ONE VOICE WALES 9/01/23 (ZOOM)

1.Simon Evans – CEO Wye and Usk Foundation – further presentation in april

* ARUP/DCWW catchment market development initiative. Making good progress and looking to establish a catchment ‘market’ on the Usk, for the water company to deliver its next 6 year investment programme. Wide number of people and organisations taking part and it will be something other buyers and sellers can join as other ‘markets’ develop.
* working with the supply chain to reduce pollution from the production of food and to derisk the supply chain (The principle risks are defined as regulation as a result of water pollution and soil degredation)
* working with MoD and bidding for new funds to quantify opportunity for high flow reduction and low flow support on upper Usk farms and from the Eppynt. This is provided the certainty that will allow for investment into farms to reduce buyers risk and costs and encourage and support farmers delivering not just food and fibre, but also water flow regulation, biodiversity and carbon. These will be long term secure funding streams that will support land managers,
* Castco project; Ofwat innovation funded investment into expanding existing monitoring network and putting in place additional monitoring to understand better the impacts on the Usk SAC and develop the solutions

River sondes have been placed at Chainbridge, usk and Colebrook

* Working with North Star Transition to support and deliver this approach across the rest of the Welsh Wye and Usk. This includes access to some major investors looking to support landscape scale change.
* 10% Soluble reactive phosphate – level below 5.8% is acceptable
* Working with nrw studying invertebrates through kick samples
* Mentioned PFAS in roadkill otters
* BBNPA (led) – Usk Catchment partnership and Nutrient management Board. Seems to have stalled a bit, but has huge potential
* Stump up for Trees – 1 million trees to be planted in the Usk (mostly Black Mountains at the moment), WUF are linking up with them to put these trees in places where they maximise water infiltration and biodiversity (mostly in Usk above Brecon)

There are also some things happening that I need to catch up on.

* Where is SFS, how will it link with the initiatives detailed above
* NRW’s diary project, what next.
* WG intervention in latest approval by of additional poultry in Powys
* WG use of first nature for carbon
* NRW’s plans for enforcing the new farming and water rules

2. Powys CC

Powys County Councillor Jake Berriman that was circulated to members in October:

Following the inaugural Town and Community Council Planning liaison meeting, I write to update you on progress being made with the Council’s Planning Service.

Given the positive feedback relating to the liaison meeting, I have asked that bi-annual liaison meetings are programmed into our diaries. Future meetings will hopefully be hybrid in nature to ensure that you can have the opportunity to meet Planning Officers in person, whilst still enabling those who are only able to attend online to be present.

I acknowledge feedback regarding the overload of information and presentations at our last meeting. Moving forward, our meetings will only have one principal topic and I will ensure that adequate time is allocated to the essential question-and-answer session.

In order to improve the service provided to Town and Community Councils, I have requested that area Planning Officers contact Town and Community Councils at a minimum once every month. This will hopefully strengthen your relationship with the Planning Service, aid you in communicating priorities and assist you in securing timely case specific information.

Please be assured that the numerous requests for planning training have been recognised. To address this need, the Planning Service will work with partners to make topic specific training available electronically. The following subjects have been identified for delivery:

·         Highway safety and infrastructure.

·         Biodiversity.

·         Environmental Health – noise nuisance etc.

·         Land contamination.

·         Land drainage.

I hope the above information demonstrates the Councils commitment to having a more accessible and transparent Planning Service. I thank you and your councils for the continued support, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Planning Service delivers for the communities that we serve.

*Councillor Jake Berriman*

*Llandrindod North*

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3. News from councils

* older councillors wanting to go back to a state of affairs that no longer exists, lethargy
* gap in sharing information
* 2 proposed Digital office positions have been cancelled due to lack of funding but a communications Officer will be appointed to expedite flow between councils and ovw
* Attendance at training courses had increased markedly since last May.
* JM reported that Dolau School and llanvihangel rhydeithion had already closed
* Llanbedr school closure vote jan 17/ Regrouping of Bwlch Schools
* Builth town council no-confidence vote
* John morris - five community and town councils in his locality (Crickhowell, Vale of Grwyney, Llangattock, Cwmdu, Llangynidr) are reconvening their local joint meetings to discuss and consider matters of common interest to them.

4. The National Executive Committee (NEC) of One Voice Wales:

* + - * Concerns were expressed about the non-attendance and silence of NEC members at the quarterly meetings. the CEO of One Voice Wales will prepare a report for the next meeting of the NEC.
      * Powys Teaching Health Board Stakeholder Group: AH said that he has written to the Health Board requesting clarification about membership but to date has not received a response from them.
      * Powys Public Services Board: Hugh Pattrick: Information about the Powys PSB is available via the following link: [Powys Public Service Board - Our Annual Progress Report - Powys County Council](https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7509/Powys-Public-Service-Board---Our-Annual-Progress-Report?ccp=true#cookie-consent-prompt)
      * Mark Hammond and Ellen Walsh Moorman were both elected as ‘joint representatives’. The next NEC meeting takes place on Friday 17th March.

1. The Wales Air Ambulance Service at Welshpool

* Air Ambulance: The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner has stated that the public consultation will not be going ahead until potentially February, as they have not been in a position to get all the materials and information ready for public viewing. We are still in the dark as to the process they are going to use to allow the public to engage in the consultation process. The issue should also be debated in the Senedd this

1. Welsh Government Consultation – A Fairer Council Tax

* This consultation closed in October last year and on 16th December Welsh Government published a report on the responses received: [Summary of Responses: A Fairer Council Tax (gov.wales)](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2022-12/46262-summary-responses.pdf)

7. Correspondence-

* The Finance & Governance Toolkit for Town and Community Councils

The Toolkit had been updated in November and it was likely that councils would be asked during the annual audit process what use was being made of the toolkit locally. This will feature as an agenda item in future, with councils invited to share good practice with other Area Committee members.

* Launch of a Green Living Guide for Powys: [www.pacepowys.cymru/Powys-Green-Guide-Launch](http://www.pacepowys.cymru/Powys-Green-Guide-Launch)