

Llais y Goedwig Working Group Meeting

8th January 2009

Present: Roger Davies (RD - chair), Katy Harris (KH), Zena Wilmot (ZW - minutes), Jenny Wong (JW), Dave Petty (DP), Bob Shaw (BS), Roger Bray (RB), Rodney Waterfield (RW),

Apologies: Fay Sharpley (FS), Philip Swain (PS), Steve Wigfall (SW), Caz Philips (CP)

<p>1. Minutes of last meeting were approved. Matters arising: Correction: JW was not aware of asking about the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel. ZW to change record of last meeting.</p> <p>Longwood ó has had meetings with FCW and Elin Jones. FCW would prefer a lease but process has to be investigated. Tenure seen as important. DTA visit to Longwood as part of the report they were doing for WAG (to be discussed later). Peter Williams suggested we do a report about asset transfer as related to woodlands.</p>	<p>ZW</p>
<p>2. Final approval of logo Logo was approved, strapline needed for Welsh version. ZW to sort out with Jen and translator.</p>	<p>ZW</p>
<p>3. Launch event and other planned events <i>Formal launch at the Assembly.</i> KH has been in touch with Elin Jones. Room booked for 10th February 10am ó 2pm. Room will hold up to 50 people. KH to meet with Elin Jones who will lead on inviting ministers, etc. KH has been in touch with FCW, they will send attendees and help with publicity.</p> <p>Ideas for invitation list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLL steering group, agencies, ministers, community gp reps, • Umbrella group of local authority and community councils • Environment and Agriculture authorities (JW) • Wales Voluntary Council • Elina Burnum AM (RD) • Alun Fred Jones (JW) • Welsh Timber Forum • Youth representatives ó JW to invite a representative from her local youth group who might do a short presentation to the group. This would be about a survey by youth about what a community thinks about their local woodland. • FEI ó Sue Williams, Kim Burnum ó North Wales. • Leam McFerson from Youth Offenders Service (BS) • Tir Coed (BS) who also have a wealth of photos ó what can be done in woodlands <p>Brief for Elun Jones Presentation / slide show for 15 minutes Success stories of community woodland projects (3 presentations by community</p>	<p>KH</p> <p>Everyone</p>

<p>led groups ó one or two from South Wales) 1 - Longwood 2 - Coppicewood College 3 - ? Photo display Need one clear message of Llais y Goedwig</p> <p>Need to write a press release, CLL to write press release in conjunction with Elin JonesøPA and put it through the Assembly press office.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation ó need to make sure they are provided</p> <p>Everyone to look up contacts and feedback to CLL.</p> <p>Publicity Need some information boards Leaflet Need a banner Press pack (main points, photos, etc.) Pull out banner with logo, aims, photo Ask Elin Jones what would be suitable for the room (KH)</p> <p>North Wales events – networking day Friday 20th February Invite list formed from Cyd Coed list and other contacts Presentations in Welsh? Guy Jones (County Council) Forest Schools contacts ó woodland education with children Presentations on who they are and what they do. People to bring posters to introduce themselves. Getting to know what everyone is doing. Opportunity to join Llais y Goedwig also to find out what people want from Llais y Goedwig. Generate a feeling of a community woodland movement.</p> <p>Joining Llais y Goedwig Member of board to join Llais y Goedwig in order to have a membership.</p> <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KH and ZW giving presentation in Powys and Pembrokeshire at City farms and gardens events. Opportunity to have a membership drive. 	<p>ZW / KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>Everyone</p> <p>ZW / KH</p> <p>Board members</p>
<p>4. Report from Scottish community woodland conference DP, ZW and KH reported on their trip to the Scottish Community Woodland Association conference in November 2008. ZW to send out full report for conference including AGM.</p> <p>ZW and KH presented notes on asset transfer in Wales and Scotland and discussed the potential to compile a larger report with case studies of community woodland projects.</p> <p>It was agreed that a report would be useful. JW as academic could ensure that the research is credible. JW suggested working alongside in partnership with the FC</p>	<p>ZW</p>

<p>and starting with a meeting with Bianca of Forest Research. JW and put together a remit and organise a meeting between Forest Research, CLL and herself.</p> <p>RW - University of Glamorgan. Involved in outdoor learning and wanting to get into training, certificating social forestry projects. The University of Glamorgan contact for Outdoor Learning is Kim Polistina 07766 194563 and the link to their website is http://hesas.glam.ac.uk/outdoor/. Roger to follow up?</p> <p>Leases MP ó FCW does not have the power to lease land but the Welsh Ministers (e.g. Elin Jones) do have that power. The 1967 act gives the minister the power to decide what to do with forest assets. Longwood is being used as a test case.</p>	<p>JW / KH / ZW</p> <p>RD</p>
<p>5. Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel representation Llais y Goedwig have been invited to send a representative to the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel meetings. Meet 3-4 times a year, this panel advises the National Forestry Committee.</p> <p>The board decided that JW, KH and FS would be the most appropriate people to take on this role. The three of them to discuss this between them to decide who is best. Then a representative will be at the first AGM.</p>	<p>JW, KH and FS</p>
<p>6. Big Lottery Consultation on the Asset Transfer £8 million for Asset Transfer, Big Lottery to administer this. Consultation ó one question in the Wales section of the document. Not about purchasing but about management of those assets.</p> <p>RD will go to a meeting on the 20th January in Llandudno and feed back to the group at the next meeting.</p> <p>Members of the board, if they have the time, to fill out the consultation. Ensure that community woodland projects and other green spaces are considered. Also to look into whether partnerships and leases would be eligible.</p>	<p>RD</p> <p>Everyone</p>
<p>7. Follow-up to Woodland Strategy Review 231 responses (expected about 30 of responses!) Minister has received two draft strategies and Advisory Panel Final version is due to be launched March 2009 Feedback document is under preparation and will be sent to everyone who participated in the consultation. Cyddoed report will be available soon (just waiting for sign-off by Forest Research)</p> <p>Responses on Social Forestry section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High level of agreement to the general thrust - Constructive comment across whole strategy - Want more detail in terms of community involvement - Very strongly support the need to broaden learning into skills development - Very strongly support innovative approaches to enterprise development and linking local economy for constructive engagement <p>First two questions received polarised response. Industry lobby seeing those</p>	

questions as a threat whilst environmental and social lobbies were in agreement. There is a clear trade-off between diversifying woodlands and management through thinning & reduction in volume in timber produced from the woodland. The solution would be to manage more woodland in order to counteract the loss of timber volume. Where does money come from to manage more woodlands? & political challenge for Elin Jones.

There is currently a &value for money survey being undertaken on FCW services & this is likely to suggest roll on funding that would promote FCW making more long term strategic decisions.

How to get involved

- Representation on WSAP
- Programme development & engagement with relevant expert bodies
- Pathfinder projects & explore higher level of involvement in woodlands by communities. Forestry commission land where the community wish to have a higher level of involvement in decision making. They are likely to lead to groundbreaking initiatives that will lead to development of learning (?).

CIPAG report & There are many levels of participation that are possible (Arnstein's ladder. It is easy for FCW to manage low levels of participation, but more difficult at high levels. The report recommends that this needs to be explored. In parallel, the work of Cydcoed has brought groups to different levels of participation. Longwood are the only ones who have written to FCW asking for greater participation.

Richard Davis is delegated to make contact with further groups. Coetir Mynedd and Golygfa Gwydir have been mentioned, and Penrachn (?). Start the ball rolling with a possible meeting.

The district manager for Coetir Mynedd wondering why all the pathfinder projects fall within same geographical area. FCW will go back to South Wales projects to see why these differences occur. In the valleys similar aspirations may be there but might not be communicated by relevant activists.

JW - Coetir Mynedd have done a survey of one of the three communities surrounding the forest & would like to be able to help shape the forest management. Would like to know FC would want to pick up on that.

RD - Golygfa Gwydir would find it an encouraging to look at the way forward for their group as a pathfinder project.

Restructuring of FCW social forestry team

MP wanted a team of 5 people, with some embedded in the districts, but there was not enough evidence as to what work programmes would be. Cydcoed staff have redeployed & Bob Griffiths reporting to Ruth, as community engagement officer. Local area managers need to be first point of contact, added support for community engagement. Mark Proxter in South Wales, Barbara Anglesark is deployed to heads of the valleys & falls in the Coed y Cymoed district.

<p>8. WSAP representation Confirmed that Llais y Goedwig would like to take up the invitation. Three potential candidates have been put forward (see section 5).</p>	
<p>9. AOB <i>Board members</i> Formally agreed a board of 5 members at the last meeting. Three people were not at previous meeting. Do they join the board? Observers can come to meetings but cannot vote. BS, RB would like to stay as observers RW would like to become a member of the board Staying as a working group as a delegation of the board on which the board members are there. (?)</p> <p>KH - Wales's commitment to sustainable development is to support a piece of rainforest in Africa the size of Wales. Proposing that it might be useful to have community-community links. Would community woodland groups from Wales be interested in forming links? We can advertise it but should we get involved? JW to see where it goes BS to be interested. Has info on Tanzanian tree species JW to be interested in links between schools. The community-community link would be good. The area of forest the size of Wales is not so good. KH to involving community groups could ground the project to improving tenure rights in Africa to two way learning. Should express an interest. DP to Conduit of information Need more clarity but potentially interested. Mention in e-bulletin.</p> <p>Advert for membership The board agreed that the advert could be used. The wording was changed and the new logo can go on it now. ZW to make changes and put the advert on the Phuser site for comment.</p> <p>Seminar on insurance and liability in South Wales The Smallwoods Association will be organising the seminar. Still seen as useful for this group to be involved in. Possible locations: Radnorshire Wildlife trust, Glegenog Hall. FCW attending and providing expertise. MP to provide contact people (ZW to resend reminder from CLL steering group meeting) Suggestions for topics, help run it, etc. We will promote it to community woodlands, etc.</p> <p>Environment Wales JW to is registering Llais y Goedwig. £4000 for pre-project plan but heavily subscribed. Should probably put in for that money. If Llais y Goedwig do not get this funding then can still apply for start up grant of £1000 until end 2009. This would be useful for preparing a business plan, as will need services of accountant.</p> <p>A formal motion to start a bank account was put forward. JW proposed it, DP seconded it. The board voted to start a bank account. RB, JW and DP to be signatories (2 out of 3 needed) DP to look into appropriate bank account.</p>	<p>ZW</p> <p>ZW</p> <p>DP</p>

