



Llais y Goedwig AGM

***Thursday 26th September 2019 3:15pm
at CAT, Machynlleth***

Chair: Ian Thomas

Present:

Maria Wilding (LlyG), Fay Sharpley (LlyG/Pobl y Fforest), Chris Harris (LlyG/Coed Y Bont), Susie Arnold (Sirhowy Hill Woodlands), Will Westwood (LlyG/Moel y Ci), Lucy Kew (LlyG/DG), Beki Price (LlyG), Rory Francis (Woodland Trust), Zena Wilmot (LlyG), Liz Mutch (LlyG), Mike Bithell (Moel y Ci), David Williams (Blaen Bran Community Woodland), Gretel Leeb (LlyG Associate), Jenny Wong (Coetir Mynydd/DG), Jon Burke (Moel y Ci), Tom Albiston (Bangor Forest Garden), Sara Wynne-Pari (LlyG), Damian Assinder (LlyG/Sirhowy), Adrian Farey (Elwy Working Woods), Ian Thomas (LlyG/Welcome to Our Woods), and Jayne Garland (Caerphilly Woodland Trust).

Apologies:

Andrew Dugmore (LlyG/Reconnecting Nature), Marit Parker (Associate Member), Janyne Hunt (LlyG/Plantlife Cymru), Jed Needs (Talgarth Community Woodlands), Bob Needs and Jackie Charleton (Llangatoc Woodlands), Tim Woodcock (Friends of Nant Mill), Trevor Britton (Maes Y Pant Woodland), Linda Tame (Talley Woodland), Victoria and Claire (Bassaleg Woodlands Trust), James Carpenter (Coed Llwynonn), and Carys Romney (Friends of Tynant Woodlands)

Chair's Opening: Ian thanked everyone present for attending and supporting this year's work.

Minutes: The minutes of the AGM held on *June 9th 2018 at Wild Spirit Woods, Candleston Farm, Tythegston, Bridgend CF32 OND* were approved.

Proposed: Fay Sharpley

Seconded: David Williams

Election of Directors:

In reference to our articles of association Damian Assinder and Chris Harris stood down from the board, but both were happy to be re-elected (DA - Renominated by Ian Thomas, CH - Renominated by Jon Burke). We would also like to welcome Back David Williams (nominated by Damian Assinder), and three new directors Susy Arnold (from Sirhowy Woodlands) nominated by Roy Lynch (Beaufort Community Woodlands), Victoria and Clare (Basseleg Woodland Trust) nominated by Ian Thomas.

Llais y Goedwig Annual Report

Annual Report document attached to AGM minutes email, presented by Maria Wilding

Discussion: Llais y Goedwig new funding and priorities for the next year

What would you like/find useful for you for LlyG to do?

Developing systems for a larger audience for consultation would be very positive - using a 'dropbox' type facility to share information could be very creative and productive for the members to see both the process of document creation, but also allow collective conversation, contribution and amendment directly to the document. If this option of this facility existed then we could allow everyone to feed into the process, enabling groups to feel confident in contributing to documents during the entire process, rather than consulting on 'cold' documents. Things can be cut out, but views and ideas are at least being taken into account - then, when we met, we would all be on the same page and be involved in the ongoing discussion collectively. In order for this to be successful we need to develop and implement a basic structure of guidance and support to help our members be a living presence during the conversation and process.

Consultation feedback is currently shared with other organisations, such as The Woodland Trust and Coed Cymru, so that we all know where we are, what we are doing, and what it is needed/when. But these documents need to be shared even further - through different channels and avenues to government and those making the decisions - on climate etc. LlyG needs to draw up a basic 'how to' guide for members on replying to consultation (without making a template - Council/Government often discount standardised lobbying documents). We want LlyG to develop something that gives people more confidence and provides tools for them to create responses, that enables them to contribute to the issues they feel directly affect/concern them.

October 30th is the upcoming deadline for the Sustainable Farming and our Land consultation. This is an opportunity for us to share our ideas about National forest and what you want to see - this is the chance for us to get our voice in about what your vision for a national forest might be. All ideas will be considered - the sky's the limit - and the more positive, proactive and productive ideas we have, the better. However, it shouldn't just be about planting trees/hedgerows, but about ecology/connectivity etc. Please be a part of

that conversation.

Ideas: Planting - There is lots for common land which is unproductive, and would be easy to replant. Could there be a replanting programme with schools? Does LlyG have areas or ideas of places we could do this? Could LlyG help landowners to encourage them to access grant for replanting? Can we help members through a mapping exercise to see how we can help them access grants and get volunteers to help with the planting? (This would also count towards LlyG's ENRaW outputs). If the community of LlyG does get involved we must ensure the *'right tree, right place, right time.'*

Could we look at planting fruit trees in community spaces? Working with Sustrans to create endless edible hedgerows throughout their cycle routes? (LM -) There is a community Artist called Anne Marie Culhane - who's art focuses around and delivers environmental projects, events and gatherings (Heritage seed planting, abandoned orchard picking, mushroom and fungi planting et al.) - who is interested in coming to talk to CWG's about planning town centres, cycle paths, footpaths etc. She has time on her hands now and is great at getting Arts Council funding, so if you are interested in getting involved, let LM know and she will help sort that out.

Q. (Members to LlyG) Does LlyG have the capacity for social prescribing?

LlyG know a lot of other organisations that are already delivering in this area, so we are not looking to step on any toes or replicate work already being delivered. We can share these organisations information and programmes of activity etc., but we have to be cautious of retaining our organisation aims, and not becoming an 'all for everyone and everything'. Instead, we can map out where members are looking for social prescribing and support with links, contacts and resources. We can also look at links between NHS services in Wales in relation to our woodlands, and take those examples to get more people involved - getting people engaged with their doctors and making areas available to people. We can look into delivery partners, and signpost people to provisions, rather than delivering sessions. These could become the small revenue streams that were mentioned that CWGs need. LlyG's role in this would therefore constitute health and wellbeing rather than social prescribing, but it might need to be called SP in order to qualify for funds... We will look at what (CLLeol) and Rod are doing and how they get money, to gather that knowledge and see what we can do with it.

Another possible benefit of entering into this sphere, is that in order for a GP to recommend an outdoor activity in a local space, it must be deemed safe - therefore paths need to be developed, trees and shrubs need to be cut back, and in general, make sure the facilities are fit for purpose. There is money and opportunity available for this to happen.

A National Forest can incorporate all aspects - social, economic and environmental - and all are important for the economy, but what sort of economy we will be left in 5/10 years, or even 50 years down the line? Timber and commercial forests will be hugely important for the economy, but they are not fully engaged with what is actually needed in the future. We can be a lot more intelligent about it - fighting for the implementation of sustainable planting and aftercare, and if we have this in mind from the offset we can contribute to the restoration of truly productive woodlands. There should be an opportunity for existing woodlands to be registered as 'well managed' appropriately planted forests, but there is much resistance from the government as they don't want to spend money on something that holds up the planting target or that detracts money from the actual tree planting. How can we work towards improving these structures?

Any Other Business:

Final note from John Burke: CCF - continuous cover forest

The meeting closed at 4.40pm