, training support, and management (see <http://www.environment-wales.org/grants>). Project funding can only be for projects or parts of a project that benefit the community, not individuals. Management funding for posts is only for things that are new and different, but we might be new and different enough! Funding would be for up to 75% of costs. Funding can be for projects that make money - for the group as a whole.

Jo is already working with Dan on Allotments.

### Feedback from meeting of Transition Wales at Builth Wells, 17<sup>th</sup> November

Sue and Steve attended; Sue gave a report. About 17 groups were represented. The outcomes are summarised in the 2 attachments to these minutes.

There is now a forum at <http://transitiontowns.org/forum/forum.php?id=5>

### Feedback from Subgroups

Allotments (Dan) – A meeting took place onsite on Saturday. Meetings weekly (Weds) from now on. The group will have a constitution by Christmas. Jo has provided lots of help.

Hemp (Anson) – a trip to Gower is being arranged to visit a trial hemp plot.

Education (Cathie) – Cathie has discussed school input with Dan. Will talk to Caroline Keen (Dyslexia Wales).

Alternative Energy (Simon) – meeting at Civic Hall 26<sup>th</sup> November 7pm.

Steve to email people.

Anne to publicise at the shop.

Food and Farming (Alice, Isabel) – Alice is investigating funding. Isabel has had meetings with Paul Davies about apples. Carmarthenshire was the apple centre of Wales 100 years ago. Horticulture Network Wales could fund surveys and a key worker. We should aim for a model commercial orchard, and help local farmers and

smallholders diversify into apples. St Teilo is the patron saint of apples – let's have an Apple Day next year. Paul would probably be prepared to speak at a public meeting. The group is also looking at a stall at the Country (WI) market and at linking local shops to local suppliers.

Permaculture (John) – a training course is being arranged for next year to take place in Llandeilo.

### Events

We need regular events to give ourselves a visible presence and attract newcomers. Rob's and Ben's visit will be one such. Simon said that Ranwl Rhydwen (CAT) would definitely be available as a speaker. The group is keen to organise a talk by Ranwl, but the meeting decided not to pursue that immediately since we have three other possible public meetings under investigation for the next 4 months – the film, Rob Hopkins' visit, and Paul Davies. If any of these seems unlikely to happen, then we will ask Simon to invite Ranwl.

**Steve to investigate showing A Crude Awakening.**

**Isabel to find out if Paul would organise an Apple event with us.**

### Communication

Steve is pursuing official TT status with Ben Brangwyn – this will allow us pages on the transitiontowns.org website.

**Steve to circulate some kind of communication to everyone on the email list in the next 2 weeks, and to develop an (email) newsletter.**

**Sue to write something brief for the next Post.**

**Rhiannon to contact Papur Gwerdd and Y Lolfa? (Y Llyfr? – mae'n flin da fi)**

**Steve to contact Mike Inglis about the existing Llandeilo forum website, which may be extended or linked into a bigger site.**

The next meeting will be held at the Civic Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm. **Sue will book the room.** All are welcome to attend and participate, not just those listed above.