**Notes from ‘Plastic Free Swansea’ Meeting 17th April 2018**

**and Proposed Action Plan**

**Present:**

Philip McDonnell Swansea Environmental Forum, Environment Centre, Renew Wales

John Childs Swansea Friends of the Earth

Mary Davies Turner Swansea Friends of the Earth

Delyth Higgins Sustainable Swansea & Renew Wales

Phil Brophy Member of the public

Peter Anderson VocalEyes

Chris Evans Swansea and Gower Green Party

Chris Dean Beach Cleans/ MCS

Roy Jones Swansea Friends of the Earth

Elen Richards Pwys and Swansea Food Assembly

Riccardo Corvi Italian intern currently at Environment Centre

Mary Sherwood Councillor for Uplands and Cabinet member for Future Generations

**General discussion points:**

* Still clearly an issue for lots of people-need to capitalise on this enthusiasm and interest amongst the public, organisations, retailers, businesses and politicians.
* Important to keep the ‘wider’ group of people involved and up to date.
* Suggestion on bringing or promoting all activities / campaigns etc. to do with this under one ‘banner’. Not re-inventing the wheel but cross-promotion.
* Examples given of Aberporth and others who have achieved, or certainly working towards a plastic-free status.
* Also of ‘Refill’ - a scheme that businesses can sign up to allow people to refill tap water on their premises. An app showing sites is part of it. There is a cost involved but could be a way forward.
* Some activity already going on in Pennard and Bishopston via VocalEyes engagement.
* The Green Party will be doing supermarket audits of plastic packaging.
* Lots of good short videos and campaigns being done by various groups such as Greenpeace, Marine Conservation Society and Surfers against Sewage for example.
* Other ideas such as linking with Well-Being Plan for Swansea and holding a Plastic-Free festival.
* Renew Wales (through its two Swansea Co-ordinators) is committed to arranging a regional event in June – theme will be plastics. Further discussion & planning to be done.
* There are very local opportunities of particular relevance to Swansea i.e. with the coastline.
* Beach cleans and litter picking in other areas - involve Keep Wales Tidy and others
* Issues can be grouped into: political, promotional, consumer purchasing, businesses, knowledge and understanding of info, on the ground action.

**Actions:**

* **#PlasticFreeSwansea** is the overall banner title
* Aim to hold next public meeting / get together in early June. But in the meantime:
* Twitter, Facebook and simple website to be created ASAP
* 4 headings which outline the various interest people will have in this issue, as follows:
	+ **Shop –** promoting ideas and increasing opportunities for plastic-free options
	+ **Inform –** disseminating information to the public online and through events
	+ **Campaign –** influencing businesses and decision-makers, highlighting campaigns
	+ **Get involved –** help individuals to take practical action

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| **Action Areas** | **Activities** | **Lead** |
| **Shop** | Collating information on buying plastic free | Delyth Higgins, Mary Davies Turner |
| Progress ‘Refill’ scheme for filling water bottles | Elen Richards, Delyth Higgins, Philip McDonnell, Peter Anderson  |
| Develop plans for a refilling outlet | Elen Richards |
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| **Inform** | Creating ‘Plastic Free Swansea’ Facebook page | Phil Brophy, Peter Anderson |
| Creating ‘Plastic Free Swansea’ Twitter handle | Phil Brophy |
| Creating ‘Plastic Free Swansea’ website | Mary Davies Turner, Phil Brophy |
| Stall at Marina Market  | To be confirmed |
| Organise Renew Wales regional event with ‘plastics’ theme | Delyth Higgins, Philip McDonnell |
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| **Campaign**  | Supermarket audit | Gareth Evans |
| Plastic tax campaign | John Childs, Peter Anderson, Elen Richards  |
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| **Get Involved** | Compile events list including on beach & other clean-ups | Philip McDonnell, Riccardo Corvi, Chris Dean, (Phil Budd), (National Trust) |
| VocalEyes community engagement and schools work | Peter Anderson  |
| ‘Plastic Free Swansea’ Awareness raising month (June) | To be confirmed |
| ‘Plastic Free Swansea’ Taking Action month (Sept) | To be confirmed |