



2.00pm, Tuesday 4 May 2021
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present

Name	Organisation
Barry Liles (Chair)	University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Cllr Emlyn Dole	Carmarthenshire County Council
Huwel Manley	Natural Resources Wales
Supt Gary Phillips	Dyfed Powys Police
Carys Morgans	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Ruth Mullen	Carmarthenshire County Council
Kevin Jones	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Jan Curtice	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority
Martyn Palfreman	West Wales Regional Partnership Board
Anna Bird	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Huw Thomas	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Marie Mitchell	Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services
Christine Harley	National Probation Service
Wyn Morris	Department for Work and Pensions
Andrew Charles	Welsh Government

In attendance

Name	Organisation
Gwyneth Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Kate Harrop	Carmarthenshire County Council
Wendy Phillips	Carmarthenshire County Council
Amy Richmond-Jones	Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Alun Harries	Carmarthen Town Council
Isabel Macho	Carmarthenshire County Council
Russel De'Ath	Natural Resources Wales (Item 3)
Heléna Herklots	Older People's Commissioner for Wales (Item 4)
David McKinney	Older People's Commissioner for Wales (Item 4)
Gareth Rees	Older People's Commissioner for Wales (Item 4)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Barry Liles, Chair, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting, new members Wyn Morris and Andrew Charles, and guests were introduced.

Apologies	
Name	Organisation
Maria Battle	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Ros Jervis	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Andrew Cornish	Coleg Sir Gâr
Helen Roderick	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

3. Environment (Wales) Act – Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty / Nature Partnership / State of Nature Resources Report

Environment (Wales) Act – Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty / Nature Partnership

Isabel Macho, Biodiversity Officer for CCC, provided a presentation on Section 6 of the Environment Act – Biodiversity Duty. In addition to the climate emergency, we also have a nature emergency, and one cannot be considered without the other. The Environment Act complements provisions within the WBFGA and applies to all public bodies and the PSB. To comply with the S6 duty, public bodies should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into early thinking and business planning, including policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as day-to-day activities. The Environment Act provides multiple benefits which can enable public bodies to deliver against their well-being goals. It also introduces Area Statements which must be considered in the preparation of Well-being Assessments which in turn inform the PSB well-being plans.

An example of an ecological network was shown with suggestions on how it could be improved. Grassland habitats could be better managed by mowing at a higher level and less often as grassland is good at storing carbon. Species affected by climate change can be helped by installing bird and bat boxes. Cleaning products can also be damaging to watercourses and consideration should be made in procuring environmentally sensitive products.

Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership (CNP) has been in existence for 20 years and is part of the Local Nature Partnership Cymru network. It has a number of partners including CCC and NRW as public bodies and other organisations such as Butterfly Conservation, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, Wildlife Trust. The CNP has a Nature Recovery Plan for the county reflecting the national objectives. There is also close working with the South West Area Statement team within NRW. The CNP receives a small amount of funding annually which will be used to produce a State of Nature Report for Carmarthenshire, working alongside partners, and various projects to support action.

A wildlife in your ward profile has been produced for each ward within the county and will be circulated to raise awareness of wildlife in these areas and what can be done to help.

State of Nature Resources Report (SoNaRR)

Russel De'Ath, Lead Specialist Advisor for NRW, gave a presentation on SoNaRR. NRW have a duty to produce this report every 5 years and feeds into the Future Trends Report and WG Natural Resources Policy. It is an evidence base on the extent to which the sustainable management of natural resources is being achieved and is based on four key aims:

- Stocks of natural resources are safeguarded and enhanced (extend and condition)
- Resilient ecosystems

- Healthy places for people (air quality/pollution, waste management, noise pollution, water pollution, land use and soils, invasive non-natives, flood risk)
- A regenerative economy (sustainable production and consumption and our overseas footprint)

There is evidence to show that we are taking far more from the earth than we are giving back, and the conclusion from SoNaRR is that to tackle challenges, we need transformational change in the food, energy and transport systems. Wales Environmental Information Portal has information to support the production of the well-being assessment, also the Area Statements sets out challenges at a local level. There is a need to consider marine and coastal issues, particularly for communities at threat from rising sea levels. An offer was made for support to facilitate a Three Horizons workshop which is a future scanning tool.

The Healthy Environment Delivery Group is progressing this work. The natural environment is under immense pressure and there is a need to find a solution to address this for future generations. Public sector organisations understand the message, but it needs to be highlighted amongst the private sector. Land use going forward may be influenced by post Brexit policies. Examples given demonstrate that this should be key part of the PSB work programme going forward.

ACTION	
Healthy Environment Delivery Group to consider what can be done to assist in reducing phosphate levels	HEDG
Environment and biodiversity key part of future work programme moving forward	HEDG
Circulate Nature Recovery Plan and Wildlife in your Ward documents to members when available	PSB Support Team
Circulate briefing note on SoNaRR	PSB Support Team

4. Older People's Commissioner for Wales: Age-friendly Communities

Heléna Herklots, Older People's Commissioner for Wales, stated that, as we transition through stages of the pandemic, there is a need to ensure that our ageing population is not forgotten. A presentation was provided on age-friendly communities, where older people feel valued, respected and included and communities support people to age well.

The WG draft strategy, which was open to consultation prior to March, outlined its vision to support people of all ages to live and age well. The 'Leave no-one behind' report, launched last August, outlines key areas with medium and long term actions. WHO have identified age-friendly domains which cover all aspects of community life that need to be considered when making plans. Two projects currently in existence within Carmarthenshire are Connect and Bwcabus.

The aspiration of an age-friendly Wales is to be progressed by Local Authorities. There is a National Age-friendly Steering Group, and Community of Practice which enables practitioners to connect with each other. Locally, the benefit would be for older residents to engage in shaping the place they live. The WHO Network application requirements were outlined and assistance with the application process was offered by the OPCW. It was clarified that the application would need to be made by the local authority but working in partnership is crucial.

Emlyn Dole confirmed that he is supportive of the work and of working with others, but there is a need to scope out prior to proceeding. Martyn Palfreman added that he was pleased that Connect was shown as good practice and mentioned other programmes that support older people. He said there are opportunities for the RPB to work alongside the Council.

ACTION	
Invite Heléna Herklots to a future RPB meeting	Martyn Palfreman
Agreement in principle to take forward discussion on Age-friendly Communities with RPB on regional approach	PSB Support Team & Martyn Palfreman

2. Minutes and Matters arising

23 March 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Action Log

Updates were provided on previous actions.

5. Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Updates

Foundational Economy Challenge Fund Public Sector Food Procurement Project

The project finished at the end of March 2021. Discussions are being held with WG and other funding streams regarding Phase 2 which will focus on the development of local food supply.

In terms of procurement, reports and recommendations have been sent to the anchor organisations, the procurement officers will meet, and an invitation extended to partners not previously involved.

Natural Resources Wales funding update

A progress report was provided for the two successfully delivered projects – tree planting and green infrastructure.

Huwel Manley thanked Kate Harrop and Wendy Phillips for their work on this grant which had been a challenge in terms of the process. He added that there is uncertainty around the funding for the new financial year.

Coronavirus Volunteering Recovery fund update

The website and learning platform are live and will be officially launched during Volunteering Week 1-7 June. Courses can be accessed by partners in the meantime.

Workplan

Updates on the workplan were shown in bold.

It was agreed to consider utilising NRW funding for the social and green solutions for health, therefore an early decision on future funding would be beneficial.

There will be a further series of workshops taking place at the end of May focusing on the four key areas of progressive procurement as identified in the workplan.

Annual Report

The PSB is required to submit their annual report by the end of July. The report should reflect what has been achieved over the last 12 months against the Well-being Plan. The report will be considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny at their 10 June meeting, a draft will be circulated to members mid May for comment.

ACTION	
Circulate link to new Volunteering website and learning platform	PSB Support Team
Circulate draft Annual Report for members' comments prior to submission to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in June	PSB Support Team

6. Town Centre Public Service Hubs

The group has met twice since the last meeting with the University also joining in the discussions. An invitation was extended to any other organisations wishing to join.

Assets have been mapped in Llanelli, Ammanford, Carmarthen, and the 10 towns which has identified a cluster of towns with many assets. A pilot project is being considered for Llandovery and Llandeilo as there may be more effective use of these assets. The next piece of work is to map out the need in those areas as it is apparent that each organisation will have different requirements.

There was a discussion on locations where outdoor meetings can be held.

ACTION	
Members to provide a list of outdoor working/meeting areas available within the county	All

7. Well-being Assessment Update

It was agreed at the last meeting to work in partnership with Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and the RPB. The regional funding from WG will be utilised for a project co-ordinator post. Members approved the joint methodology framework for undertaking the assessment of local well-being, and also endorsed the submission of an application to Co-production Network for Wales for their support in engagement activity during this round of assessments and over the course of the next five years.

ACTION	
Nominate a data lead and engagement lead for the Well-being Assessment	All

8. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the move to using Zoom had enabled better simultaneous translation.