

Minutes – Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance Meeting

Thursday 16th April, 2015 - 6.30pm Three Horseshoes, Defynnog

Present: Catrin Parish Marks, Dave Howells, Julia Blazer, Sharon Millar, Nathan Morley, Richard Poole, Steve Holz, Rick Coldicott, Christopher Spry and David Ross.

Apologies: Sian Miller, Punch Maughan, Liz Bickerton, Aled Davies, Kay Evans, Lee Evans and Lise Chesters.

1. Welcomes from Dave Howells. Great to see new recruit Nathan Morley joining us and Richard Poole from Welsh Water who will be helping with our Dark Skies Event on 24th April.

2. Geopark Festival – Catrin asked the group if they would be happy to organise a walk for the Geopark Festival between May 23rd and 7th June 2015. It seemed the best idea was that Allan Bowring, Geopark Officer, would take a guided walk in the UUV. Suggestions were:

Llyn Y Fan Fach

Llyn Y Fan Fawr

Usk Reservoir

Brecon /Sennybridge Tram Runs

River sources

Catrin will liaise with Allan Bowring but the group expressed full support.

3. Usk 60 Event – Aled wondered whether there was enough interest in developing this event seeing as there is so much going on this Summer. Yes there is interest but a feeling that realistically we might be taking on too much. However, the group don't want to give up so Catrin suggested maybe doing it next Summer instead as part of Wales' Year Of Adventure due to be announced. This might be a happy compromise.

4. Agincourt – Julia Blazer has spoken to Clive Lillywhite, organiser of Sennybridge Show about maybe incorporating a jousting event at the show this September. The UUV could organise it and secure funding from the Agincourt 600 1 million pounds fund so there would not be a massive amount of work involved for the group. Julia will follow up.

5. Drovers Cycles- the group agreed that the offers made by Drovers Cycles in terms of producing maps with local cycling routes tailor made for villages and even accommodation providers were very attractive and should be pursued seeing as they have put in a lot of effort. Sharon will email them to ask where we go from here.

6. Funding opportunities – Thanks to Rick who has done a lot of hard work looking for available funding. I will email separately the details once he has forwarded them to me but there do seem to be a number of possibilities. At least 2 group members need to go to the End of Rural Alliance conference at Elim Church Brecon in June to get information about further NP funding opportunities.

7. Dark Skies Event

Catrin asked for checks re the event. Sharon has informed fire brigade, booked St John's and organised necessary PLI. She has also completed forms and copied insurance for Community Hall re NP marquee. Dave has informed the police.

The Community Hall and Trecastle Chapel have been booked and invoices are to be given to Catrin for payment. Sharon and Liz Bickerton will do the Risk Assessment within the next few days (Liz I will email you separately to arrange).

Catrin will get copies of feedback forms kindly produced by Nathan ready for the event. E mail addresses will be requested as part of this process.

Leaflets for the event are in print and will be available early next week for collection.

Details:

23rd April Thursday

The marquee – will be collected from NP on Thursday 23rd April by Sharon and Nathan.

During the day, Nathan and David Ross will put the floor down for Allan Trow's pop up. Sharon will have ordered materials and asked Jenkins to deliver directly on the day to the park playground.

After this has finished, it is hoped that 6 volunteers will erect the marquee. Dave Howells will supervise this but has already had offers of help from Aled Davies, David Ross, Keith Baverstock and Nathan Morley. Phew.

Sharon has the very detailed instructions for putting up the marquee on a pdf so she will give to Dave. It is quite tricky so might take a while.

The marquee will need to be taken down on Saturday morning. It was agreed that a team will meet at 10am to do this and then store at Ffos Ddu until Monday morning when it will need to be returned to NP.

Allan Trow wants to be able to put planetarium up at 11am on 24th April so it is best to get the marquee sorted the night before. He needs to be in Sennybridge school by 1pm to do Solar Scoping weather permitting.

Dave Howells will speak to Jason Police Officer and Lee Garrett about cones to cordon off a parking space for the shuttle bus just outside the park where the metal

post is. This will need to be kept clear all evening for Rob Taxi. Julia is to confirm with Rob times etc.

24th April

It was agreed that we need 4 marshals in total – 2 at Trecastle Chapel to organise visitors coming in and out of Andy Burns talks and 2 at The Community Hall on general duties. Julia will be stationed at the planetarium to organise tickets etc for the slots along with her sister. Liz Bickerton has offered her services along with partner Tim as well as Lise Chesters. Chris Spry and Sian Miller who are also available for helping out. We need a volunteer to organise the raffle although Sharon will put out a plea for prizes later today.

Chris Spry is organising boxes for people to put in completed planet trail forms.

Sharon is organising donation buckets – we hope to be able to push this on the night seeing as the event is free. The idea is to have buckets in every location.

Julia will get the planet trail posters ready for early next week so that we can finalise where to position them in village venues. The coloured stamps and pads will also be given to Julia early next week.

Sharon and Chris will do the laminated arrows etc for signage asap.

Richard Poole is organising his digital feed at The Three Horsehoes on the night. Does anyone have 20m plus of RF Extension cable he can borrow??

The Community Hall ladies are organising the food – all in hand.

Nicky Davies is organising some children's activities on the night. She will need a volunteer to help her out. Sharon to liaise with Nicky.