



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Natural Resources Wales



# ‘Making the Most of all our Assets in the Rhondda: Creating a healthy and vibrant Rhondda together’ Report 3

Thursday 12 November, National Lido of Wales, Pontypridd

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**‘Making the Most of all our Assets in the Rhondda:** Creating a healthy and vibrant Rhondda together’ Report 3

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## OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

**Morning:** For participants to be aware of the draft priorities identified as part of the Rhondda trial for managing the area's natural resources, and capture feedback.

**Afternoon:** for participants to explore how we can work better together to help create safer places for people to use and enjoy.

## AGENDA

### **Morning session: draft priorities for managing the Rhondda's natural resources**

9.30am Arrival / registration

10.00am Introduction Fran O'Hara, facilitator, and John Hogg, South East Wales Area Manager, NRW

10.15am Presentations (Natural Resources Wales) Becky Davies & Christian Servini

10.40am **Exercise 1:** Feedback to draft Rhondda priorities

11.15am Refreshment break

11.30am **Exercise 2:** Discussion about how you and your organisation can contribute towards the priorities for the Rhondda

12.00pm **Exercise 3:** Trial 'Area Statement': how would it be useful to you and what it needs to be.

12.30pm Lunch (lunch is provided)

### **Afternoon session: creating safe and healthy communities**

13.30pm Introduction Fran O'Hara, and Martyn Evans, Head of Ecosystems Planning and Partnerships, NRW

13:35pm Overview of progress to date, Helen Howells, NRW

14:55pm **Afternoon Exercise 1:** What's worked? - key elements

14:25pm Refreshment break

14:35pm Presentation: Crimes & Consequences Project, Nicola Wheten, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

14:55pm **Afternoon Exercise 2:** Open space: action planning session

15:30pm What next?

15:45pm Close



## OVERVIEW

The day was split into two sessions with the majority of people attending both. This builds on the work already undertaken with our partners at the Rhondda workshops held in March and June 2015. Copies of these reports can be viewed and downloaded at <http://bit.ly/1jsG6Mv>

The morning session focussed on the draft priorities for managing the Rhondda's natural resources.

The afternoon session focussed on one of the main themes to emerge from the first two workshops. This was the issue of crime and anti-social behaviour, a constant challenge to the Rhondda and wider South Wales Valleys area. NRW manages approximately 40% of the Rhondda area, and crime and anti-social behaviour is a constant challenge. Some of the typical illegal or anti-social activities that take place on the estate include: metal theft, off-road trespassing, vandalism, fly-tipping, dog fouling, joy riding, fires, poaching and wildlife crime. The impacts are economic, environmental, affect people and communities and reinforce negative perceptions of the area.

Achieving a meaningful reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, and not displacing it elsewhere, is a complex challenge. However, to build on the work of the Rhondda trial, NRW has explored the issues in focussed workshops held in April and September 2015, with key partners attending.

We wanted to share the progress of this work with our wider group of partners attending the morning session. We

therefore invited people to stay and contribute to discussions in the afternoon.



## DRAFT PRIORITIES FOR MANAGING THE RHONDDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

### Manage the public estate for multiple benefits

#### Main area of focus:

- Optimised management of publicly owned land to deliver wider benefits, e.g. for nature conservation, access & recreation, flood attenuation, community use, carbon sequestration.

### People benefit from being outdoors

#### Main area of focus:

- The outdoor environment as a natural health service to help improve physical and mental health
- Access and recreation: improve quality and ease of access
- Children use and interact with the outdoors

### Help create safe, healthy and resilient places for people to use and enjoy

#### Main area of focus:

- Partners working better together to tackle / reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Well-connected, multi-functional green infrastructure network delivering a wide range of benefits for people, wildlife, and resilience to climate change

### Work with nature to help restore the natural water environment

#### Main area of focus:

- Upland restoration
- Opportunities to work with natural processes to improve flood attenuation and deliver WFD objectives

- Mitigate impacts from the urban environment / infrastructure.

### Change perceptions

#### Main area of focus:

- The Rhondda as an outstanding location for recreation, particularly walking & cycling
- Support local tourism and initiatives, and link to wider opportunities

## Underlying principles to delivery

There are two core, underlying principles which are critical to help deliver the priorities for the Rhondda:

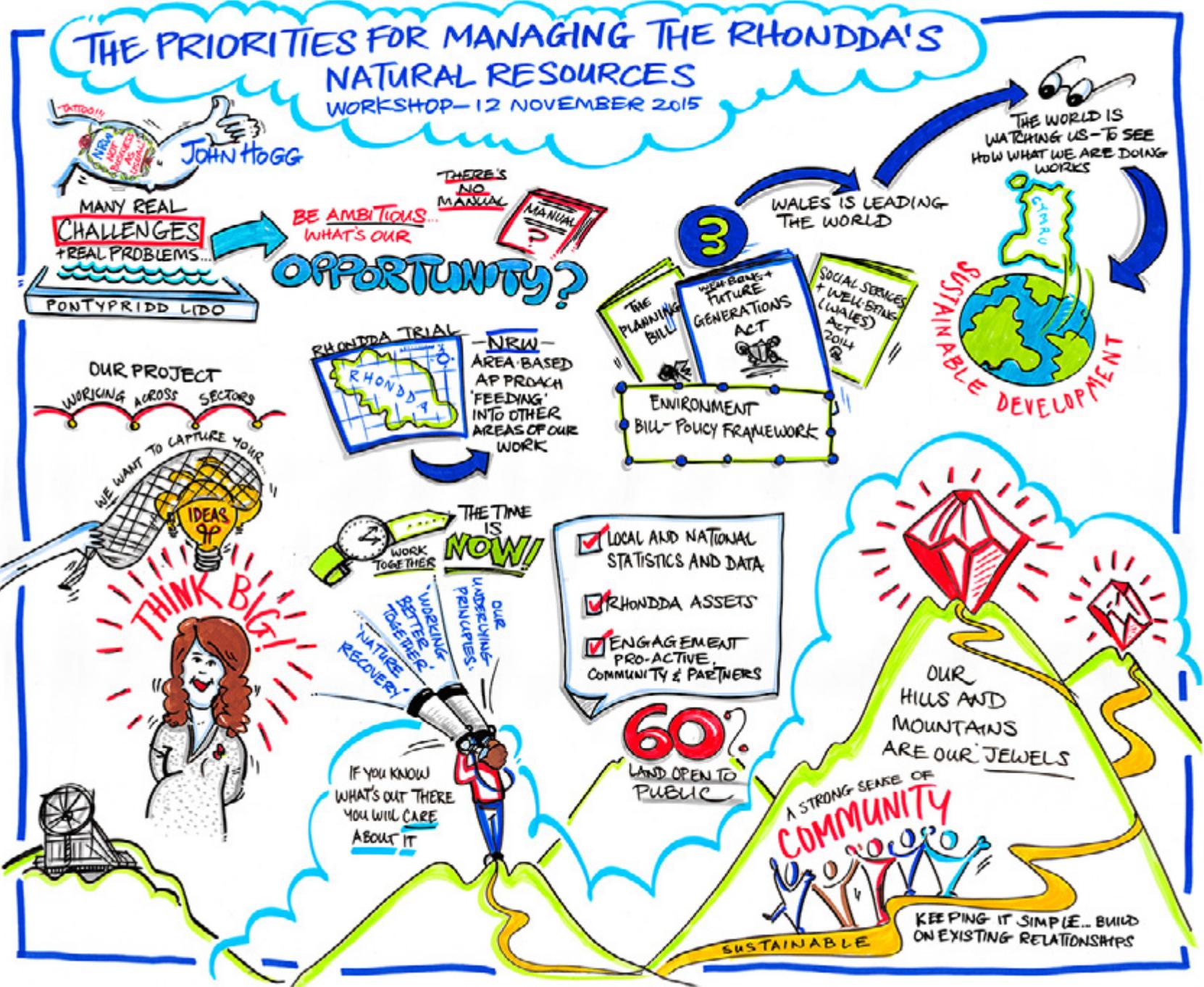
- **Nature recovery**
- **Working better together**

Nature recovery is a statutory obligation for NRW and central to the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) and ecosystems approach.

The current financial climate necessitates better working with partners to help deliver common goals and objectives to benefit people, the environment and local economy.

These 2 principles should be central to planning and delivery in the Rhondda.

'Visual minutes'  
drawn live during  
presentations  
by Fran O'Hara  
Scarlet Design Int Ltd.



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## EXERCISE 1: DRAFT PRIORITIES - Are the priorities appropriate for the Rhondda?

In groups, participants reviewed the draft priorities, completing a table template.

**DRAFT PRIORITIES FOR MANAGING THE RHONDDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES** - Do they feel right? Are they practical? How important are the priorities? Which ones are of most interest to the people in the Rhondda? Write your comments on this sheet...

Are the priorities appropriate for the Rhondda - HOT being 'spot on', COLD being 'not relevant'?

	1. Manage the public estate for multiple benefits	2. People benefit from being outdoors	3. Help create safe, healthy and resilient places for people to use and enjoy	4. Work with nature to help restore the natural water environment	5. Change perceptions
HOT					
COLD					

**1. Manage the public estate for multiple benefits**  
MAIN AREA OF FOCUS: Optimised management of publicly owned land to deliver wider benefits, e.g. for nature conservation, access and recreation, flood attenuation, community use, carbon sequestration

**2. People benefit from being outdoors**  
MAIN AREA OF FOCUS: The outdoor environment as a natural health service to help improve physical and mental health  
Access and recreation improve quality and ease of access  
Children use and interact with the outdoors

**3. Help create safe, healthy and resilient places for people to use and enjoy**  
MAIN AREA OF FOCUS: Partners working better together to tackle reduce crime and anti-social behaviour  
Well-connected, multi-functional green infrastructure networks delivering a wide range of benefits for people, wildlife, and resilience to climate change

**4. Work with nature to help restore the natural water environment**  
MAIN AREA OF FOCUS: Upland restoration  
Opportunities to work with natural processes to improve flood attenuation and deliver WFD objectives

**5. Change perceptions**  
MAIN AREA OF FOCUS: The Rhondda as an outstanding location for recreation, particularly walking & cycling  
Support local tourism and initiatives, and link to wider opportunities

**- UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES TO DELIVERY -**  
There are two core, underlying principles which are critical to help deliver the priorities for the Rhondda: 'Nature recovery' and 'Working better together'



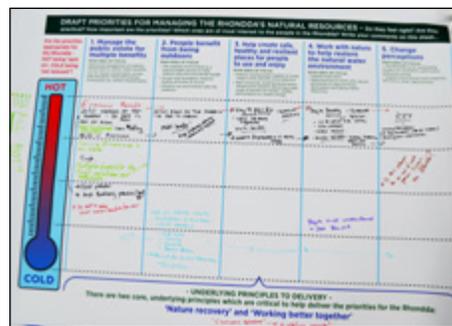
### Q1: Manage the public estate for multiple benefits

- We need to ensure economic benefits from this
- Food production. Huge biodiversity potential - isn't happening at the moment - so key to get it right
- Total involvement including public
- Build in resilience
- Community involvement in the estate
- Safe
- Multiple benefits key
- Joint solutions not individuals
- We need to ensure economic benefits from this
- A massive asset to the area - lots of access, walks, mountains However! - difficult to arrange access and collaborative working not happening on the ground (links with priority 2 & 5).
- Need to be exemplary to encourage others to get involved
- Promote the opportunities so people know what's available
- This is critical, need to get more use of existing resource (also Q5)
- Concern about sell offs/ franchises - OR is this an opportunity? But public funding is a blocker

- Community using the estate more - others organising events or utilising the public estate need to be able to do this easily and effectively
- Capture local assets - include historic and cultural)
- Management of land is vital to deliver other priorities i.e. to be a recreation area, to improve for access. Must ensure not just NRW owning/ managing but community/partners. Partnership approach for best use of the area. Impact on economy i.e. use of social enterprise
- Needs to be more joined up communication networks - need a one stop shop for all things outdoors - for professionals and public
- Community interest - opportunity for experiment delivery/ partnership including capable guardians
- Valleys have unique features, use them!
- Making it easy!

### Q2: People benefit from being outdoors

- Isn't right at the moment, so key to change
- Multi benefit! Huge biodiversity potential - sustainably achieved



- Look at North Wales: outdoor activities, world leader, zip lines, cycling, surfing, Bounce Below
- Benefit for local economy - TOURISM
- Very important priority for the Rhondda
- Need better signage - or use technology 'smart phone'.
- 2016 is WG's 'year of adventure'.
- Need to provide better access to the NRW estate - change the risk adverse nature
- Losing out on big opportunities
- Need a Rhondda wide community route and well advertised, link up all this access land
- Foraging, bush craft, 'food adventures'
- Maerdy fire pit - children and group cooking in the outdoors
- Nocturnal activities to use for 'Dark Skies' better use the areas to discourage negative anti social behaviours

- Development as part of the wider plan
- As shown in Llanwonno: improve access and promotion and therefore health so YES it is achievable!
- Link to 5 to make people aware of environment to be active and be free and easy to engage families for life long habits
- Forest schools and outdoor learning environment
- NRW and LA to work together on this - access
- Children especially, need to know how to resource this
- Health needs to assist in helping promote with Health professionals... must encourage and evaluate 'social prescription'. Partners find it hard to promote with health apart from just posters promoting services. Links to social services and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act - 5 ways to wellbeing, all outdoors

- If the local Health Board is going to be a partner, this topic is key. What are our objectives Health and reducing poverty?

### Q3: Help create safe, healthy and resilient places for people to use and enjoy

- Key to grass fire control
- Sustainable solutions
- Solve the many negatives
- Address fragmentation of existing routes
- Remove burnt out vehicles quickly
- Use Capable Guardians
- More people on the mountains using the outdoors - this will give local ownership and help resolve or prevent local antisocial problems
- GAP - How do we encourage those who are disengaged? Using local community groups rather than big organisations or agencies, utilise existing networks i.e. SWFRS, lots of school connections - use partners to get additional messages or 'hooks' for kids
- Partnerships need to be strong - good communication avoids replication. Support networks
- Share social media to gain greater exposure.

- Share info regarding ASB with Police
- People knowing where to go will encourage more ownership

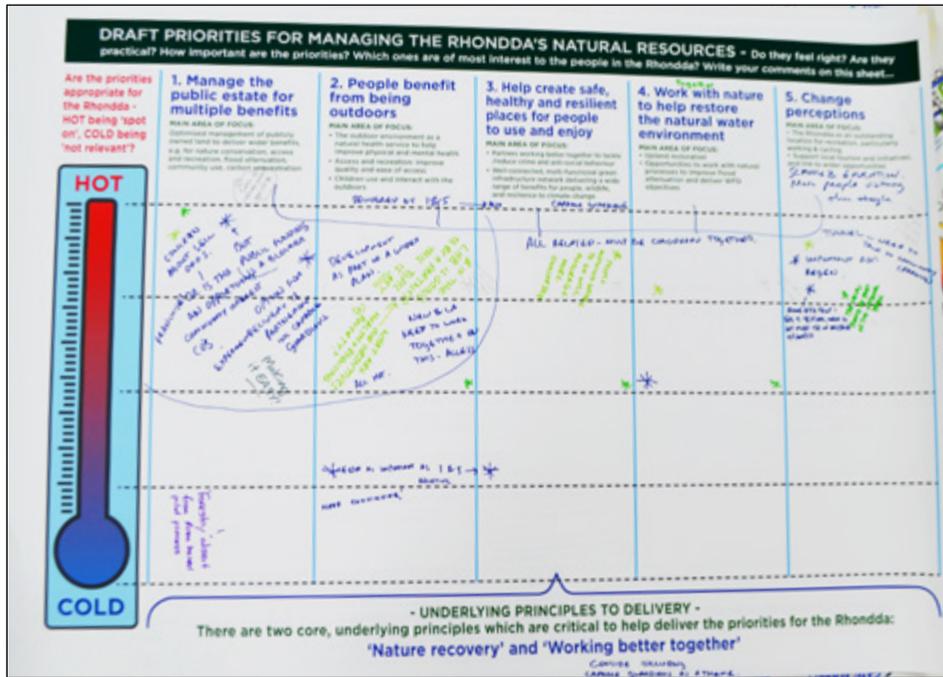
### Q4: Work with nature to restore the natural water environment

- Sustainable solutions
- Up profile of the valley
- Solve problems
- Relieve pressure
- Multi benefits: landscape, biodiversity, access, fire prevention
- People must understand and see benefit
- Use Probation Services/ YOS project education benefits.
- PCSO support to encourage outdoor activities
- Need to do more. ?'s often slow to show benefits
- Long term it's a cheaper option than hard engineering
- Delivers wider biodiversity benefits

### Q5: Change perceptions

- On environment (all aspects)
- Employment opportunities
- Is this relevant to a person out of work living in the Rhondda?
- Fantastic scenery





- The Valley should be part of the National Park
- This is critical, need to get more use of existing resource (also Q1)

### Misc. comments

- Community Benefit as an underlying principle!
- Missing - Publicity - How do we communicate what is happening around the area, utilise existing people like Terry from Radio 2?
- How do we connect people with the great things going on in the area?
- Dark Skies event RCT - NRW not helpful in providing access due to liability - change risk adverse culture
- DEWIS Cymru
- Missing - Economy needs to be better embedded in to the priorities
- Need convincing about people benefiting from being outdoors
- Forestry absent from Area Based pilot process
- All points (priorities) are related and must be considered together
- Consider including Capable Guardians as a theme

- 3 million people come to RCT every year as tourists
- Community perceptions changing slowly, strong local identity
- Need better cycle routes - Rhondda tunnel
- Potential links to local economy, Cafes, B&B's, shops
- Local people need to know hills are for them
- Use schools - Infants/ Secondary. Educate and work with partners to present interest/ case/ lessons

- Use social media - twitter Facebook and link in with Police for events, patrols, regeneration
- Leaflets out to schools
- Ensure people more confident about the space/ land!
- Local ownership use will drive up respect for the land
- Schools and education - more people visiting than thought
- Valleys unique selling points
- Important for regeneration
- Tunnel - need to talk to community regarding parking

## EXERCISE 2: How can you and your organisation contribute towards the priorities for the Rhondda?

Participants were invited to complete an A4 form with their responses, these are available on request, as a separate document.



**Q HOW CAN YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PRIORITIES FOR THE RHONDDA?**

<p><b>1. Manage the public estate for multiple benefits</b></p> <p>Main area of focus: Optimised management of publicly owned land to deliver wider benefits, e.g. for nature conservation, access and recreation, flood attenuation, community use, carbon sequestration</p>	<p><b>2. People benefit from being outdoors</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The outdoor environment as a natural health service to help improve physical and mental health</li> <li>Access and recreation: improve quality and ease of access</li> <li>Children use and interact with the outdoors</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. Help create safe, healthy and resilient places for people to use and enjoy</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners working better together to tackle/reduce crime and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>Well-connected, multi-functional green infrastructure delivering a wide range of benefits for people, wildlife, and resilience to climate change</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Work with nature to help restore the natural water environment</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upland restoration</li> <li>Opportunities to work with natural processes to improve flood attenuation and deliver WFD objectives</li> </ul>	<p><b>5. Change perceptions</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Rhondda as an outstanding location for recreation, particularly walking &amp; cycling</li> <li>Support local tourism and initiatives, and link to wider opportunities</li> </ul>
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**- UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES TO DELIVERY - 'Nature recovery' and 'Working better together'**

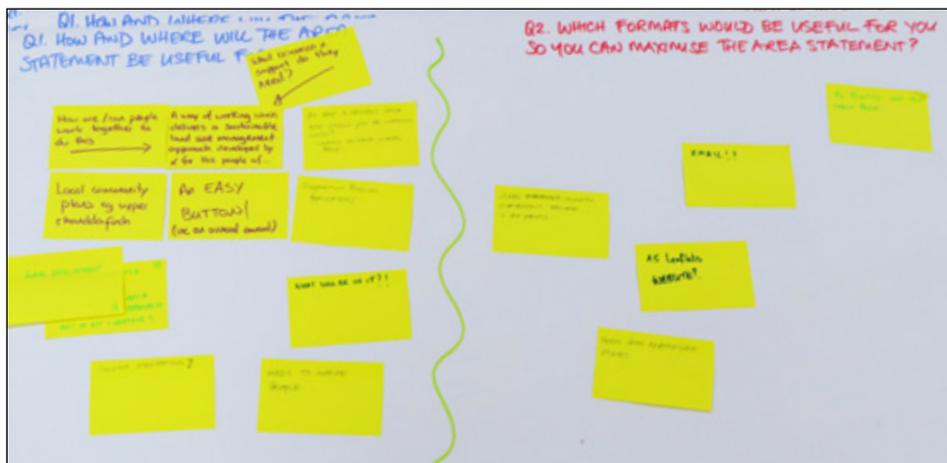
**Q HOW CAN YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PRIORITIES FOR THE RHONDDA?**

<p><b>1. Manage the public estate for multiple benefits</b></p> <p>Main area of focus: Optimised management of publicly owned land to deliver wider benefits, e.g. for nature conservation, access and recreation, flood attenuation, community use, carbon sequestration</p> <p><i>Working down for walking, what has been done at having there to make some of that walking, making any more at school programme have environment</i></p> <p><i>My reports about in alternative energy building some more for community more of health, voluntary groups, sporting people - school</i></p>	<p><b>2. People benefit from being outdoors</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The outdoor environment as a natural health service to help improve physical and mental health</li> <li>Access and recreation, improve quality and ease of access</li> <li>Children use and interact with the outdoors</li> </ul> <p><i>We feel we already take a contribution to all of these points but with the school support of it we can do more</i></p> <p><i>eg. School programme, sports with it, that that health aspect - physical &amp; mental can be used for</i></p> <p><i>because family and local facilities are important</i></p>	<p><b>3. Help create safe, healthy and resilient places for people to use and enjoy</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners working better together to tackle/reduce crime and antisocial behaviour</li> <li>Well-connected, multi-functional green infrastructure delivering a wide range of benefits for people, wildlife, and resilience to climate change</li> </ul> <p><i>Anything if any school could do better - then who have research done, linking with people, schools, look some with parents</i></p>	<p><b>4. Work with nature to help restore the natural water environment</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upland restoration</li> <li>Opportunities to work with natural processes to improve flood attenuation and deliver WFD objectives</li> </ul> <p><i>Work closer with water quality etc.</i></p>	<p><b>5. Change perceptions</b></p> <p>Main area of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Rhondda as an outstanding location for recreation, particularly walking &amp; cycling</li> <li>Support local tourism and initiatives, and link to wider opportunities</li> </ul> <p><i>Work with RCT Tourism, encourage by offering more of a cycling, local walks</i></p> <p><i>work look more to promote water/forestry to football etc</i></p>
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**- UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES TO DELIVERY - 'Nature recovery' and 'Working better together'**



## EXERCISE 3: 'Area Statement': How would it be useful to you and what it needs to be.



### Q1: How and where will the area statement be useful for you?

- A link to the Historic Environment Bill
- A section on the Historic Environment. Identify gaps in knowledge. Direct people to other documents e.g. Historic Environmental Management Plan for RCT
- As a framework to general guidance
- By enabling all to get involved
- By linking directly with the public
- An easy button! (including an annual award)

- A way of working which delivers sustainable land use management approach developed by and for the people of...How can people work together to do this? What resources and support do they need?
- Access from partner websites
- Advertised in Community Centre, schools, hospitals doctors surgeries. Facebook link with SWP website
- Captures short, medium and long term objectives
- Best practice for other areas. Locally for an area based framework approach rest of RCT and Merthyr Tydfil

- Bringing people together - NGO's, Public Sector
- Bullet points. One page guidance document with link to more detail as required. On NRW website, also published on Rhondda police website
- Chance to identify environmental issues which aspirations/ projects need to understand/ appreciate and build into projects to ensure smoother progress of the scheme. Too often needs for consents, consideration of legislation is not thought about soon enough in community projects - leads to problems
- Clearly defined consensus at a catchment level lending weight and justification to potential behind sustainable development
- Common approach to developing the areas with all stakeholders
- Community engagement
- Contextualise how the Area Based Statement sits with other plans e.g. 'Place Plan', 'Wellbeing Plan'.
- Destination Management Plans
- Differing versions for different groups. Keep it simple, diagrams are good to show the progress
- Don't undermine the community and economy, not just about the environment
- Gives Evidence Base to help make decisions and identify priorities
- Engage a wide partnership/ stakeholders
- Ensure partnership approach is captured. Advertise on SWP Rhondda patrol cars
- Examples and case studies of successful local schemes
- Flood risk management plan - for head local flood authority (council)
- Funding signposting
- Help form key disciplines on interpretation for that sector i.e. Health, Young People etc.
- Helps align spend, activity and energy so its not all going in different directions
- How can the actions/ opportunities be maintained?
- I would use the document to engage health partners. So simple, short and specific if possible. A simple document with signposts to full report
- Defining who 'owns' the plan
- Identifies opportunities, constraints and benefits so that other plans and programmes incorporate its aims
- Identify multiple ownership of partnership organisations within the Area Statement
- Identify the importance of historical/ cultural assets of RCT

## EXERCISE 3: 'Area Statement': how would it be useful to you and what it needs to be.

- Identify the key priorities and identify what/ how organisations can help to realise and justify actions
- If the Area Statement can bring the FC bit of NRW into an 'integrated' approach it will be worth while
- Important to inform the PSB's (LSB's)
- In the bill the Area Statement will be used to inform the Local Development Plan. Local statements will have to conform to regional statements and to the SoNaRR, this may not be helpful
- Include the protection of the Historic Environment in ALL projects at an early stage in development
- It needs to be something that can be used to influence PSB's and ultimately be used to help business planning process
- Knowledge of NRW priorities and delivery potential
- Links to Well-being Plans and Future Generations Act
- Links WFGA and other relevant acts and meets the needs of the community (not assumed needs)
- Local community plans e.g. Upper Rhondda Fach
- More ambitious landscape projects development
- Need to see how Area Statement integrates with LBAP process. LBAP vehicles for full describing local boundary priorities/ context - how the actions in the Area Statement fits in to ecological specifics will be key
- Need to see it first before can define where it would be useful
- Needs to inspire people
- Needs to link to other organisations objectives. Needs to be achievable, realistic, timely and sustainable!
- Offers opportunity to develop landscape scale project?
- Online Document
- Online web page that is clear and concise and signposts users to the most useful information
- Priority - how can these be funded? How does it link with long term funding organisations?
- Public access to main document
- Public to have an awareness of all organisations
- Revitalise landmark characterisation ID. What are the priorities and what development can be absorbed in to the area
- Rural development
- Statement objectives will help to identify 'landscape scale' biodiversity works - partnership outcomes - need to then develop more projects as a direct action
- Statement should direct people to relevant organisation and plans
- Supporting funding applications
- The Area Statement will hopefully signpost core services to the correct persons/ department to reduce lead in time in joint projects
- The Area Statement will provide some 'parameters' to work to and also provide guidance and 'best practice' to all SWFRS/ RCT community projects. Concise.
- The statement needs to tell how this process fits into pre-existing initiatives/processes - how detail feeds into specific actions
- There is nothing wrong with paper - libraries etc.
- To prove a 'need' when developing projects that fit into the priorities, in order to strengthen proposals to potential funders and partners
- Use it to get funding - important that funding streams use Area Statements
- Useful as a framework/ principles setter, but then need to see how details/ outputs are developed to - NEXT STEP process
- Useful stats to punctuate document with reference to the landscape
- We work within NRW estates and the Area Statement will guide/ support us - give us direction e.g. could display in centres Daenwynno, Garw Nant, Barry Sidings, Aberdare Country Park
- What will be in it?
- Where to host the plan? Will it get 'lost' in big corporate websites?
- Who is/ are the power brokers under each priority?
- Will be much clearer statement of NRW strategy for the area. Makes it easier then to communicate locally (in both directions). A clear statement and commitment to co-design/ production will help both aspects of above
- Will provide information for the Local Health and Wellbeing Plans for Merthyr/ RCT
- Would link to all of partners' strategic objectives
- It needs to demonstrate outcomes up front. What are the benefits to people and service in the Rhondda?



## EXERCISE 3: 'Area Statement': how would it be useful to you and what it needs to be.

- You have a project idea. Who should you be working with? Need to have a local focus
- In discussion with organisations who make plans and programmes and have money so that natural resources can be aligned in these plans and programmes

### Q2: Which formats would be useful for you so you can maximise the area statement?

- Vision for the Area - L & A mission statement, a goal to all be working to
- Summary document, very useful for mass audience
- Develop a PPT that can be put on Flickr, Tumble, YouTube
- YouTube presentation
- Dargaufyddurch y Cymoedd' type map pinpointing opps for the priorities
- Live document
- Interactive
- The doing groups need to have a clear idea about these plans
- Executive Summary with Easy Read format
- Stories and a meaningful narrative

- A consistent front page - with detail behind in electronic also hard copy available.
- Watermark with logos on every page
- Vision Statement - Principles (nature recovery, working better together) - 5 Key priorities
- Accessible to all
- Large evidence based document - for those who will have to rely on it in their day to day operation/ work
- Something that can be easily translated into public understanding
- Printed, PDF, web friendly
- Short 10 minute presentation slides for us to be able to present with notes, contacts and links. Examples - Cardiff & the Vale Public Health Team used social media to publish the director of Public Health Annual Report
- A short summary with key findings - backed up with a more detailed report. Visual diagrams to help communicate the findings
- Online, graphic and highly visual, not a long wordy document with maps!

- No jargon, simple language, no acronyms. DO not make assumptions about the readers' prior knowledge. Hard copies available if online
- Include examples of good and bad practice
- Action plan - Who can do what. What needs to be done. Who needs to be involved toolkit.
- Create an identity, all approaches brand subject
- Display in centres. Posters - Daenwynno, Garw Nant, Barry Sidings, Aberdare Country Park, Leisure Centres, Doctors surgeries, Community centres
- Factsheets for the different themes, priorities. Ideally a page overarching, then a page using info graphs for specifics i.e. health priority
- An interactive online map and action plan
- Focus on actions and how to get involved
- Accessible to all summary with links and more details
- Paper documents (for IT incompetent) as well, with summary doc and detailed doc
- Needs some examples/ case studies
- Front end document too, clear vision, distilled and clear. Passing info to community/ local business
- A5 leaflets. Website
- Simplified Action Plan in various formats (make this filterable by area of concern), giving overview but linking specific details grouped by area of concern
- Online documents available to download
- How to get people outdoors, not just online
- Needs to be a way of working not just a document/ static website
- Posters - distributed to local schools. Encourage schools to link in with police, ASB teams to make use of statement/ work to achieve objectives
- Copies in libraries. Posters in NRW areas. Online, Facebook website links to partners
- Posters - easy to read! (but further information available)
- Suitable posters should encourage the public
- Use/ consider the DEWIS/ CYMRU model - search by place, topic - see links between
- Clear colourful statement, Maximum 2 x A4 pages
- Connection to partners and associated documents
- Email!?
- Public friendly posters and leaflets
- A4 printed, not too many pages

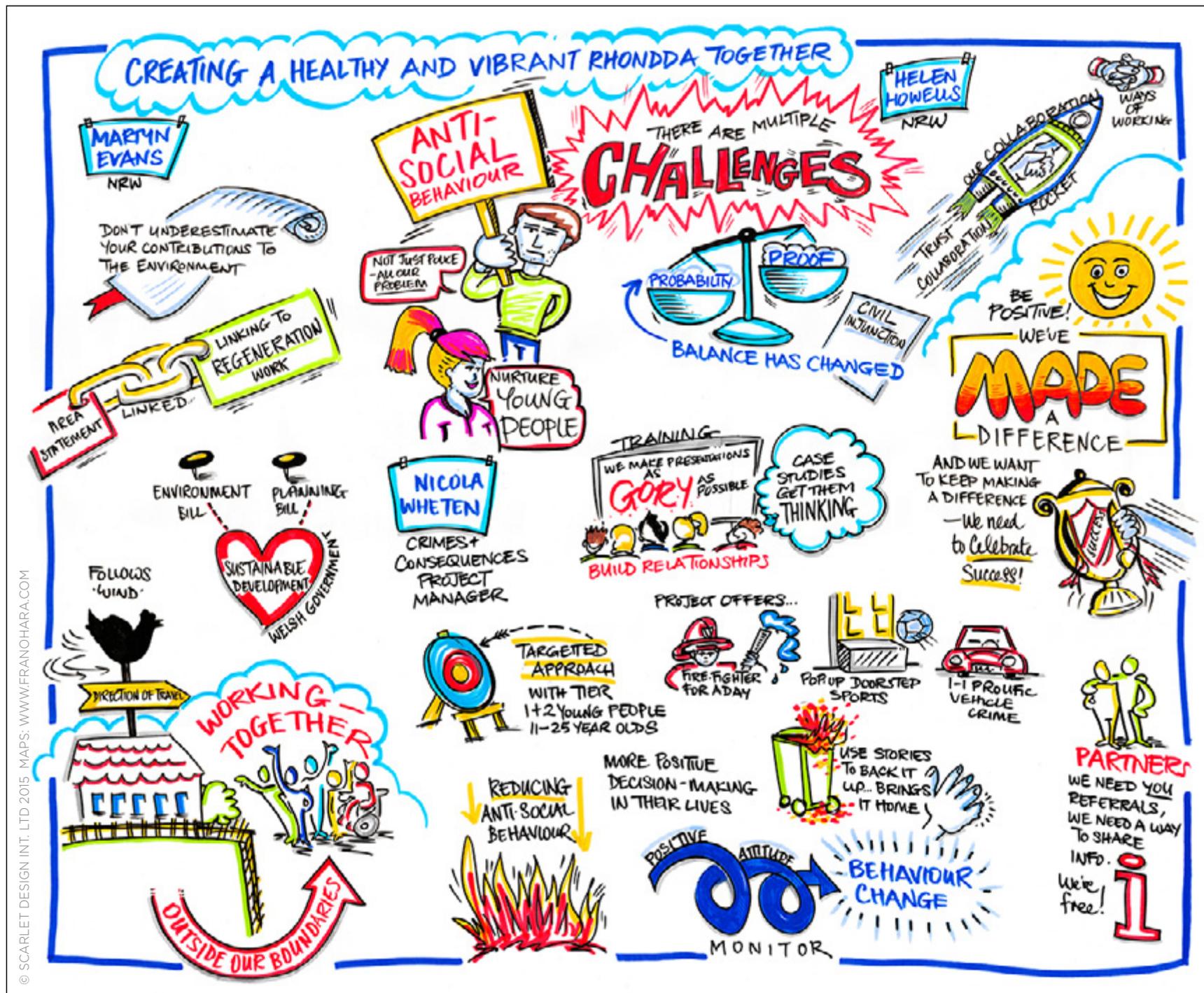


## **Creating safe, healthy places for people to use and enjoy.**

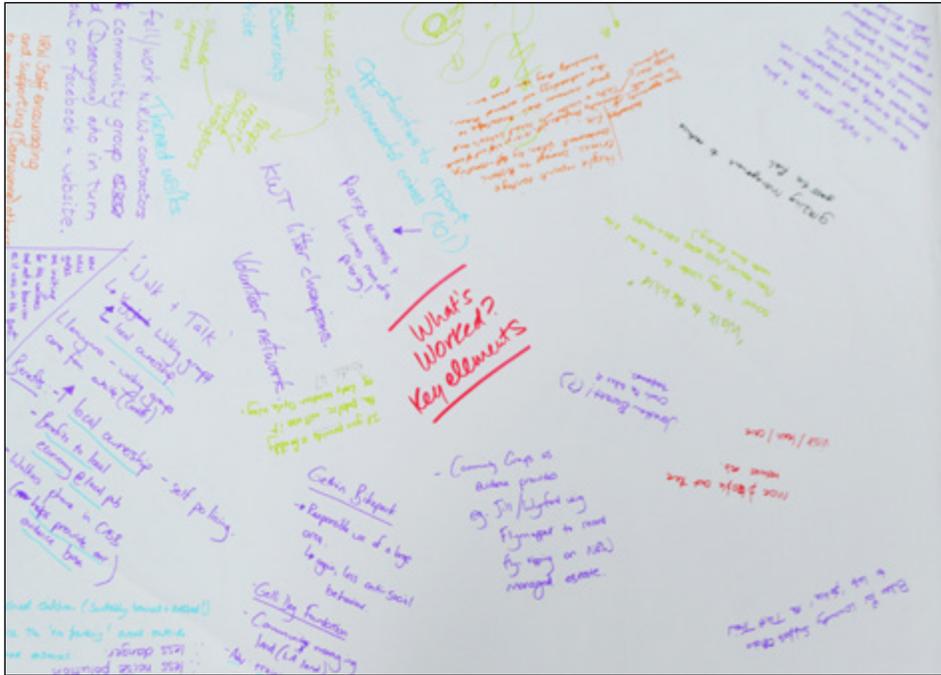
The afternoon session focussed on crime and anti-social behaviour. Through the Rhondda trial engagement work, this has been continually raised as a challenge and concern to people, communities, community groups, partners and local businesses in the area.



'Visual minutes'  
drawn live during  
presentations  
by Fran O'Hara  
Scarlet Design Int Ltd.



## AFTERNOON EXERCISE 1: What has worked well in the Rhondda to create safe, healthy and vibrant places? What were the KEY ELEMENTS of success?



Following an introductory talk by Helen Howells, NRW, participants took part in a World Café session, outlining examples of where things were working well. This was building on the principles of appreciative inquiry by maintaining a positive outlook and identifying core strengths.

### Enforcement Action

- RCT Community Safety team crush the bikes of trespassers
- Bikes for Community Support Officers to help 'police' the Taff trail

- In Merthyr years ago, a police officer without a car worked with local community to identify young motorcyclists – with parents' consent, took pictures of bike and rider then used officers to identify miscreants (without chasing them) and report back to parents. Local problem disappeared 'sadly' officer promoted and scheme finished.
- Using school children (suitable trained and dressed) to police 'no parking' areas outside the school entrances
- Action taken on illegal bikers has resulted in fewer youngsters on bikes. Therefore @ less damage to environment, less noise pollution, less danger
- Control illegal use of land – k barrier
- Council off road prevention team
- Traffic enforcement action by Local Authority
- Recent council litter control action – fines, chasing up incidents
- Street alcohol ban – prohibition, enforcement
- Visit/learn/care about the natural environment
- Themed walks
- Glass full mentality
- Talks and walks with local schools and groups increases their knowledge re. the archaeology all around them, knowledge they can pass on
- 'Walk to the Wild' – school D day walks to a local site (train teachers / risk assess sites and routes, needs some funding)
- If you provide a facility the public will use it e.g. Lady Windsor Cycle Way Route 47
- Gethin Bike Park – responsible use of a large area. Again, less anti-social behaviour
- 'Walk and Talk' – walking groups, local ownership, Llanwynno – walking groups come from outside (CARDIFF) Benefits – local ownership – self policing, benefits to local economy @ local pub, walkers phone CASB (helps provide our evidence base)
- People don't make the most of facilities they have free – promote what they have compared to other areas
- Grass is greener mentality – building appreciation of what they have in the area
- Allotment project

## AFTERNOON EXERCISE 1: What's worked? - KEY ELEMENTS

### Land Management Interventions

- Grazing management to reduce grass fuel fire
- Vegetation management to prevent grass fires – sustainable conservation, grazing, solutions. Some good examples exist which could be rolled out in the wider landscape solutions for grass fire hotspots.
- Building relationships with land owners
- Fire breaks – probation service

### Volunteers

- KWT litter champions
- Volunteer champions
- Local ownership and pride – people use forest – people report/confront wrong doers/ situation improves
- Need to give projects / schemes time to achieve – cutting projects short can be a loss of public money. Need to be sustainable
- Community flood groups

### Reporting of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

- People report Heritage crimes. Damage to Historic Environment sites by off-roading, fire etc. Archaeology community projects with 18-21 year olds / out of work gives the opportunity to learn more and builds their confidence.
- Opportunities to report Environmental crimes (101). Raises awareness and becomes more of a priority!
- Our Bobby 101

### Working better together

- Plans to fell, work NRW Contractors involved community group (Daerwynno) who in turn put it out on Facebook website
- Community groups as evidence providers e.g. Jill / Wynford using Flymapper to record fly-tipping on NRW Managed estate
- NRW staff encouraging and supporting (Daerwynno) others to improve facilities – knock on effect more usage, less vandalism.
- New NRW gates are inviting for the walkers and not a barrier as it was in the past.

- Council improved waste collection initiatives
- Renewal of local health facilities – their flexible response to ever increasing demand but constrained by spending cuts
- Build 'holistic' communities – not just streets and houses – better planning and urban design
- Supplementary Planning Guidance – employment opportunities for local people through legal agreements in planning – employment of local people in the development industry and apprenticeships for youngsters
- We can't do everything everywhere = some things only work in some areas
- Need to shout about successes!
- Working with adults and children – different issues to tackle
- Be ambitious and diversity
- Problem solving forum – formerly chaired by RCT Community Safety Partnership
- Local community group regeneration – SW Police, Local Authority, SW Fire Service, NRW, Media Communication, Social Media
- Employability Scheme! 53% success – original target was 11%. Won awards at Fire Service Youth training awards.
- Partnership groups (doing level) – identifying gaps of what local people want, local patrols, Lower Rhondda 10 organisations (NGO and private orgs)
- There is evidence of what's worked – from qualitative approach (Nicola has papers). Evidence can be subjective, need to look at the detail.
- Wi-Fi hotspots

### Working with young people

- Talk to young people! South Wales Fire Service do and have identified lots of opportunities that 'adults' wouldn't think of
- Boys and girls clubs – young activities
- Better hostel facilities for the homeless, young vulnerable people and ex-service personnel – keeps young people in societal main stream
- Youth areas – Aberdare, Merthyr – less fires in these areas – is it connected?
- Fire fighter for a day – kids learn about fire/safety environment
- Targeted young engagement – Crimes and Consequences project, fire fighter for a day, street sports, workshops, one to one work, 89% positive attitude change, 94% Non-re-offending rates



## AFTERNOON EXERCISE 2:

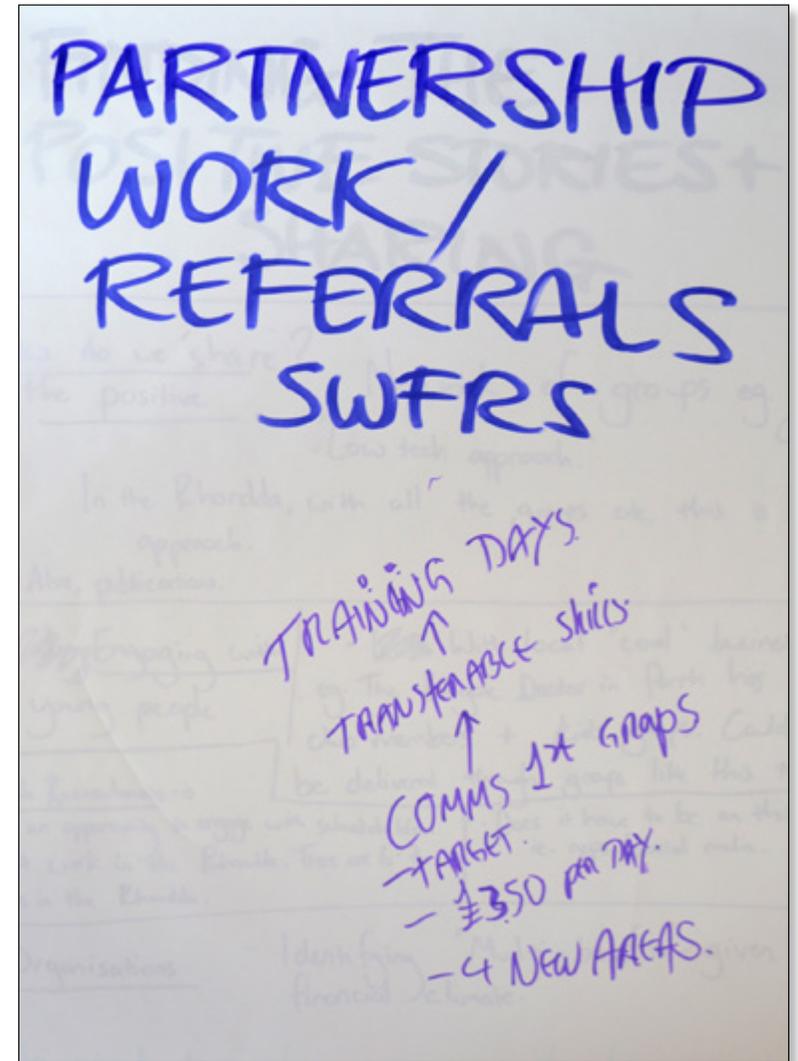
### Open Space – How can we take this forward in the current climate?

The group suggested 4 discussion themes, self-selecting where they wished to participate:

Following a presentation by Nicola Wheten, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, outlining the Crimes and Consequences project, we hosted an Open Space Session. Participants were asked to come up with 4 topics they would like to discuss further for the remainder of the afternoon on hosted tables.

#### PARTNERSHIP WORK / REFERRALS SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

- A target of finding 4 new Communities Firsts Groups in new areas to work with.
- Budget available of £350 a day.
- Opportunities to develop transferable skills on training days.



## AFTERNOON EXERCISE 2:

### Open Space - How can we take this forward in the current climate?

The group suggested 4 discussion themes, self-selecting where they wished to participate:

**FINDING THE POSITIVE STORIES + SHARING**

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How do we 'share' the positive? Network of groups eg. WI., Church groups  
'Low tech approach.'

In the Rhondda, with all the groups etc, this is one approach.  
- Also, publications.

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Engaging with young people

- With local 'cool' businesses, eg. The Bicycle Doctor in Porth has 250 club members + kids groups. Could 'talks' be delivered through groups like this to get to kids?

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\* Welsh Baccaulareate - is there an opportunity to engage with schoolchildren about work in the Rhondda. There are 6-7 Comps in the Rhondda.

- Does it have to be on their terms? ie. apps/social media.

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• Organisations - Identifying 'Multi-benefits' - given current financial climate.

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\* We need to ask younger people how we might do this.

## FINDING THE POSITIVE STORIES & SHARING

- How do we 'share' the positives?
  - Network of groups eg WI. Church groups
  - In the Rhondda, with all the groups etc. this is one approach
  - Also, publications.
- Engaging with young people.
- With local 'cool' businesses eg. the Bicycle Doctor in Porth has 250 club members and kids groups. Could 'talks' be delivered through groups like this to get to kids?
- Welsh Baccaulareate - is there an opportunity to engage with schoolchildren about work in the Rhondda. There are 6-7 comprehensive schools in the Rhondda.
- Organisations - identifying 'multi-benefits' given current financial climate.
- We need to ask younger people how we might do this.

## AFTERNOON EXERCISE 2:

### Open Space - How can we take this forward in the current climate?

The group suggested 4 discussion themes, self-selecting where they wished to participate:



### RHONDDACADEMY - DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 16-18 YEARS OLD

A 2-day residential leadership scheme for young people to promote good citizenship and to support and mentor them to become leaders within their communities.

#### Potential Delivery Partners

- NRW staff have a two days Volunteering Scheme
- Daerwynno as host organisation
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- South Wales Police
- Sports Council for Wales
- Interlink

#### Potential Sponsors

- Tesco
- Asda
- Argent
- Ford
- Greggs
- Large Cinemas
- Round Table

#### The Scheme

- Element of Challenge - Ten Tors / DofE type programme

- Motivational Speakers - Sports Stars / Industry Leaders
- Develop Young leaders for the community
- Ask Young people
- Possible Agored Cymru accreditation
- Completion pack with information from Job Centre, Careers Wales, UCAS, volunteering organisations

#### Recruitment / Referrals based on merit through:

- Girls and Boys Clubs - forward Planning for when they reach completion age
- Cadets (army, sea, fire, Young carers, ATD) - identify leaders, natural progression to this scheme
- Interlink



## AFTERNOON EXERCISE 2:

### Open Space - How can we take this forward in the current climate?

The group suggested 4 discussion themes, self-selecting where they wished to participate:



Potential partners to take this forward:-

### ALLOTMENT (South Wales Fire and Rescue Service)

- Federation of City Farms & Gardens
- Gaby Torkington
- Terry Walton
- RCT Homes
- Keep Wales Tidy (Richard Barrett)
- Community service (probation service)
- Local digger companies - Tommy Trailer
- Kieron Montague, RCT
- Cowbridge compost - own trailer required
- Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, planters for free
- Green Dreams

## SOME FEEDBACK FROM THE EVENT...

“Everyone participated and atmosphere conducive to participation - everyone felt valued.”

**“Good time management.”**

“Good mix of interactive sessions and being spoken to”

**“Approach was good.”**

**“All of it. A really good session.”**

*What worked For you today?*

“Meeting organised very well.”

“Well-run topical sessions, topics discussed important.”

**“Good facilitation, excellent pace.”**

“Good mix of different organisations.”

**“V good. Managed to gain a lot of views and opinions.”**



## 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 Vodafone, 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'.

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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**

