



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.

## **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER:**

This has been a busy period for TENP Trustees particularly due to the need to organise events and produce a Sustainable Development Directory to meet the outputs required of our grant from Environment Wales. In addition TENP have been collaborating with PAVS on an 'intergenerational project' which started recently. Details are provided below.

Our grant was for an 8 month period which ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, as a result, TENP Trustees will be reviewing the Business Plan in the new year to determine the nature and scale of activities and roles that we can carry out. Clearly much reduced finances will affect what we can do.

In the meantime we are organising our **AGM** which will take place on the **20<sup>th</sup> January in the Queen's Hall, Narberth at 7pm** and is followed, at 7:30pm, by presentations and discussion on the theme of  
**'Success for a Change'**

This will provide a few TENP members with the opportunity to present their success stories and plans for the future and to discuss the impact they have had. The key note speaker is Andy Middleton who has a wealth of experience and a firm belief in the importance of local action. We very much hope that you can attend and contribute to the discussion.

### **EVENTS:**

There have been 2 TENP events this autumn,

1. The first, **'The Purposes and Duties of National Parks'** was organised in conjunction with CPRW and Friends of the National Park:

A discussion on the Purposes and Duties of National Parks provoked a lively debate which also encompassed other aspects of National Park performance. The principal speakers of James Parkin, the Director of Recreation, Marketing and Communications, Edward Holdaway a life long protagonist of protected landscapes and Mary Sinclair Chair of the Pembs Branch of CPRW introduced the main themes with an added insight by Edward on marine planning issues which gave an extra dimension to the consideration of landscapes.

One surprising aspect was that equal weight is given to those landscapes designated as AONB or NP which strengthened the argument contained in the recently launched 'An Agenda for Wales' Protected Landscapes.

Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty of course fall within the remit of Local Planning Authorities.

Also noted from the discussion was the recently published consultation paper from The Welsh Assembly Government titled "A Living Wales - A Framework for our Environment, our Countryside and our Seas". The value of protecting the most important landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) was suggested as an essential element in that consultation.

TENP had initial concerns regarding a paper by Council for the National Park which suggested an expanded range of Purposes which could lower the public profile of the National Park brand especially as biodiversity and sustainability are more universal call to arms than NP landscapes specific.

Participants also discussed local community and economic interests and activities and how these were and could be regarded by the Park Authority. The possible impacts of sea level rise were also discussed both in their own right and as part of new marine planning system.

The Chairman thanked the speakers and audience for a very stimulating evening and regretted that more members had not been able to enjoy the occasion.

MJB 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010

ii) The second, '**TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY**', was organised jointly with PAVS and PLANED and focussed on the importance of local action and initiative in responding to the challenges we have to face in the 21C.

"Towards a Sustainable Society" was a full day conference organised by TENP (The Environmental Network for Pembrokeshire) with PAVS (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services) and PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development). The event attracted over 50 participants from the statutory,

private, and voluntary sectors including 'out of county' attendees. The key speakers included representatives from NEF (New Economics Foundation), NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) and NTDI (National Development Team for Inclusion). The presentations made on the day are already on: [www.tenp.org.uk](http://www.tenp.org.uk) and <http://pembs-networking.org.uk/SustainableSociety.html>.



A Conference Report, based on the workshop discussions will be produced in the next few weeks.

The purpose of the event was to focus on the potential in the County to work towards developing a sustainable community, one which is socially responsible, resource sensitive and flourishing. Key to achieving this is developing social cohesion and mutual support at the local level. The conference offered participants the opportunity to contribute their experience of local voluntary action in discussions on local activism, joint working with the statutory sector and empowerment. The attendance of 50 was perfect in terms of ensuring manageable and inclusive workshops.

Although the event was opened by the Head of Strategic Partnerships from Hywel Dda Health Board, the vast majority of participants were drawn from the voluntary and community sector, with very little representation from either the public or private sectors. The dominance of the voluntary sector meant that the relationship with the statutory sector and issues of empowerment and the nature and quality of partnership working in the County were discussed in some depth.

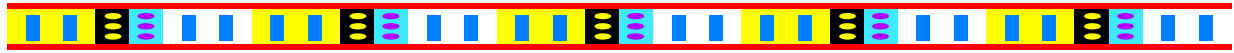
One positive outcome of this discussion was a proposal, supported by all participants, to invite the statutory sector to a customised event organised by TENP, PLANED and PAVS around the issues of community engagement, co-production and local action. A private sector participant also suggested that invitations to any such follow-up event should also include the private sector and Trades Unions.

Another outcome was a request that PAVS approach the Local Service Board to seek clarification about the timetable for the community engagement programme which will ask local groups what actions are necessary to deliver the Community Plan's objectives and how local groups can contribute to that delivery.

These suggestions – and others – will be considered as part of the production of the Conference report and proposals will be discussed with conference participants.

With 75% of the evaluation forms indicating a high level of satisfaction with the conference content and organisation, it is clear that the conference achieved its initial objectives – but there is yet more work to be done.

If you require further information about the Conference please contact:  
Bettina Becker at PAVS on 01437 769422 – [bettina.becker@pavs.org.uk](mailto:bettina.becker@pavs.org.uk)



## THE DIRECTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: POLICY AND PRACTICE

TENP's grant application to Environment Wales included a request for funds to contribute to the printing of a Directory, the production of which involved making our existing 'position statement' document more comprehensive and up-to-date.

This has been completed and will be placed on the TENP web site by 8<sup>th</sup>. December. Cynnal Cymru and Friends of the Earth are also considering placing the Directory on their web sites.

The Foreword by Peter Davies describes the nature, purpose and value of the document:

**"I wish to congratulate TENP on the production of this Directory which I believe will help to both inform and stimulate discussion on the nature of, and approaches to, achieving a sustainable society.**

**Sustainable Development attracts a great deal of rhetoric and is a term that is easily 'hi-jacked'. This Directory presents the 5 Principles of Sustainable Development all of which need to be expressed in policy and practice if we are to achieve a sustainable and flourishing future.**

**We can be proud of our commitment to sustainable development in Wales, but turning that commitment into reality is a challenge which is well documented throughout this directory. The directory provides a useful information source on current policy and programmes, examples of practice and some pithy observations, which will help to focus minds on delivery. It is a great example of the importance of a strong civil society organisation concerned about the long term future of their county"**

Sustainable Development Commissioner for Wales  
Chair of the Climate Change Commission for Wales

Members of TENP are invited to make constructive comments on this 1<sup>st</sup> Edition by going on the TENP web site ([www.tenp.org.uk](http://www.tenp.org.uk)), as we wish to make improvements for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition in 2011.

Funds permitting, we hope to provide every TENP Member with a 'hard copy' at the AGM on 20<sup>th</sup>. January.



TENP Secretary Declan Connolly presents an early copy of the directory to WAG Environment Minister Jane Davidson at a meeting organised by PAVS in Haverfordwest in early December.



## INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE:

Led and monitored by PAVS, TENP Trustee Jasmine Saville is facilitating inter-generational discussions in 2 communities in Pembrokeshire: Hermon, and Carew.

The purpose of the project is to stimulate discussion across generations on the way in which previous generations have responded to self sufficiency and resource depletion.

PAVS and TENP hope to run a dissemination event in March.

For more information contact : [bettina.becker@pavs.org.uk](mailto:bettina.becker@pavs.org.uk)



## OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- i) TENP invited by PLANED to attend their **Sustainable Agriculture Network**

This invitation was particularly welcome as TENP has been very slow in terms of contacting or becoming fully aware of the circumstances faced by farmers in the County.

There seem to be 2 'agendas' expressed at the meeting ,

- i) That of the Farmers/FUW/NFU which interpreted Sustainable Agriculture as economic viability in the short and medium term, and,

ii) That expressed by CCW/NT/PCNP which emphasised environmental and biodiversity enhancement.

The farming interests seemed to see agri-environmental schemes as onerous, too bureaucratic and impeding productivity and profit making. It seems then that the aim of Glastir: “to cover the costs incurred and any income forgone” have not been achieved, at least to the farmers’ satisfaction.

A presentation by the National Trust made the link between conservation and business objectives when describing a pilot initiative in St David’s which used cattle to graze moorland and then sold the beef produced at a premium under a conservation brand. Questions following the presentation focussed on economic viability rather than the ecological benefits.

There is clearly some way to go before agri-environmental schemes are whole-heartily embraced by farmers in Pembrokeshire.



ii) **Pembrokeshire Energy Trust:**

TENP was invited to attend 2 exploratory meetings to discuss the establishment of a County –wide Energy Trust. Also attending were PCC, PCNP, WW Eco-centre , PLANED...etc. The meetings were chaired by Ben Ferguson-Walker of the Severn – Wye Energy

The concept being discussed is to have a independent advisory body supporting community renewable energy projects. A trust would take grant funding and transform it into a constantly recycling investment fund, providing the necessary capital for a long term strategy for the transition to a low carbon county. This model would maximise direct ownership of renewable energy generation within communities, and balance direct cash benefits local to installations with funding to a county wide support structure and rolling investment fund.

The discussions to date include designing a consultation process to gain a county wide voluntary and statutory sector mandate for pursuing this project, and an invitation to this event will follow once dates and venues are set.

It has been agreed that there will be 2 consultation events in January, one in the south of the County (Saundersfoot) and another in the north of the County (Dinas).

As soon as the dates and venues are finalised TENP will ensure that Members are informed.

A small group, including TENP, met with the Minister, Jane Davidson, to discuss the concept.

### iii) Badger Cull consultation:

After much discussion TENP Trustees agreed to send a letter of support to 'Pembrokeshire Against the Cull' as it was felt that a cull contradicted TENP environmental position statements. The letter was as follows:

"The Trustees of The Environmental Network for Pembrokeshire (TENP) wish to offer our support to PAC in its campaign against the proposed cull of badgers in North Pembrokeshire.

Included in its Statement of Policies

"Natural Environment":

**"TENP supports safeguarding and strengthening the existing pattern of biodiversity (plants and animals) in Pembrokeshire and in particular the protection of native species that are at risk".**

Current proposals by WAG to cull badgers in north Pembrokeshire are regarded by TENP as inconsistent with the above stance.

TENP considers that the proposals are also premature in view of the progress being made to develop both vaccines for badgers and for cattle against the transmission and infection of TB from badgers to cattle.

TENP also believes that there are improvements to cattle management that would significantly reduce the incidence of TB in herds, for example reduce overgrazing of land.

TENP is concerned that the perturbation effects of culling will have a negative effect on cattle health in a wider area.

TENP also considers that the programme of information and education on this issue that has been undertaken by WAG has been insufficient and that the case for culling has neither been justified nor understood by a wide range of residents".

Members may wish to note that the consultation process on the proposed cull ends on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Consultation forms can be downloaded from the WAG web site:

[www.wales.gov.uk/bovinetb](http://www.wales.gov.uk/bovinetb)

Advice on completing the consultation form is available from PAC at:  
[www.pembrokeshireagainstthecull.org.uk](http://www.pembrokeshireagainstthecull.org.uk)

#### iv) Transition Pembrokeshire: a recent development.



The 4 Transition Town groups in Pembrokeshire , Narberth, Fishguard/Bro Gwaun, Haverfordwest and, Frenni/Crymych, met recently for the first time to exchange experiences, provide mutual support and advice, and to discuss their plans for 2011.

It is clear that groups are at different stages of development, some well established others seeking to secure community recognition. A common characteristic of all groups was the need to persevere and not to expect to achieve 'too much too soon'. This was a recognition that the concept of transition takes time to embed. However transition in the County is clearly becoming significant when, collectively, the 4 groups across the County have in excess of 70 members and 700 supporters and successful projects ranging from community composting to community allotments.

One clear piece of advice at the meeting was that Transition groups should not expect to do everything and that it is also important to seek to build links, support and provide a focus on local projects that deliver and express Transition principles and values.

The 4 groups agreed to meet on a regular basis and set an agenda for collaborative projects such as a investigating the feasibility of a 'Pembrokeshire Pound' and developing a Renewable Energy group.

If you wish to know more about the Transition groups or volunteer to work on or develop a local project please contact Mike at [communications@transitionnarberth](mailto:communications@transitionnarberth)"

#### v) Princes May Day Network:



As a result of attending the Prince of Wales START event at the Botanic Gardens in September TENP was invited to join the Princes Mayday Network. This Network is managed by Business in the Community (BiTC) and has 2000 members across the UK committed to taking action against Climate Change. The web site gives TENP a 'profile' site which it can use to promote events and activities. <http://www.maydaynetwork.com>

## vi) Progress on the Community Plan.

As you will know TENP made detailed comments on the Community Plan for Pembrokeshire and was invited to become a member of the Environment sub-group of the Community Plan Leadership Partnership. This sub group was set up in response to comments to the draft plan which included:

*"concerns regarding the weight that the Plan attached to environmental and sustainability issues. The Environment Network Pembrokeshire (TENP) submitted a detailed and constructive critique which questioned the compatibility of a sustainable future and the aggressive pursuit of economic growth. TENP suggested that issues such as rising fuel prices, food and energy security should be more obviously highlighted within the Plan. The CPLP and the LSB have established an environment sub-group to consider these concerns and continue a broad discussion around the environment theme. "*

The sub group has not met since the Summer and therefore this agenda has not been progressed. In part this can be explained by the preoccupation within the statutory sector with budget cuts and proposed reorganizations.

The minutes of the LSB and CPLP can be found on the Pembrokeshire County Council web site. In the CPLP minutes of May 2010 the suggestion TENP made in the sub group, that the statutory sector make known to the public their carbon emission levels 'year on year', was discussed and the minutes show that this was considered to be a suggestion that should be acted upon.

The CPLP minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September meeting have not yet been placed on the web site, but the agenda has no mention of a community engagement strategy, something which the minutes of the May meeting suggest was to have been advanced and which TENP and our Members are keen to see happen and contribute to.



### Update of Members details:

As it is inevitable that volunteers come and go and email addresses change we will be contacting all our members in the New Year in order to update our data base.

Charlie Mason  
Chair  
TENP

