

## **Voluntary Sector Rural Affairs Planning Group meeting**

4 October 2022, 10.10am-10.50am

### Notes

#### *Attendees*

- Lucie Taylor, Social Farms and Gardens
- Iwan Thomas, PLANED
- Gethin Rhys, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Sarah Germain, Fareshare Cymru
- Gemma Lelliot, CTA Wales
- Shea Buckland-Jones, WWF Cymru
- David Cook, WCVA

#### **Welcome and introductions**

#### **Discussion re items to be raised at initial Ministerial meeting**

Group noted need for Minister to engage with voluntary sector bodies on food and rural issues, including access to fuel.

Lucie introduced item on the Community Food Strategy, and that a meeting with the Minister on this is needed with some urgency. Consultations on the CFS have taken place, but have been narrow. There needs to be a more joined-up approach so that the CFS overlaps with the Sustainable Farming Scheme. At the moment it seems isolated. CFS will give £10m per year over three years; given this we need a steer on how the money will be spent and who leads on the strategy.

Iwan referenced an effective food project in North Wales run by Menter Mon run by local communities and suppliers, and that it could be replicated in Pembrokeshire, but Welsh Government have not shown interest as yet. Replicating it would increase local skills and help prevent young people leaving the area.

Gemma noted issues around transport in rural affairs, including fuel, lack of access causing barriers to social life and community life, and the need to work with Local Authorities to develop co-produced, flexible services. She will develop a paper on this for a future Ministerial Meeting.

#### *Proposed agenda for future Ministerial Meeting*

- 1) *The Community Food Strategy*
- 2) *The role of the voluntary sector in tackling transport issues in rural areas.*

#### **Any Other Business**

No items raised.

## *Actions*

- *Dave to send email addresses for Shea and Jess McQuade from WWF Cymru to Lucie.*
- *Lucie to draft paper for agenda item 1, liaising with WWF Cymru and Iwan. Iwan will provide case study for paper on Menter Mon project. WCVA to circulate draft paper to group for comment.*
- *Gemma to draft paper for agenda item 2. WCVA to circulate draft paper to group for comment.*
- *Dave to chase Welsh Government for meeting date with Minister.*
- *Dave to enquire about timetable for Community Food Strategy with Welsh Government officials.*