

MINUTES OF THE UPPER USK VALLEY MEETING 08th AUGUST 2018 AT THE OLD YEW TREE, DEFYNNOG

PRESENT: Nikki Alderslade (NA), Barry Alderslade (BA), David Blazer (BA), Julia Blazer (JB), Sharon Millar (ShM), Linda Wickham (LW), Sian Miller (SM), Rose Gearadts (RG), Malcolm Liddell (ML).

WELCOME: ShM welcomed everybody to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Christopher Spry, Sandra Thomas.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Agreed. The topic of community walks will be discussed at the next meeting as LW has not had the time to look into this yet.

RURAL FUTURES UPDATE: There had been a meeting with Peter Willis the previous week at The Shoemakers. Various ideas had been discussed at this meeting, including a story studio, photos from activities and a community drop-in to express views on topics. The community event would be held at the old Spar shop. We will share a space with them at the Sennybridge Show in that we will have a stall next to them, but will operate as a separate organisation. It was felt that with regard to transport issues more concrete solutions needed to be presented to the community. It should also be made clear to Rural Futures that UUV cannot undertake their work as we do not have time.

BECOMING A CHARITY: SM informed the meeting that our application has been turned down, despite being advised on it by PAVO. We need to go back to changing our constitution. SM will email Clare at PAVO in order to seek further advice (this was done this evening):

SENNYBRIDGE SHOW: A list of volunteers is needed for time slots with at least two people for each shift. NA will send an email to everybody on the list. Some people at the meeting volunteered to do a shift. JB asked if there should be an update for the graphics.

USK RESERVOIR NIGHT RUN: Friday 7th September. 16 marshals are needed for the event. Some members of UUV are available, but Sally may need to recruit more volunteers.

SENNYBRIDGE TOILETS: We will find out on 21st if the plans have been passed. Issues about objections to the plans have been dealt with so it is felt that the plans should go through. UUV have withdrawn intention to put up a bike rack from the planning application, but as the pavement has been adopted by the Local Authority, access for bikes cannot be refused. We may generate more waste if we use the downstairs space, but will need to wait and see. The sub group will need to meet with Mike after approval to deal with the details of the building work and get quotations. £140 has been collected from the donation box at the toilets. More leaflets have arrived for use in the holder outside and there will be plenty spare for the Sennybridge Show.

NEW PROJECTS:

Nature Projects: ShM asked if ML and CS would be interested in creating a project at the Usk Reservoir, such as a leaflet for a walk with seasonal observations. There is no need to commercialise it, but just provide interpretation on history and natural features. NA suggested a litter pick one Sunday a month which could be combined with a walk. It would need to be done monthly during the fishing season and would require about six people. JB suggested possibility of leaving litter pickers at Reservoir to encourage users to clear up. We would have to make arrangements for disposal after litter picking.

Significant Walk: ShM said there were none in the Usk Valley. BA said there were two mountain bike tracks starting from Sennybridge car park. ShM said we would need to market walks.

Treasure Trials: These are used to trace the history of a particular place. ShM asked if we could produce one for Sennybridge and Defynnog. Commercial ones from the Internet cost £6.99 to download for printing purposes. We could produce something for this area at a small cost. ShM is happy to do this, but would like to work with someone else.

Motor Home Park-ups: Common in France and can be pre-booked and sometimes provide electricity and services, but this is not necessary. The Community Centre Car Park in Sennybridge, which is owned by the Council, could be a possibility. However, ML pointed out that there were already plenty of places where people could park without restriction.

Novelty Race: This was suggested by RG. It could involve fancy dress of some kind and take place between the local pubs.

Festival of the Yew Tree: Centred on well-being and a series of events people could put on. Could be called Ewe Fest or Yew Fest.

Assault Course: Aimed at young people and possibly provided by Sennybridge Camp.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: NA will send forms to enquirers so that they can become members. She also suggested a Newsletter that could be placed in the Rarebit Centre and other places. This could be produced quarterly. She is happy to do this if someone helps with the graphics and design.

AOB: None.

NEXT MEETINGS: Wednesday 5th September 6.30 pm at Usk and Railway, Sennybridge.
Wednesday 3rd October 6.30 pm at The Shoemakers, Pentrebach.