



*Dedicated to research, restore and protect
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - Gwent's most iconic landmark*

*Ymroddedig i ymchwilio, adfer a gwarchod
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - tirnod mwyaf eiconig Gwent*

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Fifty Sixth Meeting of the Trustees

7.00pm on Monday 5th August 2019 at Crosskeys RFC

This meeting was cancelled earlier in the day because five of the Trustees had been up Twmbarlwm most of the day showing an archaeologist around (see item 4).

But there were various reports that needed to be updated to the membership and was reported via our e-newsletter, so although not discussed at a meeting I include them here under the relevant agenda items.

NOTES

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING held on 3rd June 2019 and matters arising [To be reviewed at next scheduled meeting](#)

3. CORRESPONDENCE

4. ARCHAEOLOGY and CADW

[Update on excavation project:](#)

The Tender Brief went off via email to a list of potential contractors on 7th June - we had a very poor response so we re-sent the brief again on 4th July extending the deadline for applications.

TE and W F-W visited an archaeological site (with Will Davies of Cadw) in Montgomery being run by The Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust. Although this group decided

5. CCBC / TORFAEN / COMMONERS WORKS

[Update on Adventure Triangle project and report of meeting with CCBC held on 18th June.](#)
[\(Following are the notes of the meeting made by NL.\)](#)

[Meeting with Cadw and CCBC 18/6/19.](#)

[Present:](#)

[Sue Evans - Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm \(CTS\); Norman Liversuch – \(CTS\); Will Davies – Cadw;](#)
[Phil Griffiths - CCBC; Margaret Isles – \(joined the meeting after it had started\); Dewi Thomas –](#)

[Background](#)

[The Scheduled Ancient Monument \(SAM\) at Twmbarlwm had been badly damaged by wildfires in the summer of 2018. A Sward Management Plan \(SMP\) had been prepared for Cadw which identified how restoration could be achieved and the resultant sward managed in the future to reduce the risk of more wildfires occurring.](#)

The meeting was arranged to discuss Cadw's proposal to use the management plan as an exemplar project of upland restoration which could inform the management of other similar areas under their control.

There was a wide ranging discussion but the following points were agreed:

- 1) Restoration should accord with the principles set out in the SMP with the view that various techniques could be trialled on different parts of the monument. Cadw were not averse to temporary fencing being used to protect reseeded areas or areas subject to erosion.*
- 2) The proposed archaeological investigation could be used to identify the condition of the ground and so advise on the best method to revegetate. (I wonder if it would be more sensible to ask Cadw to engage Andre Berry to dig some trial pits across the SAM in advance of any archaeological work to identify the extent of the fire damage so that we can consider a further reseeded project this autumn?)*
- 3) Cadw would be happy to support restoration work outside of the SAM but their focus had to be on the SAM.*
- 4) There was high level support within Cadw for the archaeological investigation and the SMP.*
- 5) CCBC indicated that as part of the Adventure Triangle Project were already working to encourage more public access to Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Maen so were already committed to the area. They would be interested in getting involved with the SMP. However, both they and Cadw recognised the need to involve other partners such as NRW, the South Wales Fires Service and the Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University, as well as existing local partners such as CTS, the grazier, the landowner and commoners.*
- 6) Funding was discussed and it was felt that apart from Cadw and CCBC the public sector bodies in 5 above could be possible sources as well as grant aid via the various Lottery Grants that are available. Re: the latter CTS could be the applicant for this grant.*
- 7) There was the need for an urgent 'hearts and minds' campaign to inform and advise the public of the issues facing the SAM, what was planned and to get them actively involved. (I don't think that Cadw and CCBC, particularly the latter, appreciate the urgency of this in relation to the damage being caused by public access.)*
- 8) Action Points.*
 - 8.1) CCBC will approach their contacts in NRW and the South Wales Fire Service to see if they would be interested in getting involved in implementation of the SMP.*
 - 8.2) Cadw to approach IBERS to see if this is something that they could use as a research project.*
 - 8.3) Cadw and CCBC to see what grants were available.*
 - 8.4) Cadw will draft an article which could be used in a 'hearts and mind campaign' for circulation to all parties.*
 - 8.5) CTS will progress the bidding process for the archaeological investigation.*
 - 8.6) Margaret Illes (CCBC Ecologist) will visit the SAM to see the extent of the damage.*
- 9) No date was agreed for a future meeting*

6. TIDY TWMP

- i. Report on Litterpicks/Workdays held since June 2019*

The Thursday after the litter pick the rubbish had not been collected - but TE had a phone call from Tudor Lewis [CCBC rubbish man] who promised that it would be picked up that afternoon. Suggested that we take what rubbish we can to Snowdon Close for collection.

VANDALISM

TE up Tump on 9th June - found fence either side of the stock gate had been cut down and a

dozen sheep on top.

TE & SE went up Tump Weds 26th June - found Land Rover parked at stock gate and the fence was newly repaired - found car owner on top who turned out to be worker from Llanarth Estates who had been sent up there to round up sheep and mend fence.)

TE up Tump on 24th July - found two Llanarth workers there rounding up sheep and cattle from top - again the fence either side of the stock gate had been cut down - they said they would repair the fence if they had time.

TE there again on 28th with the litter pick team - the fence had not been repaired - and the fence next to the kissing gate was also cut - so we effected a simple repair to stop any animals getting through, although there were already several sheep on top.

TE there again on 1st August and again the stock gate fence was down and the kissing gate was propped open and damaged.

NOTE: TE is up the mountain at least once a week reporting these problems - used to be able to do it more - but how can we encourage others to do so - remember "Tump Watch"

7. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

8. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CWMCARN FOREST DRIVE

RS to give report on this and any developments that may interest CTS.

Plans for the re-opening of the drive are proceeding apace, tenders for the reconstruction and repair of the roads have gone out and as such a contractor as not yet been appointed.

Plans for the various car parks have been drawn up or are in the process and again tenders have gone out to landscape and civil engineering companies.

Geminie Drinkwater who is the lead on all aspects of the re-opening has set up various focus groups from local community groups, including CTS.

TE, SE, MV, B.F-W attended a meeting with NRW on 30 June to discuss the various themes of each car park and the content of interpretation boards, nature of facilities, sculptures, play areas, access for all abilities, etc.

9. POLICING

10. EVENTS

COMPLETED EVENTS

i. Risca Fete 15th June 2019

TE and MV attended - there was no great ceremony but we were handed a cheque for £100 for our work on Twmbarlwm - and it was a lovely sunny day.

ii. Walk to Pwll Tra with Rob - (starting from Cwmcarn)

RS was not very well with his bad legs on the day but he went to the start point and nobody turned up - it had been advertised on our website and Facebook - but it was not pushed very hard.

11. A.O.B.

12. Date of next Trustees' Meeting:

First Monday in October is the 7th