

The Trustees are aware that financially things are uncertain for the foreseeable future but they are committed and are working well together to plan for the future. Gareth was delighted with the recent successful funding applications for the Sustainable Energy Group project.

No news has been received on the Community Land owned by PCC which Pembroke 21C would like to use for a gardening/ produce project. He had spoken to PCC two weeks ago and they were trying to resolve issues with the land being used for allotments.

5. Report from the Development Officer

Elizabeth circulated her written report which she went through, and an update report on project development. These documents are attached to the minutes.

The representatives from PLANED were invited to explain their Sustainable Communities Toolkit which they would like to carry out with two workshops in Pembroke during February 2009. Trustees had agreed to one workshop taking place in Foundry House but had requested that the other take place in St Mary North, where there were many difficult issues and problems particularly with the Devon Drive estate. PLANED explained that the each session would last about two hours and they would produce a report for each which would be combined into one final report. This could be used with the other work taking place to provide a new Action Plan for Pembroke. The recent action plan carried out in Monkton together with other work would also feed into this process. A long-term resident of Devon Drive, Helen Niebling, explained some of the problems there and the difficulties that PLANED would encounter getting people to come to the workshop. It was suggested that the workshop be held in the Scout Hut. Pembroke 21C will promote the workshops in NETWORK and on their website and would put up notices but PLANED would need to contact local groups and speak to the Town Council themselves.

6. Reports from Sub-Group Chairs

Environment and Heritage: Nikki Anderson reported that the triangle of land at the end of Banker's Row was being cleared and seeded. The Litter Group had carried out a litter clearance in November and in December had been planting daffodils around Castle Pond. The Civic Trust had agreed to develop the Town Trail with new numbered and descriptive plaques. This will link well with The Pembroke Story project. Melissa Howells of PCC had attended the last meeting. Members of the group had attended the consultation on the Conservation Area and had read copies of the Draft Statement. The plan looked good but it depends on how well it is enforced. The next meeting will be on 28th January.

Farmers Market: The markets are going very well though numbers attending have dropped off over the winter. The last market this year will be the big Christmas one on 20th December. Next year's markets will start on 28th February for St David's Day and run fortnightly. Partnership with PCC was going well – the markets should be inspected by FARMA next year with a view to Accreditation. PCC had covered all three Pembrokeshire markets in their new calendar for 2009 listing dates and producers. New producers had signed up for 2009.

Festival: Gareth reported that Ian McDowall had taken over the Chair. A £20,000 budget had been set for 2009 with around £11,500 already secured. The group are aware that they have to do some serious fundraising. This budget allows for some Development Officer time – this must be covered because it is not now funded elsewhere. The dates would be 2nd to 5th July and the main events based on the South Quay with a marquee which would allow both free and ticketed events. There is a good group with some experienced people back on board. The change of dates should allow for workshops in schools which would involve children in the opening parade and the town traders were now on board. The next meeting is on 14th January.

Foundry Fundraisers: Pierce Murphy was not present to report. The group are taking a stall at the Mayor's Christmas Bazaar on Saturday where they will also run a raffle. They plan a book / table top sale in the new year. A 100 club is being considered.

The Pembroke Story – Linda Asman:

Linda reported on the Project Launch held on 25th October. This had been a very successful event in the Town Hall with lots of good feedback. The website was now on line from 19th November. People are invited to contribute. She and Nikki were continuing to interview and collect photos. They are compiling a programme for next year of events, talks and walks with something happening each month. They will be going into schools in January. .

Pembroke Mill Ponds Action Group: John Hayes reported that the reed beds laid last January were now developing well and had improved the habitat. More species are appearing, mainly because the fish were now attracted to the ponds encouraging cormorants, otters and kingfishers. More reeds need to be put in. A new newsletter will go out soon. There is to be a walk on Sunday 14th December from the Mill Bridge at 2pm. Nikki continues to run the otter project and the bat project is now coming to an end. However, John hopes that the group will continue to monitor bats in the area, particularly looking at roosts in nearby houses. A working party will take place in Holyland Wood over the Christmas holidays to strim the meadow and move the specimen trees from there to other parts of the wood. The PMAG were opening up two of their quarterly committee meetings to members with a walk or talk after business. The AGM will be on Monday 26th January. In response to Gareth's keen interest in bees John would look at putting a bee box in the woodland to encourage them. Helen Niebling was interested in volunteering opportunities on the two projects. It was suggested that she come into the office to talk to the project officer.

Sustainable Energy Group: Rosey Mitchell reported that the group had been working with post-graduate students from the Welsh School of Architecture at Cardiff University on a methodology for an ecological footprint audit. She and Elizabeth had been to Cardiff twice and the group had visited Pembroke. Funding had been secured from Awards for All Wales of £5,000 and the Waterloo Foundation £6,000 for the project. The group aim to get the audit carried out with a 10% structured sample in the new year and will need lots of volunteer help. Volunteers will receive training. The questionnaire will, however, be open to all and put on the website. They are planning monthly messages to raise awareness and to go into schools and talk to other groups to get them involved.

PLANED had been interested in this project as a pilot within a larger Interreg project but this had fallen through. They were now looking at Rural Development Plan funding which would be applied for in February. They will keep Elizabeth informed.

7. Reports from Affiliated Groups

There were no representatives of affiliated groups present to report.

8. Any Other Business

Chris Urack mentioned that there would be Fair Trade events at Monkton school on 15th January. They could come into Pembroke afterwards to meet with Jane Davidson AM who was visiting Pembroke 21C and the Mill Ponds that day.

9. Date Of Next Meeting

Meetings for 2009 would be held on Wednesdays 11th March, 10th June – AGM, 9th September and 9th December.