



**Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru**  
**Natural Resources Wales**



**Making the Most of all our Assets in the Rhondda:**  
**Creating a healthy and vibrant Rhondda together**

**Tuesday 24th March 2015, Heritage Park Hotel, Rhondda**

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## AGENDA

9.30am

Tea / coffee on arrival

10.00am

Introduction and aims of the session Fran O'Hara, Scarlet Design

10.10am

**Why Natural Resource Management?**

Bill Purvis, Natural Resources Planning Manager South Wales,  
Natural Resources Wales

10.20am

**How we are working on an area based approach in the Rhondda**

- Update and progress to date
- Inspiring examples from home and further afield
- Christian Servini and Becky Davies, Natural Resources Wales

10.35am

**Exercise 1: What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which by working better together, makes the most of everything we've got?**

World Café group exercise and feedback

11.20am

Coffee break

11.35am

**Exercise 2: How we can make our ideas work for the Rhondda?**

Forming new discussion groups based on the interests and themes which emerge from Exercise 1

12.30pm

**Next steps - making things happen**

- How we're going to take this forward
- Who else needs to be involved?
- Thanks & feedback

1.00 - 2.00pm

Close and lunch



## INTRODUCTION



**Our environment is one of our greatest assets, worth approximately £8bn to the Welsh economy each year. Our purpose as NRW is to ensure joined-up delivery so our natural resources in**

**Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used for people, business and the environment. We are the first organisation of its kind which looks at the big picture for the environment.**

Nearly 2 years ago Natural Resources Wales was launched in the Rhondda (in Treherbert). We chose the Rhondda to launch NRW because we were keen to highlight the social and educational work we do within communities.

### **Sustainable development to secure the long term well-being of Wales**

The event was a great opportunity for a wide range of organisations, groups and people of the Rhondda to come together and help develop a vision for how we manage the area's natural resources.

It's important to understand the current context for why we're doing this. For Wales to develop sustainably, we need to change the law to put in place the key elements that will enable it to happen. The three bills to do this are currently being drafted and debated by the Welsh Government and Ministers:

- **The Well-being of Future Generations Bill** placing 7 well-being goals into law, and requiring public bodies to apply the sustainable development principle to the way they plan their services;
- **The Environment Bill**, putting in place a modern statutory process to plan and manage our natural resources in a joined up and sustainable way;
- **The Planning Bill**, to improve the existing planning process to ensure the right development is located in the right place.

### **Natural resource management**

The event was primarily focussed on the proposals of the Environment Bill, which is for a new integrated, area based planning approach to natural resource management. It is intended that this new framework will link existing tools and processes, and complement planning and sustainable development laws to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits for Wales.



This also includes new duties for NRW to develop and implement a proactive and more joined-up approach to the planning and management of our natural resources, and to ensure evidence from this process feeds into appropriate delivery plans.

Some of the key elements of this new approach include being: area based, evidence based and people focussed with stakeholders involved throughout. Planning should be for the long term and at the appropriate scale.

These new duties are expected to come into force in mid-2016. Exactly what shape the new approach will take will emerge from the next stages of work, as we need to trial different approaches and find out what works best in practice.

In preparation for this, we're progressing three area-based trials: in the Rhondda, the Tawe and the Dyfi. For the Rhondda, we have met with many organisations, groups and residents to talk through this approach, and we have listened to your knowledge and understanding of the area.

### **Our next steps...**

An area based approach will enable us to establish a clear set of priorities for managing our natural resources, to help deliver multiple benefits for the people, economy and environment. The ultimate outcome should be a clear, prioritised and focussed approach to delivery leading to tangible change 'on the ground'.

The new approach is not intended to add another layer of complexity or another set of plans. Instead, integrated natural resource management needs to be designed to link up existing processes, plans and policies in order to strengthen linkages between different elements of strategic governance.

Right now we all have an opportunity to be part of a new approach, and share our knowledge and understanding of the Rhondda to help shape how we sustainably manage the area's natural resources now, and in the future.

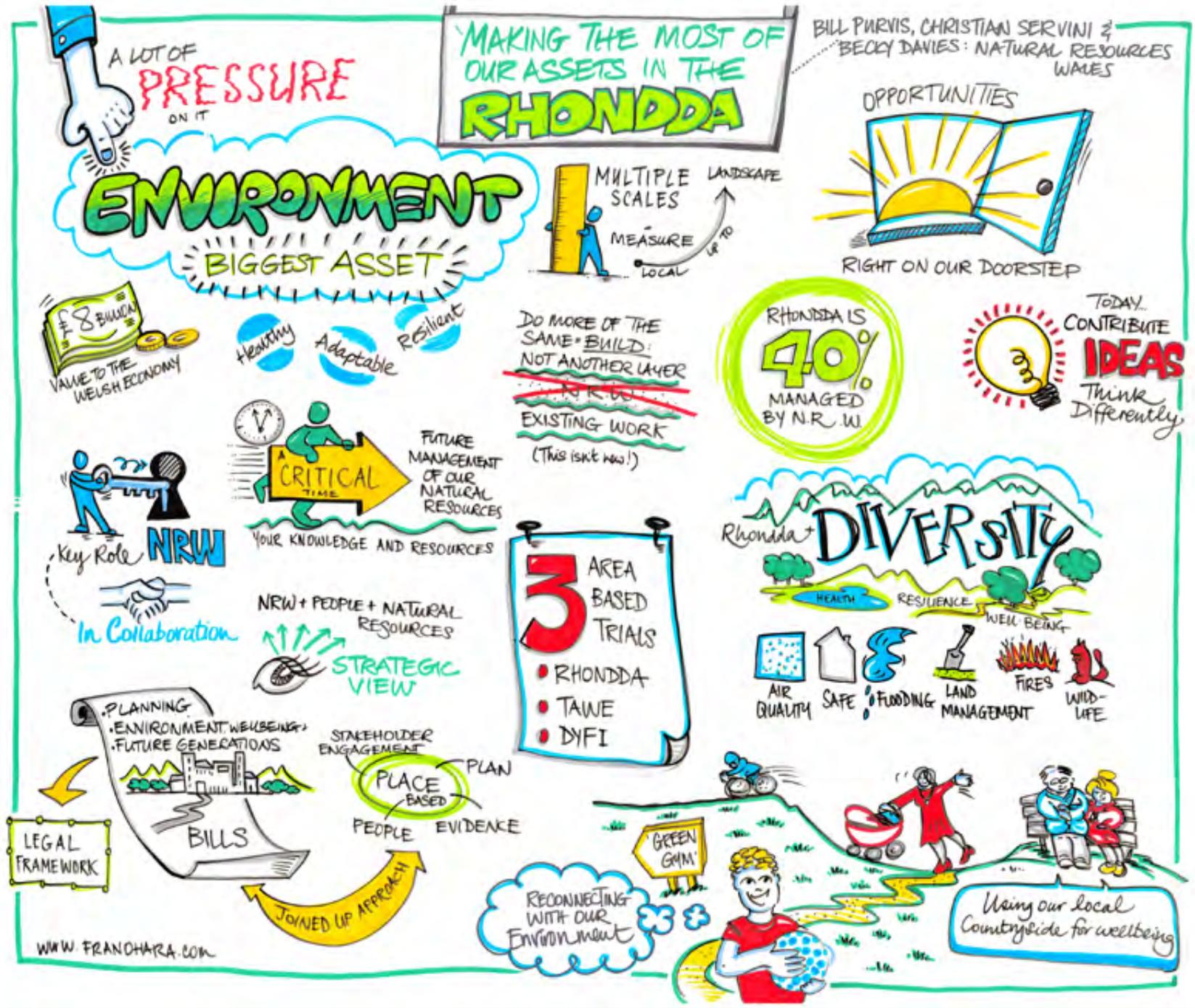
We would like to thank everyone who took part and we hope to see you at our next event on 4th June 2015 in the Rhondda.

**Christian Servini and Becky Davies, Area Based Project Leads for the Rhondda, Natural Resources Wales**

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Visual Minutes  
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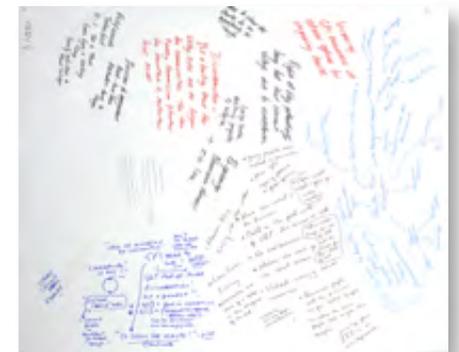
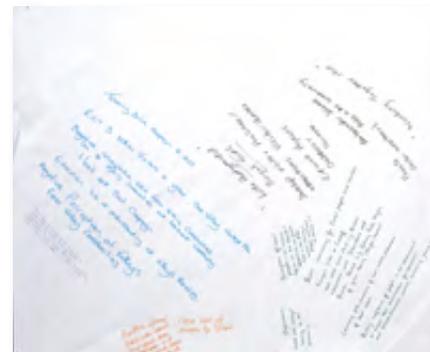


# 1 What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which uses all our assets and makes the most of everything we've got here?

Participants took part in a World Café style group discussion, writing, drawing and doodling their comments and ideas, on large-scale table sheets.

At the end of their 'big conversation' each group was asked to choose 1 or 2 main points for their table host to feedback to the room. These resulted in vibrant and in-depth whole room discussions:

1. People in the Rhondda regularly access their environment, because it's easy to do and they recognise the benefits.
2. Rhondda is a fantastic resource that needs recognition, care and attention. We need to move away from negative perceptions and help stop the negative media portrayal.
3. The perception of the valleys from within communities is negative. Our history defines us but shouldn't determine our future. We need to promote the assets of the Valleys, and use it to create a sustainable tourism product.
4. Organisations and communities working better together.
5. Rhondda has a natural environment that links communities and supports excellent health, heritage and education.

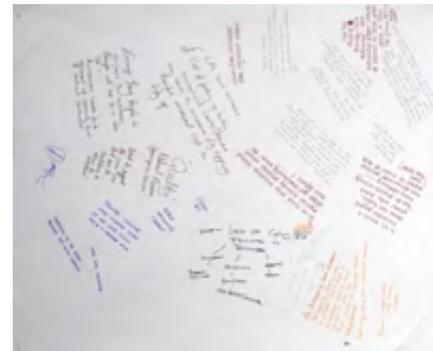
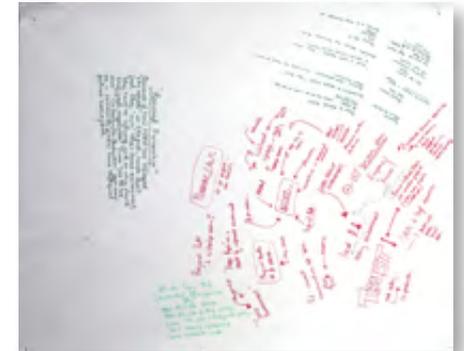


Larger images of these table-sheets are available in the Appendix section of this document, **page 30**.



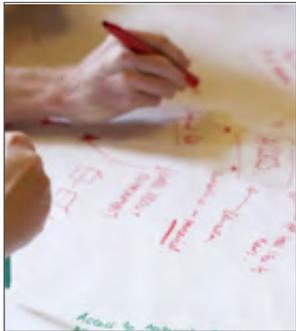
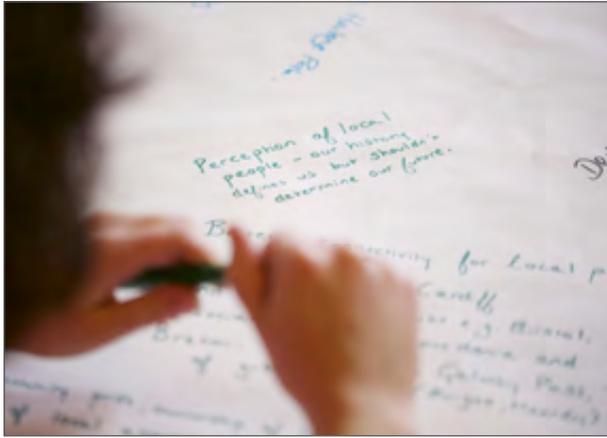
# 1 What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which uses all our assets and makes the most of everything we've got here?

6. In a vibrant, busy and safe community, people perceive their ownership of place and trust one another to make the most of it. There is work going on at a smaller scale and a critical mass of projects that work. The focus is on co-design, co-production, communities and local businesses are involved. Projects are self-sustaining and we loose the grant dependency culture.
7. Economic regeneration - keep this in the valleys (balance the Cardiff-centric approach).
8. Restored, recreated, reconnected biodiversity.
9. Exemplary management of public land-approximately 55% of the land area in the Rhondda is publicly owned - sustainable, resilient, integrated natural resource management.
10. The legacy of the forest as a “no go area” is changed for good! Welcome people in, make them areas for walking, biking.
11. Reconnect people to their local environment - particularly rivers.



Larger images of these table-sheets are available in the Appendix section of this document, **page 30**.





## 2 Making our ideas work for the Rhondda & next steps...



Each World Café table host summarised their main points on post-its, and these were clustered and used to define the themes or the next steps' action-planning open space style activity. These were presented to the room and agreed.

This uses an ABCD (asset based community development) approach, where a group chooses themes that matter to them, and then step forward to take part in a discussion/s about these. Adding their name to the theme list, to start working towards communities of interest that might be interested in taking this work forward. Using the assets we have to solve the problems they co-productively define and choose to work on.

Participants were invited to join whichever group they liked. Participants could move between groups, if they felt they could add nothing further to the discussion, if they felt they were no longer learning from the discussion, or if they felt their time and contribution could be greater joining another

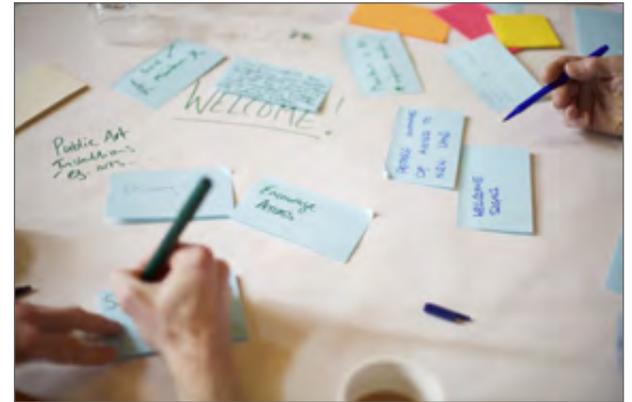
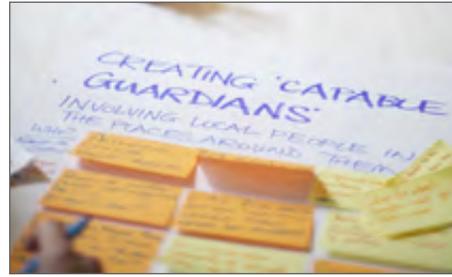
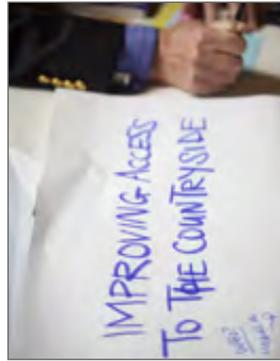
group. Each table was again hosted by a member of NRW staff.

Names of individuals who participated in each discussion are given to enable interested parties to link with them, and contribute to progress.

Seven themes were identified from the World Café, presented and agreed with by the room. These were:

- **Theme 1:** Management of public land [environmental focus] & nature recovery in the Valleys
- **Theme 2:** Collecting what works - ideas, models, case studies. How can we do this [asset based, integrated nature and community development] and share learning?
- **Theme 3:** Creating 'Capable Guardians' - involving local people in the places around them
- **Theme 4:** Helping health to fund outdoor activities (building an evidence base)
- **Theme 5:** A Restored Hydrology in the Rhondda - How do we achieve this?
- **Theme 6:** Improving Access to the countryside
- **Theme 7:** Changing Perceptions of the Rhondda





## THEME 1: Management of public land [environmental focus] & nature recovery in the Valleys

Group: Andy Robinson (table host), Carys Solman, James Byrne, Phil Ratcliffe, Richard Winstow, Jill Price, Daerwynno Centre and Becky Davies

Participants feel and/or fear the possibility that recent developments (e.g. formation of NRW – with a broader remit than their legacy bodies; local socio-economic pressures and austerity measures in public funding etc.) mean nature conservation is/will be of lower priority than in the past, and identified a need to redress the imbalance, before irreversible damage is done to local habitats and species.

A strong theme here was the need for ambition and leadership and setting targets in order to achieve beneficial outcomes:

- “Be bigger and bolder with our ambitions, act on a landscape scale”
- “Change the perception of what is good for biodiversity – tree planting, wildflower seeds, digging ponds – not the only answer”
- “Halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020”

Given the Welsh Government Woodland Estate accounts for some 40% of the land area in the Rhondda trial area, this was a strong focus of discussions, and there is a call for more information and transparency regarding the value, and the costs and benefits of managing the woodland estate:

- “Economic benefits of the WGWE – need to understand the reality”
- Treasury won’t let us change forestry due to the economic benefits”
- Need long term consistency and transparency from WG”

The total amount of land in public ownership / management in the Rhondda amounts to approximately 55% (NRW and local authority managed land). There was also discussion about how to manage the land, particularly in the light of limited capacity (human resources) in the public sector. There were several suggestions regarding working with others:

*“Establish a joined-up group, comprising many organisations”*

*“Grazing networks – conservation grazing licenses”*

*“Work with private landowners – education & training, small grants, restoration”*

Discussions arose too regarding the Area Statement to be produced describing the Rhondda Trial area: what will it contain, what is it for, who is the audience, how will it evolve (needs to be an evolving document if it is to remain relevant).



## THEME 1: Management of public land [environmental focus] & nature recovery in the Valleys

### A number of projects were cited from which the Rhondda Trial area could learn

Local Wildlife Sites - a Wildlife Trusts project, supporting landowners to manage grassland/heathland sites, creating a connected network of habitats. Assistance offered includes free wildlife surveys and habitat management planning, as well as to help with items such as fencing, scrub clearance and hedge-laying to help neglected sites return to effective grazing regimes. [www.gwentwildlife.org/what-we-do/projects/lws-se-wales-project](http://www.gwentwildlife.org/what-we-do/projects/lws-se-wales-project)

Lessons can be learned from the Gower Commons Initiative

## ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS

### What do we need?

- An area statement that delivers for nature conservation
- WG policy on forestry should consider Biodiversity and more appropriate land management. We need an appropriately funded and resourced Nature Recovery Plan (e.g. £1.8 million / yr.)

### Action (to make it happen)

- An Area Statement which is very Area based - recognisable to all in the Rhondda.
- It needs to be bold and ambitious. It needs to challenge. It needs to be produced by many and be useful to many. It needs to lead other plans and initiatives to a common vision. It needs to challenge the status quo.

### Who?

- All Welsh Government Departments! Funding and resource must come from all departments that can benefit from integrated natural resource management - e.g. Health and Well being department and NHS contribution to preventative measures.
- NRW, Conservation organisations, LAs, everyone.
- There are difficulties as financial resources are squeezed so there must be a commitment from WG to support this initiative, not just from biodiversity budget, but other budgets too.

### When?

- Change should start now, and build into the future



## **THEME 2: Collecting what works – ideas, models, case studies. How can we do this [asset based, integrated nature and community development] and share learning?**

**Group: Helen Fletcher (table host), Roy Edwards,  
Bill Purvis, Andrew Osbourne and Gwyn Smith**

The group began by thinking about the process of managing and disseminating best practise, which raised more questions about how to manage information and dissemination – e.g.

- Use a “hub” to avoid reinvention – but who will coordinate it?
- Wales Audit Office – collect best practise examples – who is the key contact?

The group also named some projects that work:

- Green Flag judging – eight key criteria are: a welcoming place; healthy, safe and secure; clean and well maintained; sustainability; conservation and heritage; community involvement; marketing; management.

- Incredible edible & Community Foodie
- Rhondda’s best practice strategy for dealing with invasives like Japanese knotweed.
- Invention locally to meet need endures better than imposed ideas (e.g. charity work).
- Atlantic Gateway & Stuttgart - the development of metropolitan governance in the region, structures, actors, policies and processes, aiming to strengthen international competitiveness while enhancing natural environment and quality of life in a sustainable way. Both have used their hinterland to feed into the cities.

And some that they perceive don’t work:

- Heads of the Valleys – a funding vehicle, not a sustained concept to drive change. Short term funding doesn’t work.
- There is a process gap between policy and delivery

Emergent ideas beginning to think about what is needed / what might work, were also noted:

- Principles are established at city region level.
- Agglomerate to work together and support mutual efforts
- There are case studies but these are very local, e.g. upland river catchment work in one area, middle river management in another area & the bay in another area – develop a Taff management plan – city regions approach / landscape scale.



**THEME 2: Collecting what works**  
**- ideas, models, case studies.**  
**How can we do this [asset based, integrated nature and community development] and share learning?**

## **ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS**

### **What do we need?**

- Good evidence for decision making

### **Action (to make it happen)**

- Action (to make it happen)
- Natural capital finance: grant / loan for SE Wales.
- Looking at systems and processes not something unsustainable

### **Who?**

- TCBC - SE Wales area / NRW; South East Wales Directors of Environmental & Regeneration group.
- Andrew Osbourne & Bill Purvis will take next steps

### **When?**

- Within next couple of weeks - scoping what the potential is!



## THEME 3: Creating ‘Capable Guardians’ – involving local people in the places around them

Group: Gary Evans (table host), Heledd Morgan, Ian Woodland, Mike Ash and Sue Hill.

The discussion leading to this theme had been around involvement and activity in the outdoors and with nature, enabling people to feel connection with and ownership of a place. This in turn creates a desire to share the potential enjoyment with others, and to a certain extent beginning to build up social norms about what activities and behaviours are appropriate and reinforcing – community growing, outdoor sports, gardening and what behaviours are not (e.g. fly tipping).

Use asset based community development – link people according to place, interest, situation and let people get on with it. Allow flexibility of choice regarding how people engage with their area, open access, because conditions for access currently seem to allow bad uses and behaviours only.

Participants noted that many don’t feel confident to go outdoors, and feel they need the support of guides. Others felt that many organisations are risk averse and fear a culture of litigation – limiting people’s possibilities further.

Responses suggested to this were to:

- Work with schools to build generational change
- Open and improve access to the WG forest estate,
- Improve signage
- People and organisations should accept that there is an inherent risk associated with some outdoor activities
- Listen to what people want to do
- Learn from Cornwall – an example of LA’s empowering communities



## **THEME 3: Creating ‘Capable Guardians’ – involving local people in the places around them**

### **ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS**

#### **What do we need?**

- Strategic direction to make best use of enthusiasts that exist in communities in Rhondda
- Enthusiasts know how to best access NRW estate
- An inviting NRW estate, says “Please come in!”
- Encourage an “adopt a path” scheme

#### **Action (to make it happen)**

- Less red-tape and bureaucracy from LA’s and NRW (new NRW forms are 20 pages long!!)
- Culture change, from organisations, encourage groups to NRW estate to use estate positively
- Remove disconnect between willing groups, volunteers and organisational blocks
- Diverting resources from office-based staff to listening to the community and working with them to make things happen. Requires skills in engagement and building trust.

#### **Who?**

- NRW, Local partnerships already in existence in the area (LA link) e.g. communities 1st area based partnerships

#### **When?**

- Now and for the next generations!!



## THEME 4: Helping health to fund outdoor activities (building an evidence base)

Group: Rachel Harding (table host), Gabi Torkington, Emma Cahill, Zoe Anthony, Anna Stickland, Bryan Dando Helen Fletcher and Liz Dean

Participants reflected on the wealth of data that must have been collected already, detailing health outcomes, by Welsh Government and others, including Actif Woods, NERS, Come Outside!, Groundwork, Communities 1st, Cynefin, Let's go (Cwm Taf pilot), and the need to bring different datasets together to create a portfolio that partners freely share.

People reflected that quantitative data is equally important as qualitative data in this area of work.

Moving on, there should be coordinated thought given to establishing robust and useful monitoring and evaluation framework, to provide evidence for future decision-making. People who might need to be involved were noted as academics, teams from Cwm Taf Health Board, people with preventative intervention portfolios.

Participants reflected on the importance of working with General Practitioners - reassuring them that they can have confidence in outdoor referral schemes, training and continuous professional development, and noted an opportunity associated with the restructuring of social care - looking to shift from emergency, reactive responses to a proactive, preventative approach.

Noting obvious synergies, it was highlighted that a conference on **National Parks, Health and Wellbeing** will be convened in April in Snowdonia. The conference will look over two days at the evidence connecting positive human health and wellbeing outcomes with the use of the outdoors for learning, conservation work, wildlife gardening, recreation etc., and explore how National Parks and similar agencies can co-operate more effectively with those promoting human health and wellbeing.

See: [www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/535291/conference-booklet-prog.pdf](http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/535291/conference-booklet-prog.pdf)



## **THEME 4: Helping health to fund outdoor activities (building an evidence base)**

### **ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS**

#### **What do we need?**

- Money / budget stream from Health Board to be spent on health prevention / physical activity outdoors

#### **Action (to make it happen)**

- Find out what Health Board need as evidence to get them to divert budget
- Present robust evidence to “invest to save” context
- GP awareness via Practice Managers – marketing / promotion of physical activity outdoor

#### **Who?**

- GPs, Health Board, Practice Managers, General public, Public Health Wales, Project / outdoor practitioners, Policy leads – awareness with Mark Drakeford (Minister)

#### **When?**

- Now and in the coming months of 2015-16 as we progress this work



## THEME 5: A Restored Hydrology in the Rhondda – How do we achieve this?

Group: Jeremy Tanner (table host) Jonathan Mead, Gareth Henson, Liz Dean, Hywel Abbott and David Jenkins.

The group explored whether in the eyes of the public, rivers have different identities in urban and hinterland / upland settings?

In urban settings:

- People are disconnected from rivers – they may be physically separated from them by high walls and flood defence infrastructure, access is restricted as they are channelized; people may use them for waste disposal.
- Urban diffuse pollution impacts ecology and is very influenced by current hydrology
- Alternatives, like Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems,

can help people connect with rivers and river processes.

- Currently in towns too much rain goes through the drainage systems which causes overflows and sewer overflow getting into rivers. We need to make use of all available green space to intercept water before it gets into our sewer system.
- New developments should not be allowed (use the planning system) to build concrete car parking. Our long term aspiration should be to have no combined sewer overflows.
- There is a perception in the Rhondda that there are no flooding problems, but surface water flooding is a serious threat – what is taught is not placed in a local context.

In upland settings – there is a need to change land use and management practises, for example:

- Reduce stocking densities, to reduce “poaching” and compaction,
- Reduce waste onto land
- Reduce supplementary feeding



## THEME 5: A Restored Hydrology in the Rhondda – How do we achieve this?

- Create buffer strips to slow down water flow, not just by the river edge but at various intervals along a slope
- Welsh Governments can encourage appropriate changes through it's grant funding
- It is in the power of landowners to change land management practices, and Glastir can help drive more appropriate practices.

There is a huge opportunity in the Rhondda – approximately 55% of the land is in public management, and significant improvements can be made to upland management. The mitigation methods are well tried and tested, and responding to the Phytophthora epidemic by re-planting with native trees could make a great difference. There is a chance to make the Rhondda an “Excellent” river following Water Framework Directives.

## ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS

### What do we need?

- Review Forest Management Plans (NRW) – move away from production based drivers
- Reduce surface water flows
- Long term aspiration of no combined sewers and improve water quality with less misconnections
- Reduce stocking densities

### Action (to make it happen)

- Stop clear felling (unless disease makes it a necessity), block drains, mix age and mix species where appropriate
- Buffer strips not just along river banks but at strategic places on the slopes
- SUDS, use green spaces to intercept surface water. Planning restrictions / permission linked to SUDS type schemes rather than concrete
- Investment and Asset Management Plans to tackle misconnections – education (already happening to some degree with NRW, LA)
- Glastir

### Who?

- WG / NRW
- LA / Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- Government / Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- Government

### When?

- ASAP!



## THEME 6: Improving Access to the countryside

Group: Luke Maggs (table host), Wynford Price, Callum MacIntosh, Richard Barrett, Gwyn Smith and David Watkins.

Discussion among the group was around maintaining and actively inviting more people to use and enjoy existing access, rather than creating new access, especially new access that cannot be maintained. There should be effort placed on networking existing trails and paths and advertising the range of options better.

It was noted that some entrances and trails in the NRW estate still have old Forestry Commission signs - these should be replaced with welcoming NRW markers! Too many people are currently unaware of how to access this land.

There were ideas raised about how to market the area better, e.g.:

- Top 10 trails (well maintained) - give people confidence that they can follow a route
- Top 10 GP recommended trails, for local walks around communities

### ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS

#### What do we need?

- Signage - to be locally agreed, endorsed, designed, produced and installed.
- Secure resource to make signs and stone trail heads

#### Action (to make it happen)

- Implement RCT tourism destination plan to Valleys Regional Park approach
- Social return on investment to secure future resources.
- Link to health agenda, and SD funding

#### Who?

- Combination of partners, but perhaps a lead?
- Valleys Regional Park approach - not single issue dominated

#### When?

- Now!

- Offer variation on walks, geocaching, sculpture etc.
- Agree a recognisable and unifying branding, and focus information
- Event-based promotion - enlist help of the Welsh rugby team, Sam Warburton?
- Address illegal off-roading



## THEME 7: Changing Perceptions of the Rhondda – Economic regeneration, tourism

Group: Christian Servini (table host) Alan Huish, Ian Thomas, Tony Rees and Jamie Rowland.

Participants thought about how to change perceptions of the Rhondda, opening eyes to the possibilities and potential of the place and celebrating what is here already.

It was agreed that there is an important role for local business as well as for NRW. NRW needs to lead on natural resource management, and to be really visionary. Officers need to understand the possibilities and interests of local people, not “force” initiatives on communities. There also needs to be effective enforcement of some basic rules.

Expertise could also be “bought in” from RCT’s regeneration team.

Businesses have expertise in terms of local understanding, knowing relevant markets, pragmatic pursuit of sustainability and more.

### ACTIONS & NEXT STEPS

#### What do we need?

- A more joined-up approach
- A vision
- Communities owning their own patch

#### Action (to make it happen)

- Rhondda as a cycling destination
- 1 big tourist draw in the area
- Name changes e.g. Rhondda Nature Park
- Target kids / schools to change perceptions
- Communities perceive they own / manage their areas

#### Who?

- Wide ranging input is needed: Public bodies, Local business, Community groups and anyone who wants to be!

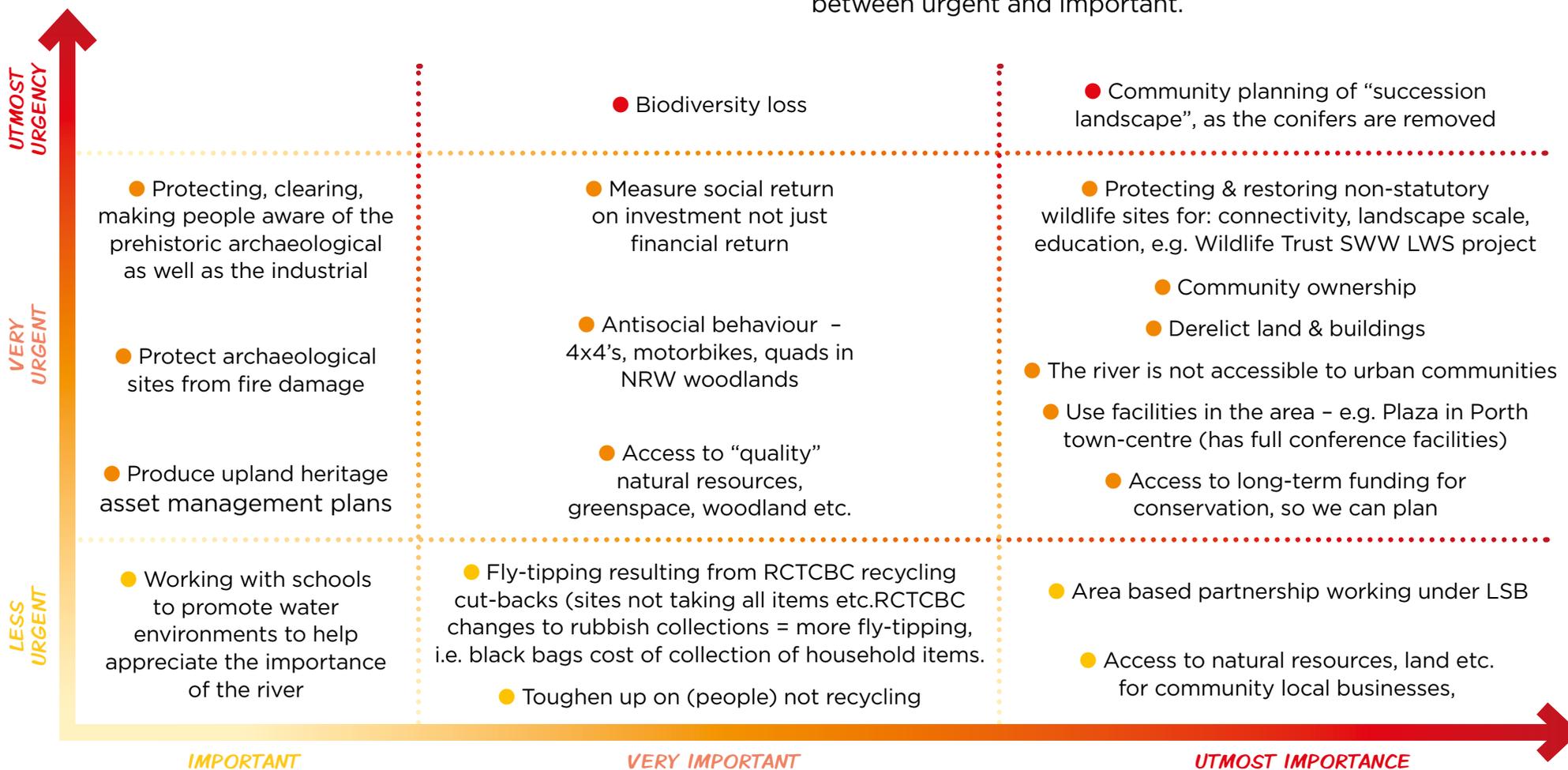
#### When?

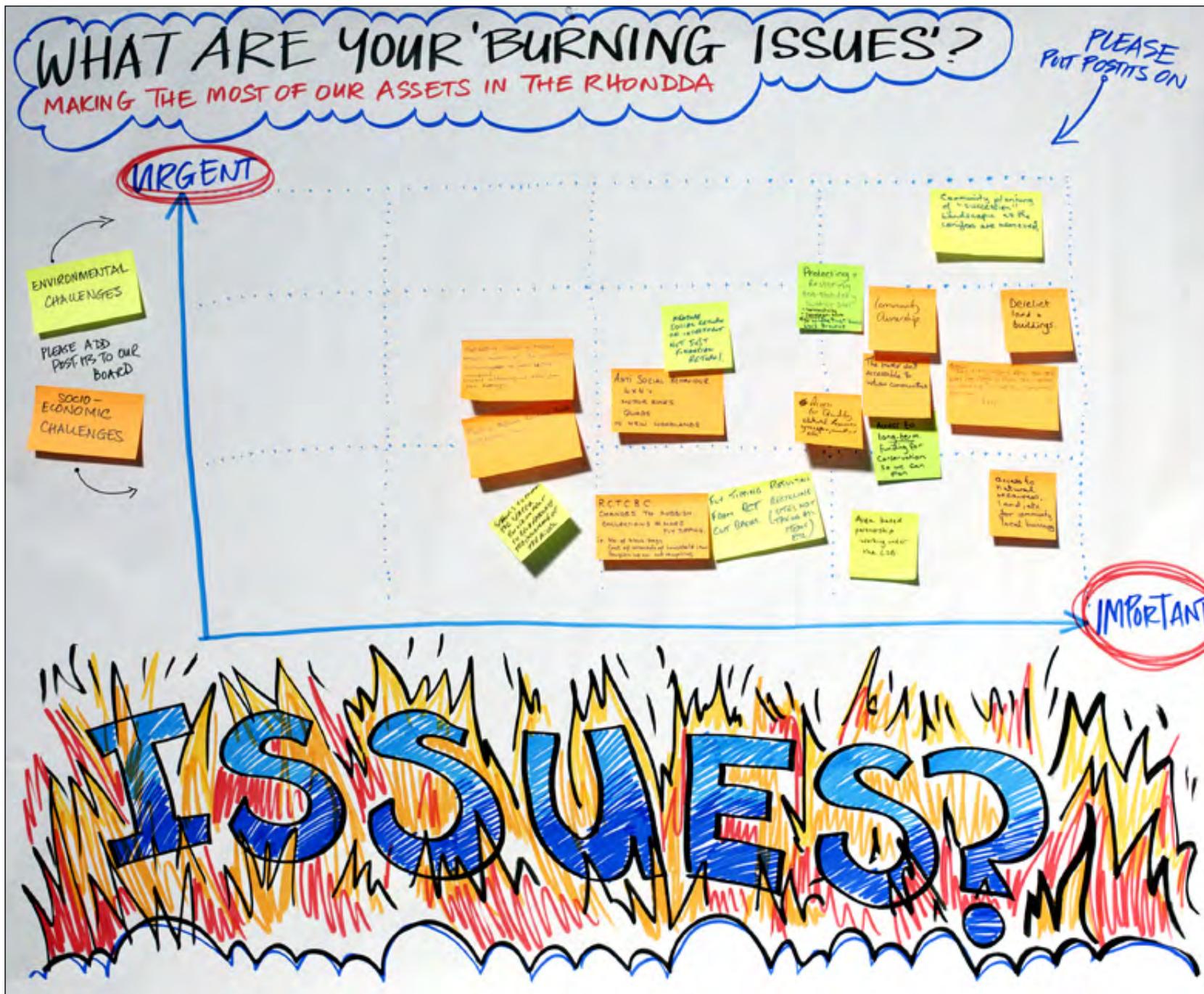
- Now! This isn’t new, this isn’t reinventing the wheel.



### 3 Identifying 'burning issues' - urgent and important

Recognising the wealth of expertise, experience and local knowledge in the room, participants were invited to contribute to a 'burning issues' board. They were asked to highlight any issues they feel need to be addressed in the Rhondda, and which improved and integrated natural resource management might offer new approaches to tackling. Classified on a matrix between urgent and important.





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## PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION	JOB TITLE
Fran O'Hara	Scarlet Design / Working with not to	Lead Facilitator
Catrin Ellis Jones	Dialogue by Design	Facilitator
Gary Evans	Fly Tipping Action Wales	Manager
Gabi Torkington	Cynefin	Place Based Coordinator
James Byrne	Wildlife Trust	Living Landscape Manager
Richard Barrett	Keep Wales Tidy	Project Officer
Allan Trow	Dark Skies	Manager
Emma Cahill	Cwm Taf Health Board	Senior Health Promotion Practitioner
Ian Thomas	WtOW	Project Officer
Calum MacIntosh	WtOW	Chair, Cwmsaebren Steering Group
Cllr Robert Bevan	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning
Alan Huish	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Marketing Adviser-Tourism
Heledd Morgan	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Partnerships Manager
Richard Wistow	Rhondda Cynon Taf	County Ecologist
Ray Edwards	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Parks & Countryside
Ian Woodland	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Resilience and Sustainability Lead Advisor
Liz Dean	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Environment Planner
Donna Bowhay	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Senior Planning Officer
Phil Ratcliffe	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Senior Planning Officer, Spatial Planning
Zoe Anthony	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Outdoor Adventure Activities Officer
Luan Oestrich	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Tourism Manager
Tony Rees	SE Wales Rivers Trust	Chairman
Jonathan Mead	SE Wales Rivers Trust	Operations Director
Bryan Dando	Groundwork Wales	Operations Manager



## PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION	JOB TITLE
Hywel Abbot	Groundwork Wales	Project Officer (Healthy Rivers)
Wynford Price	Daerwynno Outdoor Centre	Manager
Jill Price	Daerwynno Outdoor Centre	Manager
Mike Ash	RCT Local Access Forum	Member
Gwyn Smith	Sustrans	Area Manager
David Llewellyn	Blaengad	Director
Carys Solman	Wildlife Trust for South & West Wales	Conservation Officer
Jamie Rowland	Bicycle Doctor	Manager
David Jenkins	Coed Cymru	Director
Gareth Henson	Coed Cymru	Officer
Sue Hill	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd	Heritage Conservation Officer
David Watkins	Resident, Porth	
Andrew Osbourne	Torfaen County Borough Council	Project Manager
Bill Purvis	Natural Resources Wales	Natural Resources Planning Manager, South Wales
Christian Servini	Natural Resources Wales	Area-based project lead
Becky Davies	Natural Resources Wales	Area-based project lead
Andy Robinson	Natural Resources Wales	Team Leader
Helen Fletcher	Natural Resources Wales	Communities & Regeneration Manager
Rachel Harding	Natural Resources Wales	Senior Partnerships Officer
Jeremy Tanner	Natural Resources Wales	Senior Environment Planner
Luke Maggs	Natural Resources Wales	Project Officer
Nigel Pugh	Nigel Pugh Photography	Photographer



## SOME FEEDBACK FROM THE EVENT

“Excellent facilitation,  
very well organised  
and structured.”

**“Introduction to  
some potential local  
schemes.”**

“The group work and  
shared knowledge /  
experience.”

**“Meeting such  
interesting people.”**

“Good way of structuring  
the debates, I got a lot out  
of the conversations.”

**“The format was good, and enabled  
people to contribute to the topics  
they were interested in.”**



**“Chance to say that we have a  
great deal of information on the  
Rhondda on our website etc. The  
Rhondda is a registered Historic  
Landscape.”**

“Networking.”

**“Well presented / facilitated.  
Timing appropriate.”**

“Able to put your point  
of view over.”

**“I felt that we were  
listened to.”**

“Group sessions -  
discussions.”

**“Meeting local  
people.”**

“I think the programme  
was well balanced.”



## FRAN O'HARA - LEAD FACILITATOR

### SCARLET DESIGN & 'WORKING WITH NOT TO'

Fran O'Hara is the founder and MD of Scarlet Design Int. Ltd, a strategic design, training and visual facilitation company based in Cardiff. Fran brings a wealth of expertise, gained from 4 years at Disney in Hong Kong and Los Angeles and 16+ years working with multi-sector clients. These range from global giants such as Walt Disney Company, Shell and Vodaphone, to the Welsh Government, NHS Wales, 1000 Lives Improvement, local authorities, Wales Audit Office, CHC and South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

Fran is an IFVP member, and experienced in using her expert skills to facilitate and lead events, world cafés, conferences, focus groups, workshops, meetings, planning and staff days to develop strategies and stories to share messages and engage.

She works with organisations to identify their stories and to co-create the most effective, accessible communication tools to engage with their audience - both on and off-line. This could be a strategic vision map... an engagement toolkit... a hand-drawn video or live large scale 'visual minutes'.

**[www.franohara.com](http://www.franohara.com) [ohara@scarletdesign.com](mailto:ohara@scarletdesign.com) @fran\_ohara**

Fran is also director of the 'Working With Not To' a social enterprise which work across Wales to grow co-production from 'grassroots' up, to create resilient and self-empowered people, communities and organisations.

**[www.workingwithnotto.com](http://www.workingwithnotto.com) @workingwithnot2**

## CATRIN ELLIS JONES - FACILITATOR

### DIALOGUE BY DESIGN

Catrin Ellis Jones is an experienced, independent facilitator, helping people have conversations that matter. She specialises in designed dialogue, conflict resolution, partnership development, stakeholder and community engagement and systems thinking. Her background and early career is in earth sciences. In the early nineties she was awarded a PhD in geochemistry and was a post-doctoral fellow from 1992-1994. Following this, she spent ten years as a professional in the international resource exploration, extraction and environmental remediation sector.

Since her return to the UK ten years ago Catrin has applied her management and evaluation skills to a number of successful and award winning social enterprise and community-led environmental projects and has worked as facilitator and process consultant on organisational, local, and national issues. She is comfortable with a range of participatory methods and styles and is experienced in using this flexibility to deliver optimal results for her clients.

Her wide experience of working with government officials, business leaders, academics, experts and communities informs her conviction that the quality of decisions and resulting actions, depends upon a thorough exploration of context, including social, political, environmental and technical factors. Catrin is a fluent Welsh speaker.

**[www.dialoguebydesign.co.uk](http://www.dialoguebydesign.co.uk) [info@dialoguebydesign.co.uk](mailto:info@dialoguebydesign.co.uk)**



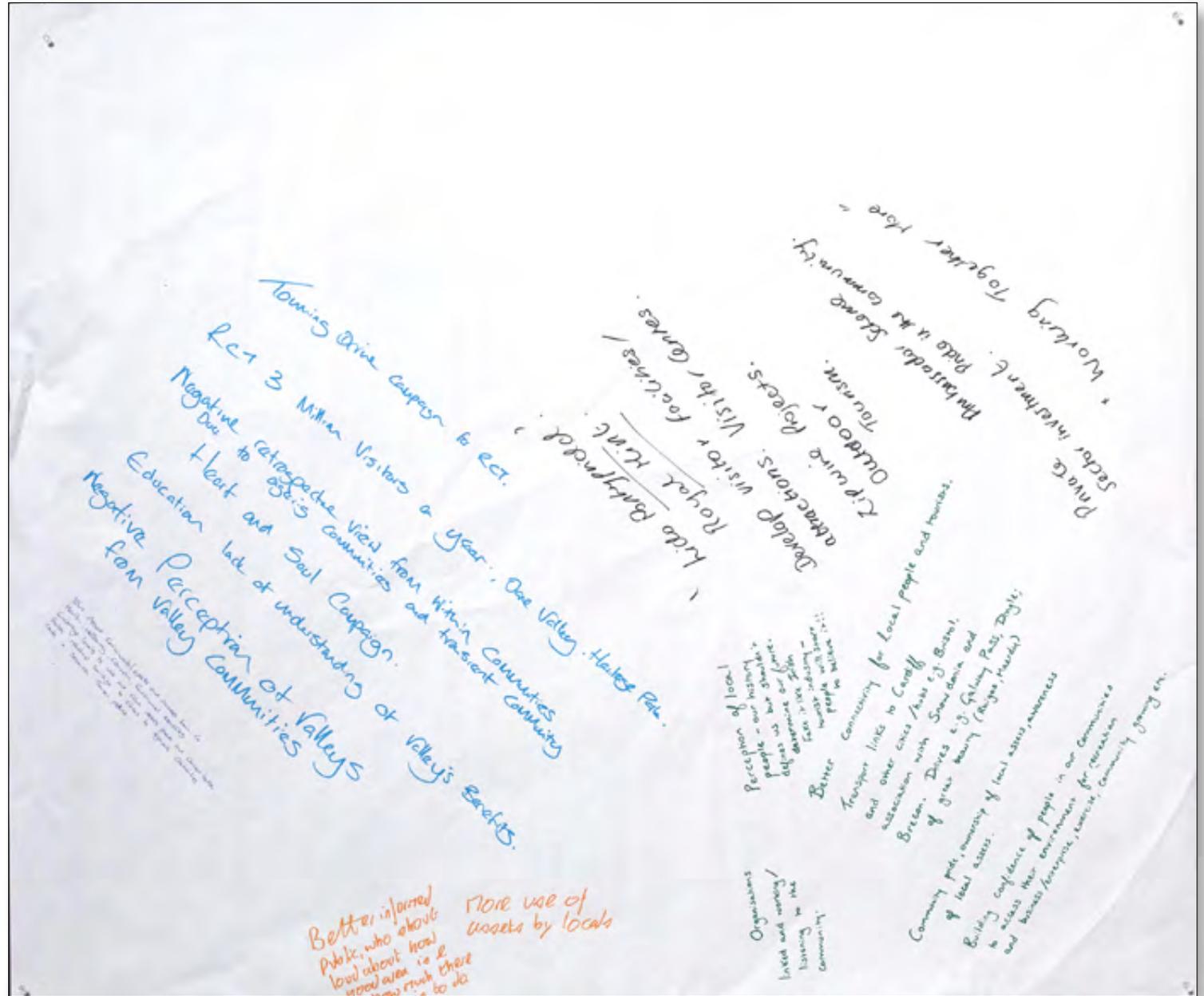




## APPENDIX

### WORLD CAFÉ:

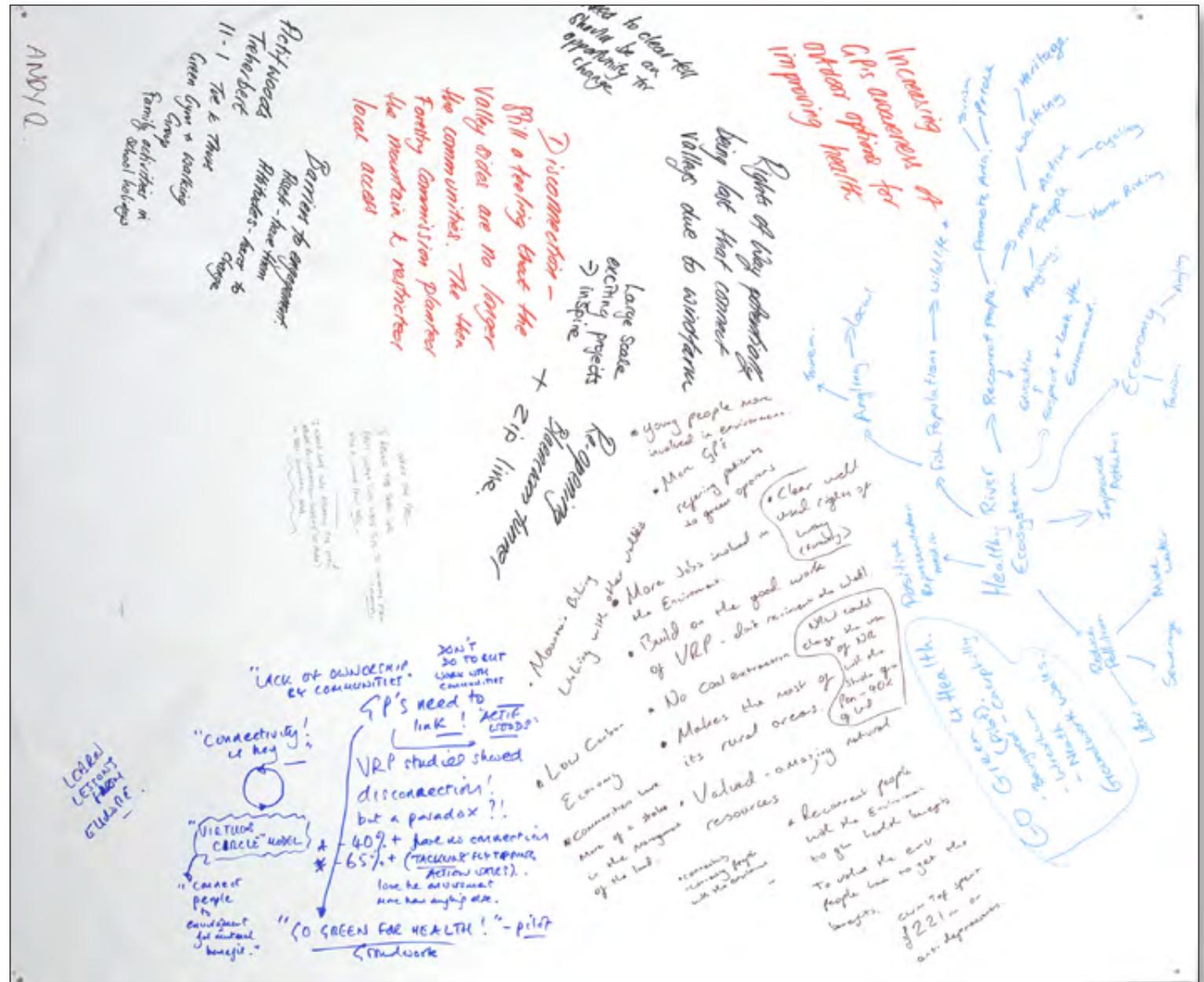
What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which uses all our assets and makes the most of everything we've got here?



# APPENDIX

## WORLD CAFÉ:

What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which uses all our assets and makes the most of everything we've got here?



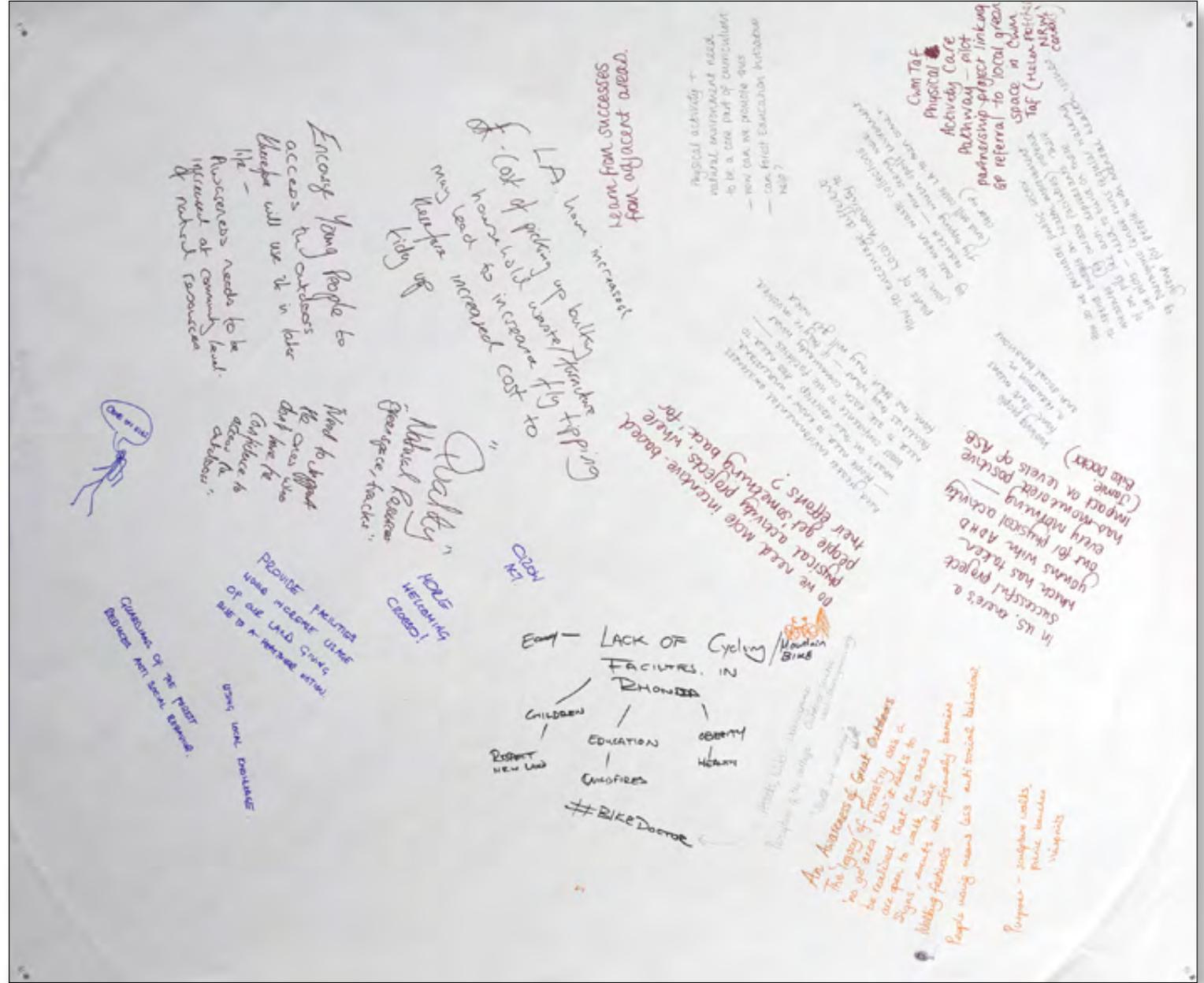




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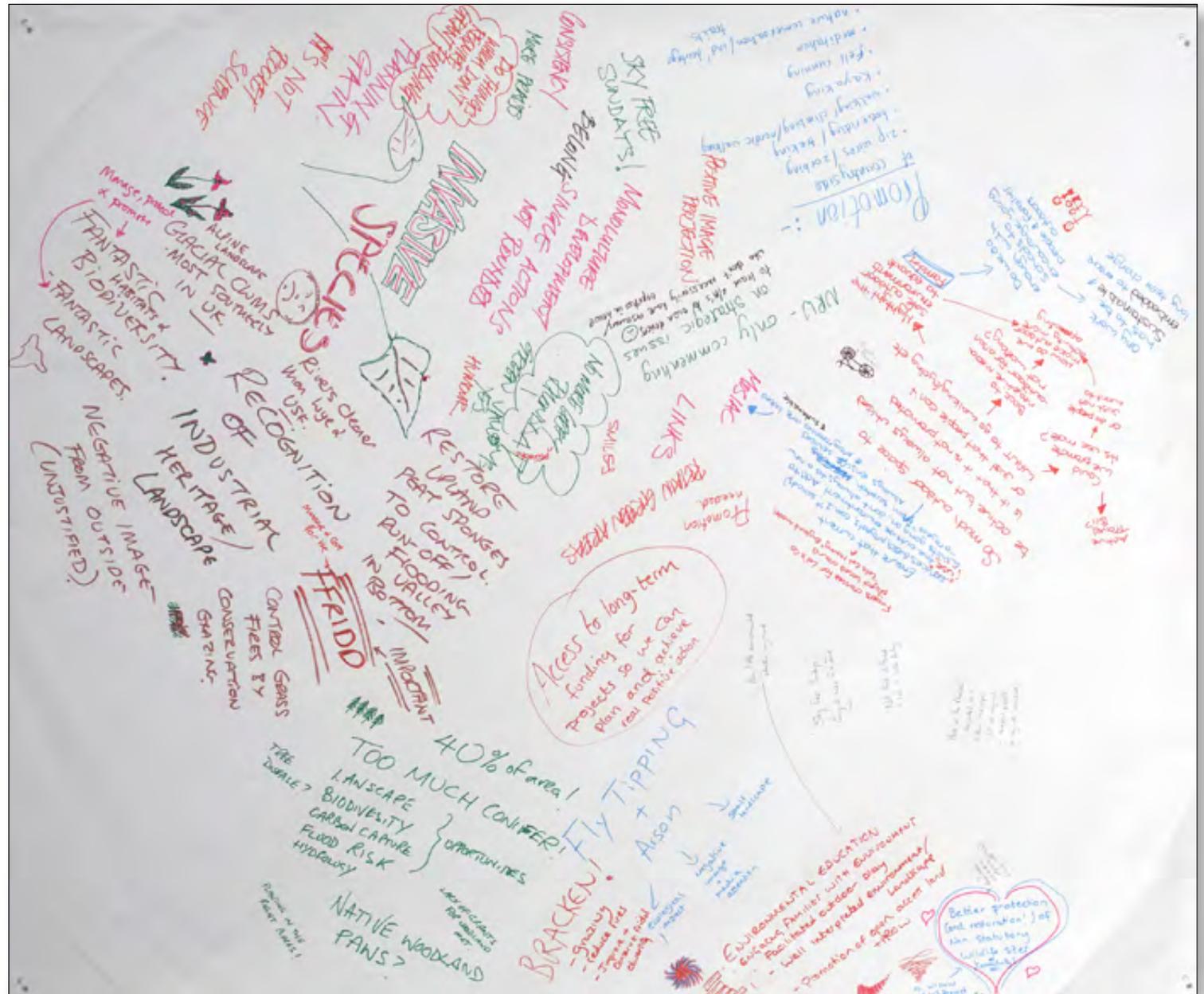
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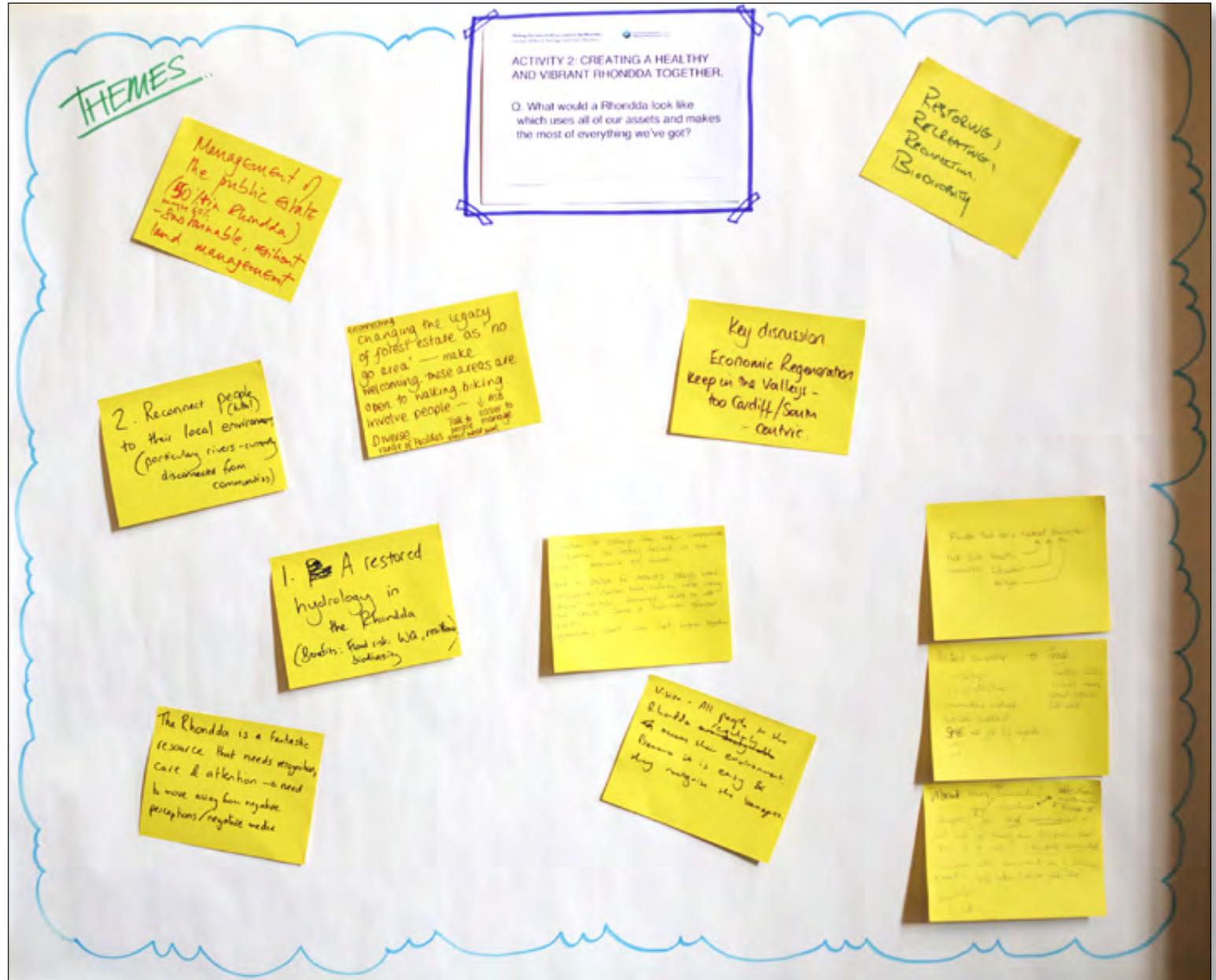
What will a healthy and vibrant Rhondda look like, which uses all our assets and makes the most of everything we've got here?



## APPENDIX

### THEMES:

Each World Café table host summarised their main points on post-its, and these were clustered and used to define the themes or the next steps' action-planning open space style activity. These were presented to the room and agreed.





Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Natural Resources Wales

# **Making the Most of all our Assets in the Rhondda:** Creating a healthy and vibrant Rhondda together

**Tuesday 24th March 2015, Heritage Park Hotel, Rhondda**

**We hope to see you at our next event on 4th June 2015 in the Rhondda.  
Please email [rhondda@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:rhondda@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)**

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