



HAY, BRECON & TALGARTH SANCTUARY FOR REFUGEES

GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 13th July 2016 18:30. Gwernyfed Rugby club in Talgarth.

1. **Minutes and matters arising from group meeting June 9th 2016** - minutes approved and report received and approved. Brief report on activities:
 - Lobbying – (1) we met Mr Inkson and Cllr Rosemarie Harris and emphasised our interest and ability to source and fund necessary equipment. We offered to provide TVs and computers and to pay for a broadband connection for the first month and to pay for a few months TV licence. Our generous supporters donated computers and TVs but we only heard today that the consortium planning for the Syrians arrival don't want the TVs at present but do want the computers which we are having checked over. (2) About 15-20 of us attended a march in Brecon on 4th July to show solidarity with refugees and ask for 'no more hate' and 'no more lies'. This was as part of a National march against Austerity.
 - Fundraising - a very successful concert at the Globe in Hay raised £800 for ShelterBox who will send essential equipment to Syria. We have had some additional donations.
 - Respite days – (1) Llangorse on 10th July was a great success. Over 55 people seeking refuge came and had a good day. A report will be on the website shortly. Maria (SBASSG) wrote an inspiring email sent previously. (2) Plans are in hand for Talgarth on 30th July but we'd really like to have a good number of supporters at the Football match (3pm) and to help share the sporting activities with our visitors (from 11am). So please do try to come along.
 - Expenditure - we paid £1,000 to Oasis for English qualification accreditation, £800 to ShelterBox Syrian appeal, £330 to Newport Sanctuary for a Table football table, £1000 for Asylum Justice, £300 to send sleeping bags to Calais.
 - Goods - we had a very generous response to requests for blankets for Syria which were sent via Newport. We also were able to give all the items requested by Maria. We were able to supply everyone who came to Llangorse with some toiletries and they could select any clothing that they wanted. We still have a number of our welcome boxes and quite large amounts of bedding and clothing in store. The Food bank and local supermarkets were generous in giving us food and also there were generous donations from individuals so again large food bags were given to all

- attendees in Llangorse. We have made 3 deliveries to Swansea of goods since the last meeting.
- Refugees Welcome is another group who "set up to help Civil Society groups and members of the public to coordinate their activities and act together to show that the country is #ReadyAndWilling and that this is a place which says clearly". They have accepted our request to be listed upon their website and offer us regular phone ins. Does anyone feel that they might like to join a fortnightly phone in to give and receive information, please?
 - Meetings - Sean and Ailsa attended a training day in Swansea on 'Meaningful activity' to speak about our activities on away days. People were interested in our work.
2. **Schools** – (1) Jeff Beatty had reported that Christ College have the date in their diary and will do detailed planning next term. They have a number of interested teachers and will provide transport. Ailsa has emailed to check provisional numbers that they will cater for and to confirm that we will support them. (2) It was reported to Ailsa that Gwernyfed have made diversity and integration an important aspect of their teaching for the future and the head has joined our group. We know Crickhowell are supportive. We would like to encourage more participation from Schools and school aged children.
3. **Lobbying** - other than what is reported above, Sean reported that the council has a motion to debate to show support for anti-racism and to say that all people are welcome in Powys. It was agreed that we would write to our councillors to commend this. Action - Ailsa and All Refugees Welcome - it was agreed that Margaret Blake and Jonnie Hill would be our link people and would share the telephone conference duty between themselves and report to us.
4. **Stalls** - to continue to publicise our group, inform the public and recruit new supporters. It was agreed that we would try to have a stall at Llangorse fete on 23rd July, (Ailsa and Melrose), Brecon Show on 6th August (if the Rotary can find us space - Katy, Ailsa), Talgarth Black Mountains Festival on 27-28th August (Philip, Lynne and Sian), Brecon Prom Fest 10th September (Penny). Latest leaflet to be added to website. Other volunteers to help man stalls to give info will be appreciated
5. **Publicity** - still try to get articles in B&R. We have 273 supporters on email, 222 on Twitter and 229 on Facebook. We hope that the powerful documentary Exodus will encourage more people to be supportive of people who have had to flee from their homes. Maggie suggested we consider use of the term 'forced migration' to describe people who have to seek refuge.
6. **Respite days** –
- July 10th / Llangors - Melrose gave a detailed account of a very successful visit of over 50 people seeking refuge and supporters from Swansea. There were a number of activities available including jewellery making, football and walks. Donations from local people, Morrisons, Aldi, the Co-op, the Food Bank and info sheets and welcome cards from the school helped to make this a very welcoming day. The

Church contributed cakes and helped to give out teas. We were grateful to so many supporters and locals calling in to extend a welcome. Philip and Lynne commented upon the incredible enthusiasm, excitement and joy on the faces of the visitors and hosts and said how much they had enjoyed attending. Article will be on website soon.

- July 30th / Talgarth - Virginia. It will be on the Saturday, 2nd day of the Talgarth sports festival. <http://talgarth.fyinetnetwork.co.uk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/TalgarthSports/> for details. Plans progressing well. 3 groups providing refreshments. Rugby club will be the base for the day. There will be walks around town, including a visit to the Mill as well as a large number of sports to participate in. There will be a football match between UID and Talgarth senior team at 3pm. Possibly tea afterwards for players and supporters. Also a Coleridge festival is taking place on this day and refugee writers from Swansea and Newport may attend and join with us for food. We'd really like to have a good number of supporters at the Football match (3pm) and to help share the sporting activities with our visitors (from 11am). So please do try to come along. Please email Virginia on rhydygarth@keme.co.uk to offer help.
- August 12th / Talgarth – Women's and Children's day for about 30 women and children at a small holding near Talgarth with crafts and food... need to identify people from Swansea to attend and confirm transport.
- August 21st / Brilley - 25 or possibly less. Carrie & Jo. Aimed at families (as with Llangenny). Incl. visit to farm. Planning meeting next week.
- September 1st / Craig y Nos - possibly a Picnic in the park
- September 25th / Christ's College - Young people mainly
- October 9th / Bronllys - Sue, Philip and Lynne. Alive and kicking choir will be present and this may be in Llyswen as Bronllys hall may not be available.

WE DO WANT SOME MORE OFFERS FOR DAYS IN NOVEMBER ONWARDS, Please! Please consider your community and friends and how they could welcome people for the day. We have considerable experience now that we can share and support anyone who offers to host an event.

Action Ailsa to chase up Landmark trust, Coleg Trefecca and PGL to see if they still plan to offer days. Llangorse/ Llanfihangel have offered to do a day in the late autumn/ winter. Possibly Talgarth Mill will do a day. ? Cradoc

7. **Hardship Fund Policy** - approved with minor amendment and Trustees of this fund to be Mike Gatehouse, Treasurer Lawrence Duffy and Margaret Blake.
8. **Finance and Expenditure** - all the expenditure agreed at the last meeting was successfully spent. We still have a healthy balance.
9. **Fundraising** – (1) Penny, Andrew, Hilary, Margaret Pat, Trevor and Julia have agreed to help the foodbank with a Fundraising concert at the Cathedral. Some monies will come to us.

(2) It was suggested that we ask local groups via our members to support us, e.g. Brownies, WI. Possibly we may need to offer speakers. In exchange, the groups may help with fundraising or donations of toiletries. (3) Black Hill Voices have offered to put on a concert for us - Sean to explore. (4) Consider Brecon Pantomime.

10. **Goods** - we have a number of blankets ready to send to Calais and plenty of clothing. Note: Urgent appeal from Newport 2 Calais for food as above. We will try in future to have more targeted collections of clothing. We still have 3 complete household welcome packs.
11. **Ystradgynlais** - Maggie reported on her attendance at PAVO meeting on Monday, when it became clear that the support workers don't want input from outsiders (even locals) and hope for a low key integration of the families. The Cwm Tawe (CATCH) food bank has plenty of toys and clothing if needed and people can volunteer via the volunteer bureau in Ystrad if they wish. There is the possibility that we might be asked to help with English teaching - it was agreed that we would wait for a formal approach.
12. **Groups** –
 - Art - Eugene attended the Llangorse day and drew various people and some drew him! Antonia will attend the Talgarth day.
 - English - Mac agreed to wait to see if Ystrad might want our involvement.
 - Therapies - it was agreed that the therapies group would do a brief role play on Listening skills at our next meeting.
13. **Charitable Status** - Agreed that we would explore this further - any offers to do this would be appreciated.
14. **AGM City Of Sanctuary** – (Friday 15th July) - the questions were discussed, and it was agreed that in our area we have really only found support for refugees and their plight. We thought it might be worth having a further public meeting (possibly in November) to advertise our group further and ask for more support.
15. **Date of Next Meeting** - 7th September. 6.30