

Senedd Cross Party Group Meeting

13/03/2024

Ty Hwyl, Cardiff

Sam Rowlands, MS, chaired the meeting,

Another hybrid meeting with very good attendance online and in the room. Although the timing was tricky because other committees were meeting, 4 other Senedd members attended at different times during the meeting – Huw Iranca Davies (Labour), Cefn Campbell (PC), Russell George (Conservative) and Altaf Hussein (Conservative). However there wasn't one time when members from each of the three parties were all in the meeting together so the official AGM had to be postponed.

It was noted that Paul Donovan is stepping down from the secretariat role, and Catherine Williams from Snowdonia Active will be stepping up to take that position supporting Rebecca Brough who remains in her role.

The first main item was the discussion of the desire to create an outdoor manifesto similar to that produced in England. This could be led by the Outdoor Alliance (although further comms needed with Paul Donovan on this as he wasn't at the meeting). With an imminent change in government with the announcement of the new first minister on the weekend we will have to consider building new relationships with the new cabinet ministers, so it was suggested that the original OA manifesto from 2021 be presented to the new first minister and his cabinet as a starting point, and this document could then be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Following this it was also felt that there needs to be a repository for research work for the CPG to draw on so that the work from the Pembs. Coastal forum (discussed in the last meeting) could easily be passed to new ministers and members. In producing a new updated outdoor manifesto, we need to draw on but not replicate the earlier WG docs, Climbing Higher (2006) and Climbing Higher next steps (2011). This was also suggested to be passed to Paul to see if there is the capacity of Basecamp to do something like this through the OA. It was agreed that it's important to maintain the momentum the sector has gathered with the Senedd even with a change in government.

Finally, SR suggested that an annual event/celebration of the sector would be a good to both recognise achievement and maintain the high profile. This should be connected with Wales Outdoor Learning Week which is organised every year by the Wales Council for Outdoor Learning. This could also connect with the Urdd centre and the end of Outdoor learning week in 2025 would be a good opportunity to have a launch event with activities in the bay.