

Notes of EERA Planning Meeting

to prepare for the Third Sector Meeting with Lesley Griffiths AM,
Minister for Energy, Environment & Rural Affairs

18 March 2019, Baltic House, Cardiff

1. Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance:

Clare Sain ley Berry, WCVA (CB)
Dave Cook, WCVA (DC)
Nicola Perkins, Social Farms and Gardens (NP)
Rachel Sharp, Wildlife Trusts (RSh)
Sarah Germain, Fareshare Cymru (SG)
David Forward, Interfaith Council for Wales (DF)
Alex Phillips, WWF Cymru (AP)

Apologies:

Peter Jones, Guide Dogs Cymru, Rebecca Brough, Ramblers Cymru, Karen Balmer, Groundwork North Wales, Arfon Hughes Grwp Cynefin, Elspeth Jones, Size of Wales, Gary Mitchell, Social Farms and Gardens, Anne Meikle, WWF

2. Minutes and Actions from last Ministerial meeting

A couple of inaccuracies were noted on the WG Action Points including in attendance and in the phrasing of the action that the Cab Sec has assigned to officials regarding permitted development rights for small scale agriculture. As planning was no longer part of the ERA portfolio, Social Farms and Gardens would be taking this up instead with Julie James going forward, with a meeting planned for 8 May.

3. Update on WG-NRW liaison meetings

Before Christmas CB had communicated to WG the group's wish to continue to attend the NRW-WG liaison meetings despite WG's suggestion that NRW should meet the third sector independently. This had been discussed at the last planning meeting where Karen Balmer, an NRW Board member, had also offered to take this up. As a result Ruth Jenkins, NRW's Head of Natural Resources Management Policy has been in touch offering a meeting. Some attendees already had meetings with Ruth Jenkins and felt that these were not an adequate substitution. It was felt that unless the meetings were in their original format with both WG and NRW present, they were not worth attending.

Action: WCVA to take this message back to WG to try to reinstate third sector attendance at the liaison meetings

4. Items to be Raised at Ministerial Meeting

a) Relationship with NRW - designated sites - RSh

The above discussion highlighted concerns at the NRW-third sector relationship and a lack of understanding of the 5 Ways of Working. RSh felt this was particularly evident in proposals around designated sites.

b) [Environmental governance and principles after the UK leaves the EU](#) - AP

The consultation promised last July had been published that morning. It was likely that members would want to discuss this and AP would take this forward on behalf of WEL.

c) Brexit and our Seas - RSh

There was a concern that this consultation, due to be published March 19, would focus purely on fishing rather than marine ecosystem sustainability and SMNR and could therefore undermine current policy goals. Talks around the next stage of Brexit and our Land were due in July so this might come back to the autumn Ministerial meeting.

d) Fair Work in the Food and Drink Sector - SG

The Food and Drink Action Plan was not due until June but SG wondered if there was an opportunity to raise third sector concerns about the industry around food poverty and insecurity, low pay and poor conditions of food and drink workers etc. Modern slavery was also mentioned in this context and whether Lesley Griffiths was working with Jane Hutt (responsible for) to address this in her portfolio area.

WG had expressed a preference to deal with just 1 or 2 papers per meeting to give sufficient time for discussion. It was agreed that we could ask WG to give an update on b), with the planning group paper as a complement to this. The planning group would bring the other 3 papers as agenda items.

Action: CB to communicate this to Gareth Woodhead, WG together with usual requests for:

1. a heads-up on any upcoming consultations, with opportunity for early involvement if possible, as per previous requests
2. any WG papers put forward to be shared in adequate time for proper review by attendees

AOB: Allotments and Community Growing consultation

NP noted that the National Assembly for Wales Sustainability Committee was consulting on allotments and community growing.

**Next meeting with the Minister
Tuesday 4 June 10.00 - 10.45 Location tbc
Pre Meeting 9.00 - 9.45**