

Coed y Mynydd Forest District  
Gwydyr Uchaf  
LLANRWST  
Conwy. LL26 0PN

Our ref: FM32/6/3

To: Chris Edwards                      Jonathan Levell  
John Ratcliffe                          Paul Whalley  
Gwyn Jones                              Dave Cowley  
Wil Sandison                             David Hewett  
Dave Rees                                Peter Charleston  
Enid Mummery                          Christian Branch  
Simon Hunt                               Hugh Knott  
Neil Johnstone

Cc: Mr Alun Morgan Owen – Countryside Officer, Anglesey County Council  
Mr Robert Lloyd Hughes – Councillor for Bodorgan

INVITED: - Hilary Davies (Eryri Orienteering Club)

**NEWBOROUGH ENVIRONMENT PANEL**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2003**  
**At Prichard Jones Institute, Newborough**

MEETING CHAIRED by Jonathan Levell – District Forester, Planning

1. APOLOGIES: Terry O’Keefe, Peter Charleston and Paul Whalley.
2. OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS – [from previous meetings]

a. Archive Material – A lot of the FC photos were used for the Forest in the Rural Community Project, but are still destined for the archives at Llangefni.

Also, it was suggested that the recorded CD ROM’s compiled from the FRC project should be available for people to purchase copies. Contact the National Library, ask whether copyright could be waived in some way.

Action : MG

b. Newborough Beach Car Park Toilets – Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (C.P.R.W.) will visit the new toilets in the main beach car park on the 7th July, to present an award for the toilets.

Action : MG

c. Tree Station Project (Bio-fuel) – This was an action point for Terry, but unfortunately due to Terry’s move to Cardiff as Assembly liaison Officer no progress has been made on this subject.

Action : JL

d. Forest Watch Tower – The tower, which was considered unsafe, has now been dismantled, although the pieces are still on site.

Discharged

e. Anglesey Woodland Strategy – Final strategy was due out by the end of March 2003. The executive summary has gone to the new portfolio holder Garth Winston. The intention is for it is published possibly by September 2003.

Action : SH

f. Woodlands in the Rural Community Project – Project finished March/ April 2003. Jane Jones took over from Mair Davies as project co-ordinator. Jane was keen to carry on the project as she felt there was still a lot more to do. The aim of the project was to produce audio history CD's and to provide copies for the local community to utilise. There are still another eight or ten CD's to arrive. The idea is that the general public can come here, to the institute, and listen to the CD's.

Check with Kath McNaulty (Social Team) about whether funding is available to enable this project to continue at Newborough, and to chase up the outstanding CD's. Also, will it be possible to get permission, from the National Library for Wales, for members of the public to take copies of the CD's.

Action : JL, MG

g. Community Beat Managers (North Wales Police) – Not sure what the present position is concerning the Community Beat Manager for the Newborough area, is there one?

Action : Defered

### 3. ACTION POINTS FROM LAST MEETING (26<sup>th</sup> June, 2003)

i. Update on Llys Rhosyr Project – Just under £60,000 has already been received for this project. The intention now is to use the existing facilities here at the Institute. A room will be dedicated to the project and it will have some additional display material installed. Also, there is two staff to open up the exhibition from 10am until 4pm, including weekends.

We are hoping to see significantly more visitors this year thanks to the flyers and all the promotional material. The bid is being used to up-grade the exhibition and there has been an additional virtual reality package that has cost £10,000 for a two minute film.

As far as next year is concerned the emphasis will be on the longer term viability of Llys Rhosyr . A meeting with Karl Atkinson (CCW Interpretations) a couple of month's ago, it was agreed that CCW could help with commissioning a feasibility study on what exactly would work in this area. C.C.W. have also said that there will be some funding from them for the feasibility study. A total budget of about £25,000 for the feasibility study is expected at this stage. The study should address such issues as identifying suitable buildings. It could be a new building or existing buildings e.g. the Pritchard Jones Institute. Also what facilities will be required need to be identified etc.

Action : NJ

ii. Newborough Forest Re-design Progress (Update) – The forest design plan for Newborough ran out three years ago. Because of this there is no clear felling or replanting going on there at the moment.

Because of the SAC designation, the way the forest is presently managed and the way it is going to develop in the future could change quite radically. A group consisting of Simon Hunt (ACC), John Ratcliffe (CCW), Hilary Miller (CCW), John Ferguson (FC), Martin Gould (FC) and Jon Levell (FC) was set up to try and come up with a way forward. Once this way forward has been agreed it will provide the bases for the future Newborough Design Plan.

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June the Forestry Advisory Committee for Wales (FCACW) visited Newborough, basically they are an arbitration group, they arbitrate on things like grants that are in dispute etc. They were invited to provide useful comments on the proposals reached so far. We are now waiting for the minutes from their meeting.

Also, deforestation over a certain hectareage will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). We will be having a scoping meeting towards the end of this month (June). Greg Vickers, who is the FC Operations Manager for North Wales, will be organising and inviting people who can contribute to the process which basically will include the people on this panel, someone from the council to cover the economical aspects, also, someone from the community council.

Action : JL/JR

iii. Newborough Forest Red Squirrel Re-introduction Pilot Project (Update) – Earlier this year five breeding enclosures were constructed, these are 7 meters square. There is a total of five, which are hidden from view in a slack area. At the moment there are four pairs in it all. We have heard that one of the females is pregnant and we have a suspicion that another one might have some young in a box. If they are successful then the intention will be to release the young possibly December this year 2003). This is the earliest release time, but might play safe and delay release until early next year.

One of the animals came from Cumbria, the others are captive breed animals. It is hoped that a few animals could be moved from Pentraeth, possibly towards the end of this year. The situation there is that Pentraeth is believed to have reached its maximum carrying capacity. Although there is still young born there their chances of colonising suitable neighbouring woodlands is very slim.

Some DNA studies of the Pentraeth population have shown that they are genetically very impoverished. This could justify getting other animals in from outside this area, to increase and improve the genetic diversity.

Grey Squirrel control is going very well in Newborough. The forest has been trapped four times altogether, each time fewer numbers have been caught, the number is virtually halving every trapping session. Last time only 20 animals were trapped.

Some interesting data on the parapox virus, as you may know it is a virus that is the main cause of death in red squirrels, it is a virus that is transferred from the greys. Testing for the presence of parapox in greys throughout Anglesey has taken place since the beginning of the project. Early figures showed a percentage of 60% to 100% greys had parapox, initially in Newborough the figure was up to 90%. This has dropped off very dramatically and recently the potential risk of this disease in Newborough is down to 10%.

Action : HK

iv. Fieldfare Trust, Access Report – Getting on for a year now, we realised Newborough is a site where less able people would most expect to have access, where as the more mountainous terrain they wouldn't expect to access. Newborough on the other hand is easy terrain in terms of slop etc.

We have never really looked at the overall site as how accessible it was, so we commissioned the Field Fair Trust to come and do an audit of the site. We finally received the document, of 44 pages, last week. In broad terms their recommendations are improving gradients on some of the trails. Not talking about major works in any way. We need to improve work on some of the existing trails i.e. the blue trail in particular has been identified as being potential for improving access. The Hendy trail they suggest is probably not practical for access. Llyn Parc Mawr they have identified that the existing disabled access to Willow Hide is not up to standard, so we are probably looking at doing more work there. Main beach car park, suggestions as to how we could rearrange the traffic flow, particularly in line with the new toilets. Need to get together on site and look at what has been said and see how it applies and then what we may do.

The document is available to any one who wants it. No spare copies available today but will send or email copies to any body who wants one. Copy requested by Gwyn, Enid, John and Simon.

I need to stress that it is an audit, it doesn't mean we will implement everything in the report, we will pick out from it the things that we think are appropriate and come back to this forum to discuss at a later date.

Action : RW

v. Eryri Orienteering Club Proposed Use of Newborough Forest – Hilary Davies was invited to put forward proposals for an orienteering event, at Newborough, on behalf of Eryri Orienteering Club.

There has been two major events in Newborough so far, one in 1995 and the second in 2001. These were very large events (attracting an estimated 5,000 people) one was the British championship and the other became the British championship because it was the first main event after the foot and mouth outbreak when orienteering had been stopped. The original agreement was that Newborough Forest would be used only for national events and no more than one event every five years.

The nature of orienteering in Eryri has changed, it has become much more locally focused and want much smaller events for their members. It is expected that no more than between 20 - 70 people would take part in any one event. The proposals are to replace the larger national event with a much smaller event (no more than 20 to 70 people), per year.

The British Orienteering Federation has produced a brochure, in conjunction with English Nature, on orienteering and the environment and it shows the commitment that this sport has to working with all conservation agencies.

The Eryri Orienteering Club also has a development officer, who is going around the local schools promoting map reading/orienteering. She provides instruction on orienteering to primary schools. This facility could be made available to Newborough School.

The procedure used for the previous events was FC/CCW would provide a map showing areas where there are areas of constraints, usually 'no go areas'. These would be areas sensitive to

disturbance e.g. ponds, squirrel release pens, areas of botanical interest likely to be damaged by trampling, also areas which would be dangerous for people to enter such as active harvesting sites. Due to the nature of these constraints changing from year to year it would be necessary to review the constraints information each year.

The most acceptable time for any event would have to be restricted to the months of September to the end of February.

Eryri Orienteering Club to liaise with Martin Gould, Wil Sandison whom will provide club organisers with maps showing the areas of constraints.

Action : WS/MG

#### 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Simon Hunt - BIO Fuel - is discussing, with a local community group 'Sylfaen' on trying to set up a bio mass project in Newborough. One of the issues will be to utilise the of brash and possibly the roots arising from the redesigning of the forest. We are looking at trying to make it a much more of a social heating scheme so that it will hopefully be providing cheaper energy for the members of the community who are disadvantaged. At the moment it is in the very early stages and I have got a meeting set up next week when we shall be discussing the why, how and wherefore and I will keep you up dated on how it goes.

Action : SH

Neil Johnstone - EXIBITION MATERIAL - as mentioned earlier, we are running the exhibition here in the Institute, between 10am and 4pm on as many days of the week as possible. We do have a few gaps in respect of display material. If any one has any spare material that we could use to close any of these gaps like displays that we can use here. If any one has got anything could they talk to Enid or myself.

Action : ALL PANEL MEMBERS

Gwyn Jones - THANKS - requested, on behalf of all the panel members, that thanks where passed to Mrs Gould for making cakes and biscuits for this meeting.

**Date of the next meeting - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2003.**

Martin Gould  
Local Area Manager, Anglesey.