

Minutes from the thirty-seventh meeting of the Cross Party Group on Waterways

Conference Room 24 Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay
Wednesday 11th June 2014
6.10pm

AMs Present

Nick Ramsay AM (Chair) (Welsh Conservatives, Monmouth)

Present

Brenda Owen

Richard Owen – Teifi Fishery Owners Association

David Fitzpatrick – Cynnal Cymru

Gwenda Owen – CTC

Margaret Gwalter – Inland Waterways Association

Brian Hancock – Risca Town Council

John Gwalter – Swansea Canal Society

Tom Davies – National Assembly

Stephen Rowson

Chris Charters – British Outdoor Professionals Association

Nick Worthington – Glandŵr Cymru

Andrew Stumpf - Glandŵr Cymru

Laura Lewis - Glandŵr Cymru

Hazel Bowen - Glandŵr Cymru

The meeting commenced at 6.15pm

Item 1: Presentation by Rhian Jardine, Natural Resources Wales.

Future impact of climate change on Wales

Rhian Jardine outlined the role and responsibilities of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) who are reaching their one year anniversary. NRW wish to understand the impact of climate change and be an exemplar in how they manage land and water to both adapt to and mitigate it's effects.

Presentation available upon request from enquiries.wales@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Q & A

Dr Mark Lang : Does NRW have a social remit?

Rhian Jardine: Yes NRW do have a social remit and currently involved in community work

Brian Hancock: stated that planning consent on flood plains is currently 1 in 100 years and that planning is granted more and more on flood plains. Brian Hancock also asked if there is a role for NRW to play by saying no to any more wind turbines and yes to water borne renewable energy?

David Fitzpatrick: commented on a new model of turbine dropped into the water. North Scotland are trialling a "floating turbine". David Fitzpatrick also commented that we must also place importance upon not using the energy in the first place. How the grid works does not help the way in which we use or distribute energy.

Nick Worthington: Canal & River Trust are working closely with NRW to ensure water resources are sustainable, not to increase pressure on the water supply when consideration is given to extending the canal.

Item 2: Presentation by Dr Mark Lang, The Centre for Regeneration Wales.

The 'Deep Place' Approach - Moving Toward Socially, Economically, Culturally and Environmentally Sustainable Communities

Dr Mark Lang presented findings of a recent study undertaken in Tredegar in ascertaining "What type of economy and society do we need to create to achieve economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability by 2030?"

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Q & A

Brian Hancock: what happens to the research?

Dr Mark Lang: A funding bid will be submitted to further develop the methodology and extend the research. It is proposed that Llandovery and Corwyn Bay will be the focus for this work due to the different types of poverty that can be witnessed in those areas.

David Fitzpatrick: What is the local response to the research?

Dr Mark Lang: Once the community understand the concept of the research they all showed their commitment by signing up to the process including the Local Health Board, Local council etc.

Andrew Stumpf: Are there lessons to be learnt from the study that Canal & River Trust can help to deliver?

Dr Mark Lang: Waterways are fixed into the local community and economy. We should seek to invigorate economy from within a community as well as focussing upon larger City Region initiatives.

Item 4: Any Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting: 15th October 2014