



## Mid Wales Regional Committee Mid 01-03 p4

Date: 24 January 2003

Time: 10.30am - 1.30pm

Venue: The Arts Hall, University of Wales College Lampeter, Lampeter

### **Introducing Ymlaen Ceredigion:**

- Ymlaen Ceredigion is a voluntary group dedicated to sustainable development. It was established in 1998 and is a partnership between Ceredigion County Council, the Prince's Trust-Cymru, and the community group Ceredigion Local Agenda 21 Network.
- Activities include: project development; awareness raising; facilitating community-led initiatives; and strategic planning. Through its work, Ymlaen has adopted an approach that aims to be **innovative, helpful, proactive, and inclusive**.
- Since its establishment, the Ymlaen Ceredigion partnership has worked very well. A great deal of trust has developed between the organisations involved each of them bringing something different to the process. As a separately constituted body however, Ymlaen Ceredigion is arms-length from each of the three partner organisations and this affords it a degree of flexibility. The partnership is able to be responsive to community needs, and undertake activities that may have been difficult or impossible for its partners to full-fill individually.
- We are a small but dedicated team. There are nine Trustees, three from each partner organisation: Ymlaen has three members of staff, a full-time Co-ordinator, Helen Nelson, and a part-time Project Officer and Community Development Officer – Bob Jacques and Alan Whittick, respectively.

## Achievements:

- Established the Ceredigion Solar Club.
- Secured funding from the National Assembly of Wales with the Powys and Ceredigion Health Promotion Unit to develop a project to reduce inequalities in health in Cardigan and Aberystwyth, focusing on Coronary Heart Disease.
- Organised community events such as the 'Objective 1 Ideas Party' to discuss potential Objective 1 projects that could contribute to sustainable development.
- Helped to establish 'Cymru Solar - the Wales Solar Network', a partnership between private, public and voluntary sector organisations in Wales involved in promoting solar water heating. Cymru Solar was launched at the National Assembly Sustainable Energy Group (NASEG) in February 2002.
- Involved over 100 volunteers.
- Attended over 100 evening meetings to assist groups or give a presentation on sustainable development
- Secured Objective 1 funding for a project to provide training and advice to the voluntary and public sector on sustainability. The project started in January 2002 and is funded until March 2003.
- Organised two high-profile County Conferences on sustainable development in 1999 and 2001, both Chaired by the Chief Executive of Ceredigion County Council, Mr Owen Watkin.
- Published the useful booklet 'A Helping Hand: Why, Where and How to be Green in Ceredigion'. 10,000 copies of these are available to people within Ceredigion giving practical advice on being 'green' in the home (*copy enclosed*).
- Assisted a variety of community organisations including Women's Institutes, Cardigan Town Council, Borth Community Council, the Ceredigion Credit Union Development Group, Blaenplwyf Community Association, Aberystwyth Farmers Market, and Antur Teifi.

- Researched and published the report ‘Sustainability in Action in Ceredigion’.
- Co-ordinated the production of the County’s first Sustainable Development Strategy 2001-2005. Over 650 people and 80 local organisations were involved in the production of this document. Significant efforts were made to involve a cross-section of the community. A County Action Plan is currently being developed, which will outline how the different recommendations of the Strategy can be taken forward. Ceredigion County Council are also working on an internal action plan in parallel, which will detail their role.
- A Full Member of the Ceredigion Objective 1 Partnership Management Board since May 2000, representing environmental interests. Ymlaen helped to write the Objective 1 Local Action Plan and has given advice on improving the environmental sustainability of over 50 applications.
- Ymlaen is a member of the Sustainable Development Co-ordinator’s Cymru.

### **Contributing towards Assembly Objectives:**

The work of Ymlaen Ceredigion contributes to Assembly objectives for:

- Developing the Learning Country
- Improving Health and Care Services
- Promoting a Sustainable Economy
- Creating Strong Communities
- Environmental Protection and Improvement
- Supporting Rural Wales
- Promoting our Identity.

### **The Future:**

- Ymlaen Ceredigion aspires to be a beacon partnership involving communities in achieving sustainable development.
- Ymlaen fills a valuable niche in Ceredigion as a County-wide organisation working with communities on sustainable development. We have developed a Business Plan which

outlines how the Trust will continue with its activities.

- It is anticipated the Ymlaen will find new ways of involving communities in sustainable development through the development of practical projects, advice, and training.
- We also hope to be able to assist the local authority with the production of the Community Plan, and contribute towards the local implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- Funding is currently being sought for the continuation of our activities enabling us to build on our achievements. Bids are being prepared for the Local Regeneration Fund, Objective 1, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, and a Ceredigion County Council grant called Growing Communities.