

AGM – 04 Sept 2016

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Presentation of Annual report, and questions
 - General report
 - Treasury report
 - Funding report
 - Looking Ahead
- 3) Nominations and voting
- 4) A.O.B

Cardiff Taffs 2015/16 - General Report

We've been holding meetings on the first Sunday of every month, 2-5pm in the Cwtch area at Chapter Arts Centre in Canton for several years. This has proved successful and has gained us a number of new members from interested passers-by. Trading sessions are usually well attended, averaging around 15 members at any one session. Members are also welcome to hold meetings any time and anywhere they like, inviting some or all members. If you wish to hold a meeting, please let the coordinating team know, simply so we can help you out if necessary.

Currently our membership stands at 129 members on the website (an increase of 19 from last year), with 387 people on the facebook group. We also have 325 followers on Twitter! The majority of our trading is carried out in our monthly trading sessions, with some additional trading over facebook and the website in-between. We do require members to sign up on the website if they wish to trade, as we can otherwise have problems where one party has an



account and the other doesn't, so a trade is left 'hanging'!

Although we do still have paper Taff notes, these are almost never used to trade now, with most transactions being over the website. This helps with printing costs and makes transactions easier to track as the website holds a permanent record of every transaction. At trading sessions, the majority of trades are recorded on a transaction sheet and then uploaded to the website afterwards. This does mean more work for the Treasurer but creates more comprehensive records.

Treasury report

Sterling account: The current balance is £157.65 held in a Co-operative Business Account with Vicky Mort and Lianne Hussey as signatories. Over the almost 4 years we have had this account we have found it hasn't really worked for us. This is mainly because it is set up for business, rather than small groups, but also because all communication has to be done over the telephone. We are therefore planning to close the Co-operative account and open a Community Saver Account with the Yorkshire Building Society which is much more suited to the needs of a small organisation such as Taffs. A credit union account was considered, but sadly cannot be used to pay online bills, vital if we are to maintain a website!

Our sterling balance has actually more than doubled in the eighteen months since the last AGM. We have two sources of funding at present;

- a) The use of easyfundraising.org.uk. This is a scheme whereby retailers donate a small amount to a 'good cause' when you shop online, at no additional cost to you.
- b) A collecting tub at meetings. This has generated a small but steady amount of money, which gives a real boost to funds, so we encourage members to continue giving what they can; as Tesco say "Every little helps"!

Despite this, the cost of running Taffs is still greater than our income. The greatest expense is the website which costs £82.25 to host each year. Other expenses include the printing costs of leaflets, trading sheets etc and one off purchases, e.g. this year we bought a collecting tin and security chain. Currently the Co-ordinating team cover many of these costs.

Taffs account: All members start with a balance of 100 Taffs, with a minimum balance of 0 Taffs and a maximum balance of 200 Taffs.

Funding Update

We are in the process of applying for National Lottery funding.

As with any voluntary activity, normal life comes first and when working through an application for funding unexpected obstacles come up which elongate the process. We are slightly behind schedule with the application from where we expected to be at this point but we have a definite plan for what we want to achieve out of the funding if we are accepted.

The aim is to provide an outreach service which includes teaching people how to set up their own community currencies and other aspects of community building and poverty alleviation. The funding will be expected to enable people to be employed to run this new service that would be mostly autonomous from the Taffs scheme. The outreach would be provided at events, festivals and in communities. We want Cardiff Taffs to enable even more community building than it has achieved within the last 6 years.

Looking Ahead

Our web hosting costs have increased in the last few years. We will be looking to see what cheaper options we have in regard to this.

All members can help grow the Taffs community by spreading the word at every opportunity.

If any member would like to run meetings outside of the monthly Sunday sessions at Chapter please get in touch. We can work with you to set this up and can provide ongoing support. Equally if you wish to set up a similar currency in a different town or area we can help.

We are still in need of funding for the main Taffs group, and welcome ideas and opportunities from members on how to find this.

We will be continuing to encourage people to advertise wants and offers on the website as not all members have access to the facebook group. Ideally people should list their want or offer on the website first and then, if they wish, put a link to this on the facebook group.

We are still encouraging people to add personal stories to the website regarding how Taffs has helped you. This will help attract new members. Add your 'Taffs story' to the appropriate section on the website.