

Note of the planning meeting for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

7 November 2019

1. Introduction

Present:

Anna Nicholl – WCVA
Rachel Sharp – Wildlife Trusts Wales
David Forward – Interfaith Council for Wales
Nick Bialynicki-Birula – Natural Resources Wales
Fiona Harris - WCVA

Apologies:

Kate Evans - WSA
Claire Lawson -RSPCA Cymru
Ginger Wiegand -EYST
Ken Moon - Interlink
Sarah Germain - FoodShare Cymru
Julia Korn -Pont Cymru
Rebecca Brough -Ramblers Cymru
Nicola Perkins -Social Farms & Garden
Karen Balmer - Groundwork North Wales
Paula Renzel – Ramblers Cymru
Arfon Hughes – Gwrp Cynefin

2. Minutes from the last Ministerial meeting

- Noted the issues that had been raised around relationship with NRW (see update from NRW on agenda)
- Anna noted some are issues that cut right across portfolios (principles on value of volunteering; voluntary sector involvement with public bodies)
- Group not aware of updates on other actions. **WCVA** to follow up with Welsh Government.

3. Update on NRW and ways to work together

- Nick Bialynicki-Birula from NRW attended for this item.
- NRW have worked with Wales Environment Link to establish an engagement Forum. Two meetings have now been held and another is scheduled before Christmas.
- Terms of reference have been agreed. Members of the planning group have been invited. Karen Whitfield, Wales Environment Link, is coordinating the voluntary

sector input. David Forward, Interfaith Council for Wales attended the meeting in June

- Initial and planned agenda items include funding, sustainable land management, area statements, environmental growth plans, the national framework, marine and Brexit.
- Wales Environment Link have met with Clare Pilman.
- Nick has raised the issue on volunteering internally with Public Access team. He asked for further information to be shared so they could look at how best to address. **Action:** Ramblers to provide further information (Nick Bialynicki-Birula to provide main contact via WCVA and should be copied in to email) Jont.Bulbeck@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
- Meeting noted that this was a good example of the Ministerial meetings having an impact. **WCVA** to capture this for impact reporting.
- Engagement with voluntary organisations is an issue that cuts across public bodies and government (reflected in Third Sector Scheme and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act). NRW response to concerns is a positive example of how public bodies can respond. (**WCVA** to consider how to share).

4. Agenda items for next Ministerial meeting

The following items were agreed, which WCVA will now forward to officials:

- **Environmental principles and governance post-Brexit.** This item would draw on the [Climate Change Environment and Rural Affairs Committee report](#), discuss Welsh Government's intended response and key points from voluntary sector networks.
- **Sustainable Land Management.** This item would look in particular at how Welsh Government intends to respond to the Climate Change Environmental and Rural Affairs Committee's recent report on the government's [Sustainable Farming Scheme](#) and [Welsh Government consultation](#).
- **The Ecological Crisis.** This item would ask the Minister for progress on the actions the Welsh Government will take to address the ecological crisis – which it has recognized as priority for government. This would draw on the [State of Nature report](#), 2019.
- **Area Statements.** This item would look particularly at how these are being used to in practice to inform policy and delivery. For example, the Sustainable Farming scheme (above).
- **Brexit: key issues for voluntary organisations.** This item will be flexible, picking up on key issues at the time of the meeting.

Action for WCVA to ask **the planning group** to respond to the following:

- Who will volunteer to lead/ contribute to each item

- Who will volunteer to draft or contribute to any papers/ bullet points of key issues prepared for the meeting
- For those people to:
 - Provide a draft paper/ bullet points to be shared with the group by **22 November**
 - Clarify any asks of the Minister or government
 - Clarify the value of discussion with the Minister (rather than eg asking for further information from officials)

WCVA will then circulate the drafts for comment by **6 December**.

Final papers will be due by **2 January**.

5. AOB

None.