**Draft Minutes of the Brecon & Radnor Area Committee held at 7.00pm on Thursday 6th October 2022 at the Strand, Builth Wells LD2 3AA.**

Catherine Mealing-Jones the Chief Executive of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority made a presentation to members at the start of the meeting, followed by questions:

The Authority is currently reviewing and undertaking a re-write of its management plan. The Authority has a series of ‘Missions’ including:

Water, Nature, People and Places.

CM-J is keen to ensure that the planning authority serves the community – and not the other way around. A number of leadership roles have been created to help address this.

Questions:

Volunteer requested for the Authority’s Stakeholder Panel – **Eileen Boorman appointed.**

Problem of ‘off-roaders’ using 4x4 vehicles in the area. CM-J replied that this was a big problem and a really difficult area to control and enforce, with the Authority having no legal powers to do so. The Authority’s role is to co-ordinate the work of the various partners (including Dyfed Powys Police) to try to address the problem. **ACTION: AH to obtain more information about obtaining evidence of such activity.**

Major problems linked with phosphates polluting local waterways and rivers. CMJ said that this was a huge issue and the River Usk is very seriously polluted. This overload of phosphates creates other problems, including young people unable to be provided with affordable housing due to the reduced availability of new builds.

The National Parks Authority’s role is to try to bring the various stakeholders and lead organisations together to deal with this problem holistically - but the lack of resources makes this very challenging. Natural Resources Wales should be the lead enforcement organisation dealing with the pollution issue.

**ACTION: AP was asked by the chair to provide a paper with the main issues of concern and suggested options/solutions.**

Tourism – CM-J said that the number os people visiting the area was causing major problems and there was a significant problem with erosion. Despite the investment in the maintenance of public footpaths this is a long-term problem which will require different solutions in the future; some countries are effectively banning vehicles from roads within the areas of national parks, and this may need to be considered locally as part of a sustainable transport policy.

CM-J was thanked for attending the meeting by the chair.

**Present:**

Clive Easton (Chair) Llanwrthwl

Mark Hammond Builth Wells TC

Peter Games Crickhowell CC

Geoff Lewis Erwood CC

Alan Pryce Erwood CC

Barbara Lloyd Glasbury & District CC

Shan Meredudd Llandrindod Wells TC

Elizabeth Newman Llanfihangel Rhydeithion CC

Megan Price Llanwrthwl CC

Mike Watkins Llanyre CC

Eileen Boorman Talybont CC

Geraint James Talybont CC

John Morris Vale of Grwyney CC

Alun Harries, Development Officer, One Voice Wales

Nigel Brinn, Corporate Director, Powys County Council

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the chair Cllr Clive Easton, who also expressed his thanks to Builth Wells Town Council for providing the facilities for the meeting.

1. Apologies

Hugh Pattrick Ystradfellte CC

Aaron Mills St Harmon CC

Llanigon CC

Louise Elston-Reeves Talgarth CC

Debbie Landymore Hay on Wye TC

James Prothero Hay on Wye TC

Angela Yates Old Radnor CC

Alan Austin Llanwrthwl CC

1. Declarations of interest

None declared.

1. To approve the draft minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2022 including the AGM (attached)

The minutes were approved.

1. Matters arising from the above minutes (not otherwise on the agenda)

Multi location meetings – AH explained that councillors and members of the public wishing to attend council meetings must be able to ‘hear and be heard’. Some members summarised developments at their councils regarding this.

Use of bank cards by councils – AH clarified that the Financial Regulations (although in need of some updating) provide rules and procedures to undertake electronic banking and use cards. Some councils represented already undertake electronic banking.

**ACTION: AH to circulate the Financial Regulations to all councils.**

CE asked for some further clarification about how local councils could contribute their views on the Local Development Plan to the planning authority.

**ACTION: NB to circulate details to town and community councils.**

CE said that photographs were still awaited following the visit to the Clyro Pasif House Development.

**ACTION: NB to chase this up with Charles Mitchell at PCC.**

Eileen Boorman and Barbara Lloyd volunteered to attend any planning related training available. AH said that this should be best pursued via member councils booking courses with Planning Aid Wales.

1. News and reports of good practice from Councils

None discussed.

1. Feedback from councils following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II

Members supported a letter of congratulations being sent on behalf of One Voice Wales to the new Prince of Wales.

**ACTION: AH to inform Lyn Cadwallader the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales.**

1. Update on the planning session delivered by Powys County Council on 28th July via remote video

Some members had attended the session.

1. Closure of Llanfihangel Rhydeithion School

Retain this on the agenda until further information becomes available. JM said that there was still an issue regarding Llanbedr School.

**ACTION: EN & JM to discuss further and prepare a summary of possible options and proposals for further action by the Committee.**

1. Powys County Council Town & Community Council Forum 14th July 2022

AH explained to members about the existence of the Forum which is managed by Powys CC and which is a separate entity to the One Voice Wales Area Committees. It is clear that not all councils are aware of this, and there was a need for this to be discussed by all councils with a view to advising PCC about what subject areas could be discussed at these quarterly forums. Ideally, all councils should have a representative on the Forum and on the Area Committee.

1. Update from Clive Easton about the meeting with the Leader of Powys County Council on 2nd September 2022

CE summarised the meeting with the Leader Cllr James Gibson–Watt and Nigel Brinn the Corporate Director who was present at this meeting this evening. CE said that despite some personal disappointment about the lack of PCC nominated representation in the three specified business areas (environment, highways and education) it was most encouraging that NB was present this evening and CE thanked NB accordingly. NB explained that he, along with a group of 3-4 other people would serve as the key points of contact with this Area Committee and would seek to attend relevant meetings in the future.

1. Developing links with Powys CC in specific business areas:
   1. Highways Matters
   2. Planning Matters
   3. Environmental Matters

See 11 above.

1. Reports from bodies on which the Area Committee is represented:
   * 1. The National Executive Committee (NEC) of One Voice Wales: Hugh Pattrick and Peter Games

Postponed due to the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II

* + 1. Powys Teaching Health Board Stakeholder Group: Peter Games

No further communication has been received from this group – **ACTION - AH to chase up.**

* + 1. Powys Public Services Board

The agenda for the meeting (which took place earlier this week) had been circulated to members previously.

1. Powys CC Standards Community Sub-Committee – Election of representatives from town and community councils – the below people have been appointed to represent town and community councils until the elections in 2027:

Sir Frycheiniog/Brecknockshire Hugh Pattrick (Cyngor Cymuned Ystradfellte / Ystradfellte Community Council)

Sir Drefaldwyn/Montgomeryshire Richard White (Cyngor Tref y Drenewydd a Llanllwchaearn / Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council)

Sir Faesyfed/Radnorshire Nigel Dodman (Cyngor Cymuned Maesyfed / New Radnor Community Council)

1. The Wales Air Ambulance Service at Welshpool

A brief discussion took place and members were in support of the proposal from the Montgomery Area Committee to set up a joint meeting with the Wales Air Ambulance Service about the proposal to relocate the base from Welshpool airport. NB said there had been a recent meeting in Powys about this and he will send further information to AH.

**ACTION: AH to arrange the meeting with the WAAS.**

1. Welsh Government Consultation – A Fairer Council Tax

Responses had been sent to Welsh Government by Builth Wells TC and Upper Tawe CC, both of which had been copied to the chair and AH. CE thanked both councils for their responses.

1. One Voice Wales Update
   1. Larger Councils Committee – the next meeting takes place on 12th October 2022 and the minutes will be circulated in due course.
   2. Seeking Welsh Suppliers – See also below appendix 1. Members were in support of this and were requested to contact Maria Mulcahy of One Voice Wales via the email address provided.
   3. Local Places for Nature & Community Facilities Programmes – see below Appendix 2.
2. One Voice Wales Training Programme

AH reminded members that the monthly training schedule is circulated to all councils. EB said that she has attended several of these training courses recently and that they were excellent and commended them to members.

1. Correspondence

AH said that a number of circulations have been sent to member councils recently and there are summarised at Appendix 3 below.

CE explained that it had previously been agreed that an Area Committee’s Chairs meeting would take place regularly, but this has not happened since the first meeting took place in August 2021. AH said that he had raised this with the Chief Executive previously at CE’s request but that there were no resources in place to service this forum and that it was not a high priority at this time.

**ACTION: AH to discuss with the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales Lyn Cadwallader.**

1. Date of next meeting

CE requested that future meetings should take place physically. AH explained that One Voice Wales’s position was that there should be a balance of remote video and physical meetings thereby enabling access to all members who wished to attend remotely and also reduced the carbon footprint of these meetings.

**The next meeting will therefore take place via remote video on Monday 9th January 2023.**

**Appendix 1**

Seeking Welsh Suppliers

As you will be aware One Voice Wales is fortunate to be supported in its Suppliers Directory and at its events by a number of suppliers/companies that already work with or wish to be introduced to community and town councils in Wales.

The majority of these companies also work with and support the Society of Local Council Clerks and the National Association of Local Councils and these companies often have to make choices regarding which organisation and which event they are able to support.

The majority of the contacts in our database are companies based in England and One Voice Wales would like to expand the database to include more Welsh based companies/suppliers who can benefit from the many opportunities One Voice Wales can offer to introduce them to the community and town council sector in either South, Mid, North or the whole of Wales.

If you are aware of any companies in your locality who you consider may benefit from being introduced to Welsh community and town councils either through the Suppliers Directory, advertising by way of mail shots or through this monthly E-bulletin or by coming along as an exhibitor at a One Voice Wales conference/event, to promote the service or goods the supplier/company can offer, please email details of the company to Maria Mulcahy, South Wales Development Officer by emailing: [mmulcahy@onevoicewales.wales](file:///C:\Users\Windows\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\BWDXYGDY\mmulcahy@onevoicewales.wales)

It need only be the name of the company and the location, unless you have a contact name, we will then follow up with an email or a telephone call to the company.

We can assure you that we won’t make a nuisance of ourselves to any contacts you may suggest it will an email or a telephone call and if the answer is no the company will not be included on the database.

This is an opportunity to strengthen the economy of Wales by encouraging the use of Welsh based companies/organisations.

**Appendix 2**

1 Local Places for Nature

We are pleased to announce that the Welsh Government and National Lottery Heritage Fund - Local Places for Nature grant scheme will once again be open for applications from Thursday June 9th. There is £920k available to allocate between now and March 2023. Please visit [www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding) for further details - [rcarter@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:rcarter@onevoicewales.wales)

2 Community Facilities Programme

The Community Facilities Programme is a capital grant scheme operated by the Welsh Government. Grants are available at two levels; small grants of under £25,000 and larger grants of up to £250,000. Grants can be used to improve community facilities that are useful to, and well used by, people in the community. Grants are available for capital works to provide or improve community facilities offering at least one of the following activities/services which help to increase opportunity and reduce inequality:

• Providing, safeguarding or re-introducing a valuable community service such as access to a credit union, post office, library or community shop; • Providing local access to services which help avoid the need for local people to travel outside the area; • Hosting skills-based or other training which leads to a recognised qualification, work placements or volunteering opportunities that improve the job prospects of individuals; • Hosting local health services such as exercise or healthy living activities including activities aimed at older people; • Helping to create community resilience by providing a focus for community events; opportunities for community engagement or volunteering

opportunities:

• Helping to create strong social networks which allow people to work together locally enabling them to influence decisions at a local, regional and national level; • Activities to combat loneliness and isolation or low level mental health issues such as coffee mornings, lunch clubs, or other drop in sessions; • Providing community IT access, broadband access and/or IT training to aid digital inclusion; • Physical adaptations to improve access to community buildings for disabled people, including access ramps, lifts, accessible toilet and changing places facilities; • Hosting a food/clothing/furniture bank, food co-operative, access to advice services or other similar activity; • Activities and services which target homelessness such as Night Shelter or access to housing or other advice; • Adaptations to enable the facility to be used to provide childcare; • Activity which will help to address the Climate Emergency, such as energy efficiency or low carbon measures like environmentally friendly heating or lighting systems, insulation, new windows and doors, or new technology such as solar panels; • Activity which will help address the Nature Emergency, such as community gardens supporting biodiversity, pollinators or the protection of green spaces <https://gov.wales/community-facilities-programme>

**Appendix 3**

**Circulations Sent to Councils Prior to the Autumn Round of Area Committee Meetings**

1. Guidance on Preparing a Council’s Training Plan Including a Model Plan Template was circulated to all councils on 30th September.
2. The Keep Wales Tidy packages for 2022 are going fast! If your council would like to apply for one of these free packages, please get in touch with me to discuss the criteria and application process. Your application is more likely to be successful if you seek advice before applying. [rcarter@onevoicewales.wales](mailto:rcarter@onevoicewales.wales)

**Closing date: 21/11/2022**

1. There is also still time to apply for funding from the **National lottery Heritage fund**. Please get in touch to discuss any potential projects asap.  More info here:

[Local Places for Nature | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/local-places-nature#:~:text=Local%20Places%20for%20Nature%20is%20a%20capital%20grant,of%20communities%20in%20the%2050%25%20most%20deprived%20areas.)

1. **Welsh Government funded Defibrillator applications - From Phil Hill:**

I have recently been informed by my colleagues at *Save a Life Cymru* (NHS Wales Cardiac Network – Public Health) that there is still an opportunity to apply for Welsh Government donated Defibrillators. This application process for Zoll AEDs is being coordinated by SaLC but please be aware applications are reviewed and ultimately decided on by the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust. I enclose the application form and I am very happy to advise on its completion.

1. One Voice Wales would like to invite representatives from Community & Town Councils to an important **conference on Biodiversity and addressing the nature emergency. Thursday 27.10.2022**
2. I am writing to inform you of two new Woodland Creation Grant schemes which are open for applications and also to let you know of an update to the Woodland Creation Planning scheme.  The schemes have been developed following discussions with farmers, foresters and landowners and will provide funding support for farmers, land managers and associated rural sectors over the next 3 years and support the transition to the Sustainable Farming Scheme. The indicative budget for the two schemes is £2m for the first application window this year, with £30m being available for the following two years.

The first application window will open on 30 August 2022 and close on 14 October 2022 for selected planting and capital works to be completed and claimed by 31 March 2023. The scheme will then open for applications every 3 months.

* 1. The **Woodland Creation Grant** offers funding for tree planting and fencing to farmers and land managers. There are also maintenance and premium payments to ensure the trees establish. A Woodland Creation Plan is required and once the Plan is verified by Natural Resources Wales an application for a **Woodland Creation Grant** can be made.  Further information on this grant scheme can be found by visiting [Woodland Creation Grant | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/woodland-creation-grant)
  2. The **Small Grants – Woodland Creation Scheme** has been designed for farmers and landowners who wish to plant less than 2 hectares of land in an agriculturally improved or in a low environmental value area.  A Woodland Creation Plan is not required for this – full details of scheme rules and criteria can be found by visiting: [Small Grants - Woodland Creation | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/small-grants-woodland-creation)
  3. **The Woodland Creation Planning scheme** offers grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to use a registered woodland planner to develop a woodland plan. Full details of the Planning Scheme is at [Woodland Creation Planning Scheme | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme)  and includes a list of registered Planners.

1. The UK Government has recently shared the information below which may be of interest to your organisations / members:

The UK Government has launched the Help for Households campaign which draws together information on the support packages it has put in place to help ease the impact of the cost of living crisis. There are 41 schemes available to support citizens, all of which can be found on the new[**Help for Households website**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhelpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7CEmma.Harney%40gov.wales%7C8526bf5bf9ec461a973908da8450b2bc%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637967779368158050%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XfH9Rxz9hejIGHqkPMbJ1PvjLqdI6L%2BEWr%2BUwy7yNjo%3D&reserved=0)