



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with an items of interest report to the Voluntary Sector from Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

2. REPORT

2.1 NRW Activities and delivery in the Caerphilly county borough involving the voluntary sector

Healthy Rivers Project

NRW grant fund Groundwork Wales 45% of the cost of their Healthy Rivers project. Groundwork Wales work in partnership with South East Wales Rivers Trust and NRW to co-ordinate the removal or modification of barriers to fish migration, gravel augmentation, habitat improvements. A significant amount of this works takes place in the rivers within Caerphilly county borough. Healthy Rivers aims to: protect and enhance the quality of rivers, waterways, riparian habitats and engage with communities through environmental volunteer activities.

Twmbarlwm project

NRW grant fund Caerphilly County Borough Council 45% of their Twmbarlwm project. The project is geared up to create opportunities for volunteers to lead on many projects, and in particular the long-term management of the area.

Sirhowy Valley project

NRW grant fund Caerphilly County Borough Council 47% of the cost of their Sirhowy Valley project. The project is geared up to create opportunities for volunteers to lead on many projects, and in particular the long-term management of the area.

Aberbargoed project

NRW grant fund Caerphilly County Borough Council 50% of their Aberbargoed grasslands project. The project aims to deliver holistic and integrated restoration of the Natura 2000 site and will provide a number of volunteering opportunities.

Community Flood Plans

NRW are working to build community flood plans with several communities across the Caerphilly county borough that are identified be in 'high' flood risk areas. The community flood plan looks at what the community can do before, during and after a flood. The community develop their own actions with our assistance.

NRW have one community active flood plan in Ynysddu in place, and one ongoing in Machen. In the Caerphilly county borough this work is currently mainly done in conjunction with the Local Authority and local Councillors, but in other areas NRW's have in the past worked with voluntary sector organisations. This year NRW will be starting to work in the Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach areas, and will be soon seeking to identify voluntary sector groups to work with.

3. SPECIFIC VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS NRW WORK WITH

Keep Wales Tidy

NRW regularly interact with Keep Wales Tidy within the Caerphilly county borough; with Keep Wales Tidy providing assistance on small scale fly tipping and retrieving litter from water courses.

SE Wales Rivers Trust

NRW work with the SE Rivers trust on a number of projects, such as; Healthy Rivers.

Fly life, river groups and other 'friends of' groups

Fly life do regular monitoring water courses in the area and provide NRW with information with regards to water quality. This assists NRW in identifying potential problems early. River groups, such as Cardiff River Group and Friends of Nant Cylla assist with river clean ups and blockage removals on water courses, normally via Keep Wales Tidy. NRW work with other community groups, such as; Friends of Cwmcarn Forest.

Angling Clubs

NRW provide support to a number of angling clubs from the Sustainable Fisheries Fund to provide improvements such as the construction of accessible fishing platforms, stocking of fish and habitat improvement. These often run angling participation programs within their local communities. Within the Caerphilly county borough NRW has recently provided advice and support to the following clubs:

- Cwmcarn Angling Association
- Rhymney and District Angling Association
- Islwyn and District Anglers
- Caerphilly and District Anglers.

4. OTHER GROUPS NRW WORK WITH

- 4.1 NRW also sit on wider partnership working groups for example with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Caerphilly County Borough Council and a variety of local voluntary sector stakeholders around the "large scale change" and "living well living longer" projects, and also sit on the Greener Caerphilly Leadership Group of the Single Integrated Plan 'Caerphilly Delivers'.

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