

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SUSTAINABLE PENWITH HELD ON 21 JUNE 2004 AT PENWITH DISTRICT COUNCIL, ST CLARE, COMMITTEE ROOM 1.

Present:

Karen Clowes
Matt Trevaskis
Justin Osolunde
Crystal Wakefield
Ruth Browning
Hilary Binns
John Thomas
Barnaby Flynn
Graham Waldren
Mat Kraft
Peter le Mare

Apologies were received from:

Frances Truscott
Ralph Openshaw
Julia Bradley
Raven LeFay
Julia Bradley
Gina Aylward

Penwith Tourism Forum

Matt met with David Rutherford, Sustainable Tourism Officer at Penwith DC. David has invited Sustainable Penwith to join the Forum. The first meeting is on 8th July, it was agreed that Matt should attend this first meeting on our behalf. Matt stated that the draft sustainable tourism document has been posted on our website. Tourism makes up 47% of the gdp of West Cornwall. The new strategy will be based on the VICE Model. David has been talking about ways in which we can lessen the negative effects of tourism, the strategy is not just green/eco-tourism. David has also been working closely with CoAST. The future of CoAST was questioned, Matt will find out what their status is regarding funding and the fact that Philippa is now with Objective 1.

Crystal's discussion document

This group has now been going for eight months, we now need to define where we are going and how we are going to get there, who is willing to do things and carry them through. It was agreed that we hold a workshop day to address these issues. WCCN suggested that this Forum write a Mission Statement, and it was agreed that the workshop would be a good opportunity to make progress with this. Crystal's document contains ideas that this Group could focus on, she stressed that we must not reinvent the wheel, where other groups/individuals are already doing great work we must instead support them rather than duplicate. It was also suggested that this workshop day should also address whether we should split into sub-groups specialising in different areas. A venue for the workshop was discussed whilst St Paul's School was considered it would cost £7 per hour, it was therefore decided that Committee Room 1 at St Clare would be the best venue as we can also use video/presentation equipment there free of charge. The workshop will take place on a Saturday during late August/early September. Karen will let the group know which

Saturdays the room is available at the next meeting. Crystal agreed to look into the possibility of engaging facilitators for the workshop. Matt said that it would be good if we can get lots of Councillors to come along to the workshop.

Crystal is currently working on a Community Renewable Energy Project in Pendeen which will complement Pendeen's regeneration strategy by creating energy which can be sold to the national grid. Funding for this type of project is particularly difficult because most projects rely on grants and because the excess energy will be sold to the national grid it is not considered to be a sustainable funding source. She has also found that lots of policies contradict each other for example DEFRA departments do not seem to know what each other does. As a Group we need to wise up on policies in order for us to know how to access funding sources and to get things done.

Crystal also suggested that we can put together a package for those contemplating drawing up a Parish Plan, this could be used as a guideline to ensure that sustainability is integrated into all such plans.

Matt stated that he recently went to Bodmin with the Cornwall Disability Forum, at this meeting Penwith Housing Authority asked if we would like to sit on their Modification Plans Stakeholder's Panel.

Mat K wondered whether we have the capacity to sit on Council Committee meetings. This is an issue which will be addressed at the workshop. It was agreed that we need to get Councillors to come to our meetings.

Justin commented that there was an awful lot in Crystal's discussion document. Peter stated that he feels that the ideas Crystal has outlined are an excellent start for the Group, however he feels the most important thing is that we cannot continue consuming indefinitely and we all need to work towards ways of reducing our consumption. It was agreed that the reduction in the use of natural resources could be a focus point for the group.

Matt stated on behalf of Raven (who was unable to make this meeting) that she feels a one day workshop would be an excellent idea, she also thinks that we should look at the work similar groups elsewhere have done for example the Sustainable Seattle Organisation.

Crystal suggested that we look into the possibility of having a room or office where people can drop in and collect information on sustainability. Ruth said she would look into the possibility of whether we could have information available at the Penwith Credit Union Offices. Karen said that whilst she did not know of any office space available at the moment she would look into the possibility of the group being able to place an information rack at St Johns Hall entrance. John stated that whilst that was all well and good at the end of the day we would need office space. Barnaby suggested St Paul's old school, Crystal felt that this would not be a good venue because it has to be somewhere that is open and accessible to as many members of the public as possible. Matt stated that St Johns Hall is probably one of the most inaccessible buildings in Penzance. Karen said that she would ask in the regeneration department whether they know of any community office space that might be available in the near future.

Planning Applications

Crystal told the group that all planning applications are now available on the Penwith District Council website. It was discussed whether as a group we should monitor such applications and support those we as a group believe to be sustainable. It was noted that Penwith District Council received 70 letters of support with regard to the windmill application at St

Just, lots of these were probably generated through Sustainable Penwith. Matt, Mat K and Graham agreed that they would monitor the website for planning applications that we could support. Matt also agreed to draft a standard letter that we could send to planning applicants. Karen said that Penwith District Council are preparing a leaflet and website page promoting sustainable building techniques and this leaflet will also advise on where to find further information e.g. Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust.

Mazey Day Stall

The group will have a stall on Mazey Day opposite Woolworths. Crystal has been working hard to obtain prizes for a raffle. So far she has managed to obtain free entrance tickets for Trengwainton, Geevor, St Michaels Mount, and the Pilchard Works, she has also been promised prizes from Cornwall Mead, Archie Browns and the National Soap Company.

Matt will sort out the display board information.

Crystal and Frances were thanked for all the hard work they have put in collecting bric-a-brac to be sold on the day. Anything left over will be given to OXFAM.

A leaflet on Sustainable Penwith and the Sustainable Communities Bill public meeting will be handed out on the day.

Any Other Business

John stated that the Investment Co-operative will be up and running in about two months. The Co-op will be open to all. It will be run on a subscription basis of just £1 per week. The aim of the Co-op is to gather sufficient money to further increase membership and then address problems in housing/energy, etc. He said that this Eco-homes Co-op is a practical example of the Simultaneous Policy that Barnaby is promoting. Barnaby asked that we all consider donating and help spread the word about the Co-op.

Karen said that she has started working on a climate change strategy for the Council. The aim of this strategy is to look at ways the Council (and its partners) can help adapt to and mitigate the effects climate change will have on the district. Another key part of the strategy is to help raise public awareness on the issue of climate change.

The Sustainable Communities Bill public meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th June at 7pm in St Johns Hall. Everyone was asked to help spread the word and to attend if they possibly can.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 19th July at 7pm.