

Cross Party Group on Climate, Nature and Wellbeing
Grŵp Trawsbleidiol ar Hinsawdd, Natur a Lles

16:30 – 17:30
12.05.2022

Virtual Meeting over Zoom
Cyfarfod ar-lein dros Zoom

Agenda:

1. Croeso a chyflwyniad
Welcome and introduction
Delyth Jewell MS
2. Cofnodion y cyfarfod diwethaf
Minutes of the last meeting
Delyth Jewell MS
3. **Llysgenhadon Hinsawdd Ieuencid Cymru**
Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales
4. **Marvin Thompson**, Llenyddiaeth Cymru
Marvin Thompson, Literature Wales
5. Trafodaeth ar y celfyddydau, newid yn yr hinsawdd a natur
Discussion on arts, climate change and nature
6. Busnes arall
Any other business and date of next meeting
Delyth Jewell MS

Actions:

- Consider any future potential collaboration with intergenerational CPG
- Set date and time for next meeting after the summer break

Attendees:

Andrew Bettridge, Antonia Fabian, Bryony Bromley, Catrin James, Daisy Noott, Dan, Emily Dafydd-Drew, Joe Rossiter, Dr Kathryn Speedy, Kim Mamhende, Lewis Brace, Marvin Thompson, Miriam Sautin, Nel Hywel, Ollie John, Poppy Stowell-Evans, Rebecca Brough, Ryland Doyle, Sam Ward, Sandy Clubb, Dr Tom Downs

MS's in attendance:

Delyth Jewell MS (Chair), Llyr Gruffydd MS, Carolyn Thomas MS

MS's Apologies:

Jane Dodds MS, Heledd Fychan MS, Tom Giffard MS, Vikki Howells MS, Mark Isherwood MS, Ken Skates MS, Dawn Bowden MS, Natasha Asghar MS, Lesley Griffiths MS, Luke Fletcher MS, Sian Gwenllian MS, Cefin Campbell MS, Russell George MS

Apologies: Liz Williams, Molly Hucker, Lleucu Siencyn

Minutes

1. Croeso a chyflwyniad
Welcome and introduction
Delyth Jewell MS
2. Cofnodion y cyfarfod diwethaf
Minutes of the last meeting
Delyth Jewell MS

Delyth Jewell MS

- Welcome and introduction to newcomers
- Minutes of last meeting signed off

3. **Llysgenhadon Hinsawdd Ieuenctid Cymru**
Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales

Poppy Stowell-Evans

- Youth Climate ambassadors are currently focusing on the rights of indigenous people and how they are affected on a social justice level by climate change
- Themes for this year are social justice and climate change, indigenous voices and biodiversity
- The first aim of the year is biodiversity, talking about why it's important and what individuals can do to ensure it is recognised as a priority
- A part of the YCA's manifesto is for Welsh Government to prioritise restoration of peatlands across Wales and to produce a plan to ensure that Wales isn't contributing to deforestation overseas
- We will be lobbying to gain support for these points

Questions and Comments

Carolyn Thomas

- Welsh Government is looking at managing grass verges for biodiversity, hopefully at the end on June/ beginning of July with training for counsellors in the managing of these

- Another issue which has been raised is the importance of grassland for biodiversity and not just planting trees which may be something we could take up together

4. **Marvin Thompson**, Llenyddiaeth Cymru
Marvin Thompson, Literature Wales

Marvin Thompson

- This is a new project that Literature Wales have been planning. It's called lit in place or Llên Mewn Lle and it's writing about the climate emergency
- One of the key aspects of the new strategic plan for Literature Wales is tackling the climate emergency and focusing on well-being
- Llên Mewn Lle is about writers working in hyper local environments (e.g. your village may be local but a stretch of canal in that village may be hyper local)
- Hyper local communities don't always have relationships with bigger national companies so it's important that they find a voice and take ownership of their own wellbeing and the climate emergency
- The project allows writers to work in the local community, which is good for the environment, and this allows training for writers to develop and go on to do other work, such as laureate schemes, as well as having other experienced facilitators to act as mentors for the writers
- The idea is to have people talking, engaging with, and writing about the climate emergency
- Climate anxiety is one of the key things for people from a range of ages
- We can't make the massive changes which corporations and governments can, but maybe we can be empowered to do something locally
- Time, emergency, participation, health and wellbeing, and writer development are all key tenants of the new Literature Wales strategy
- What is important in these is the intersection between climate emergency, people participating in writing, the health and wellbeing benefits from this, and writers' development
- The more writers who are empowered to write about the climate emergency, the more voices we have talking about it in nuanced and creative ways
- Language can help people come to terms with how they feel about the emergency and hyperlocal initiatives help them work on making a difference
- Millions of people coming together to make small changes can make a big change
- It is also important to look at audiences for literature and the arts, this project aims to ask communities what they want and how we can help
- Audiences are to take ownership of their relation to the arts, and also the climate emergency, to allow real healing to take place
- The project links national partners and small, hyper local communities to build relationships and focus on wellbeing and understanding the climate emergency in more detail and use literature as a healing tool
- Literature Wales will have 3 local laureates working in hyperlocal communities throughout Wales, one of which will be delivering their work through the medium of Welsh

- In January, Literature Wales will have the first impact analysis report and can promote the findings to the wider sector

Questions & Comments

Ollie John

- In mental health we've found that not everyone wants to hear from doctors – getting writers 'out there' to help with some of the messaging has worked really well in terms of some of the projects RCPsych and Literature Wales have done jointly on mental health, so we're really interested to see the impact report on climate change

Joe Rossiter

- There's a lot to be learnt from literature about making a positive case for change
- Sometimes it's hard to express what you want to achieve when you're up against quite a large barrier and how we phrase things can be very important in terms of having as much impact as possible

Sam Ward

- When the laureates and local writers start bringing out content, we're happy to promote through Climate Cymru
- Climate Cymru has a network of 250 organisations so there's opportunity through our networks to showcase that

Delyth Jewell

- The Urdd's Peace and Goodwill message will be going out the 18th May

5. Trafodaeth ar y celfyddydau, newid yn yr hinsawdd a natur
Discussion on arts, climate change and nature

Dawn Lyle

- I read a book by Rob Hopkins which was talking about how one of the big barriers to climate actions is creating a new sort of society that we can't envision
- Storytelling and creative art can help to paint a picture of a flourishing future
- Sometimes conversations about the climate emergency can be disempowering and stressful so creating a positive vision of what we're trying to create can be very helpful

Delyth Jewell

- It's a powerful thing to not just imagine but embody a space where things are better
- Storytelling is a wonderful tool for this

- We can flip the conversation from how dire things are to what wonderful things can happen

Ollie John

- Having a community where you can express opinions is really important, empowerment and doing things as a group can be very special
- Has there been any thought in the Literature Wales programme about group-based activity and people's access to some of this work?
- Are we looking at established writers or is there opportunity for emerging writers as well?

Marvin Thompson

- As they are local laureates, they'll be working in community groups, so people will be able to get that sense of community which is important for wellbeing
- We want experienced facilitators to lead workshops but in the long term there will be less experienced facilitators who could work on a project with a more experienced mentor
- This is also an opportunity for the participants to reflect on whether they could be a writer
- Groups will be working together to nurture the writers of tomorrow

Delyth Jewell

- If you have any more thoughts after this meeting, please send them on and they'll be included in the minutes

6. Busnes arall
Any other business and date of next meeting

Delyth Jewell MS

Ollie John

- All new psychiatrists will receive sustainability education as part of their specialist training in the new curriculum
- This recognises that particularly young people want to talk about these things so people specialising in medicine need to be educated to support

Dawn Lyle

- Wellbeing economy alliance has a meeting tonight at 7pm all about food, this is important to our wellbeing but also a good gateway into hyperlocal action on climate, biodiversity and nature
- Everyone food based is invited and food-based projects across Wales are invited to share what they're up to and inspire community organisations to do more about transforming the food system

Sam Ward

- Climate Cymru started off as a group during the COP 26 build-up and then it became obvious that there was a lot more to do so we've received more funding and are recruiting
- We're very happy to be involved in the cross-party group

Sandy Clubb

- We had an idea of a crossover with the intergenerational solidarity CPG
- Points were raised about the benefits of intergenerational activities for wellbeing, and it would be good to connect the two groups, either in this or in a separate meeting

Date of next meeting to be set for after the Summer break