

Swansea Food Resilience Meeting

Tuesday 8th June 2021

Present: Philip McDonnell, Jason Thomas (CAE), Margot Greer, Katharine Aylett, Anthony Richards, Anna Williams, Kim Mamhende (CAE), Evie (4theregion), Elizabeth Westaway, Tyrone (CAE), Geoff Thomas

Apologies: Witchhazel Wildwood, Kate Davies, Dawn Lyle, Neil Barry, Louise Gibbard, Kate Gibbs, Thom Lynch

1/ Summary of progress since last meeting (KA):

a/ Working groups set up as following:

- Training future growers – Tom O’Kane & Geoff Thomas (Cae Tan), Cllr Mary Sherwood, Katharine Aylett
- Food preparation education – Kate Gibbs & Katharine Aylett (SCF), Cllr Alyson Pugh, Thom Lynch (Matt’s Café), Niaomh Convery (The Shared Plate), Anna Williams
- Sustainable Food Places (investigating options) – Margot Greer, Anna Williams, Katharine Aylett

b/ MG’s assets spreadsheet:

Everyone has checked their own entry, some have added assets. Spreadsheet remains open for editing:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ogxGVb8gSdLiFTc3E2slkzXMgqsPMWMMFK5sx44NdFgo/edit#gid=0>

c/ Potential partners Google Doc:

MG, KA and others have added to Doc with potential partners, including links to other community groups and the universities. Our main gap is still with finding contacts at the hospitals/health board. Doc remains open for editing:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OmocgYxRQPAniHM98EmcFYW7SmdYBPSFPlp6Yb5-JQM/edit>

Action: Expand contacts, involving all groups in Swansea, to make food matters inclusive and diverse. Everyone to add to list, with Margot to be in overall control of document.

2/ Anna Williams, Sustainable Food issues:

Anna proposed nominating a cabinet member or committee for climate change and diet, in the light of Swansea Council’s declaration of a climate emergency.

She also discussed Climate Diet, with reference to the EAT Lancet report (<https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/>) This diet is a proposed global diet which would make our consumption sustainable, and includes sections on reducing processed foods, considering meat & dairy, looking at sources of sugar, among others.

All agreed that this was a huge topic, and that the key would be to start small: sharing 'Climate Diet' recipes (AW), promoting veg eating (KA – linking to Cardiff SFP's Veg Cities campaign: <https://www.vegcities.org/local/cardiff/> - reading suggested by MG)

To get the council involved, PMc said that he would raise the issue of food at the next meeting of the PSB, which has formed a climate sub-group.

Action: Propose to add food to the issues being considered by the new Climate sub-group of the PSB, perhaps a food work stream. Actioned to Philip. Philip is drawing up an overview of food issues and players in Swansea as part of the planning for the conference.

3/ Proposed food assembly:

4th region, and their representative at this meeting, Evie, have proposed running a large food assembly in the autumn, to include a wide variety of groups. PMc and Swansea Environmental Forum to play a key role in establishing a planning group with NRW.

Action: Organise a major food event, probably regional, along the same lines as the regional transport ones, Transforming food conference. Actioned to 4th Region (Dawn and Zoe) and Swansea Environmental Forum (Philip) to establish a planning group with NRW to hold it in October 2021 TBC

4/ Food poverty:

Our representatives from CAE, Kim, Tyrone and Jason, as well as Cllr Anthony Richards from the Food Poverty Network, talked about the essential role of food banks in Swansea, and the potential for sharing CAE's excess fresh food with other food banks. CAE are looking to set up a community hub, with spaces for small businesses, a café for training and other areas. They hope to link in with other groups, and KA suggested working with the Community Farm, in the first instance.

Action: Kim leading on setting up CAE's community hub. All members to offer support as and when needed.

5/ Land use:

Geoff talked about the limited amount of land available, and the necessity for diversifying land use, and offering farmers support to do this. The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act necessitates action on the ground – more local produce, more opportunities.

KA to talk to Jack from FarmCo and the Open Food Network <https://openfoodnetwork.org.uk/> to consider options for more direct sales by local farmers.

MG mentioned need for more allotments and smallholdings in the area. Possibly to refer to Cllr Mary Sherwood?

6/ Discussion of the Dec 2020 State of Natural Resources 2020 report by NRW (SoNaRR), and to the response to the report, which highlighted three critical transformations - energy, transport and food.

<https://naturalresources.wales/sonarr2020?lang=en>

7/ Addendum: KA had to leave meeting early, but promised notes on Sustainable Food Places
<https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/>:

The 6 key issues of the SFPs seem to me to reflect the concerns raised at this and the last meeting – diet for climate change, land use, poverty, health and community. Briefly, the 6 issues are:

a/ Food governance & strategy, including setting up a steering group, writing a charter and food system mapping

b/ Good Food Movement – building public awareness through social media, events, etc (would tie in with AW's ideas about promoting Climate Diet)

c/ Healthy Food For All – tackling food poverty & diet-related ill health through: access to affordable healthy food, free school meals, promoting the Living Wage, providing resources for advisors & health professionals to promote healthy eating

d/ Sustainable Food Economy – promoting local food to retail, tourist sites etc. Shortening supply chains. Support for local producers & food entrepreneurs.

e/ Catering & Procurement – Sustainable Food Procurement policy for the council (cf Carmarthen: <https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s22216/Report.pdf>) Also universities, hospitals. Setting up 'meet the supplier' events for local businesses.

f/ Food for the Planet – more land for growing, campaigning around sustainable food, including local, Fairtrade, high animal welfare. Reduce waste, inc. composting, food waste, projects such as Sweet Pickings.

8/ Next meeting proposed for 6th or 13th July.