

VISIT WALES

South East Wales Regional Tourism Forum

18th October 2018

Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw Site

Present:

Name		Representing
Stephen Leeke	SL	Cardiff Hoteliers (Chair)
Cerys Davey	CD	ICC Wales
Paul Hudson	PH	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Kerry Jennings	KJ	Parkway Hotel
Sarah Higgs	SH	Parkway Hotel
Alyson Tippings	AT	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Nia Hollins	NH	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Jo Nugent	JN	Angel Hotel, Abergavenny
Francesca Bowen	FB	Seven Hills Hideaway, Monmouthshire
Amanda Jones	AJ	Meet Cardiff
Kate McCartney	KM	Meet Cardiff
Lyndsey Handley	LH	Merthyr County Borough Council
Vicky Jones	VJ	Bridgend County Borough Council
Adrian Cole	AD	Van Mansion B& B, Caerphilly
Nicola Edwards	NE	Monmouthshire County Council
Rebecca King	RK	Chepstow Racecourse
Judith Evans	JE	Coleg y Cymoedd, Principal
Philippa George	PG	Heritage Coast Campsite
Lynne Richards	LR	Newport City Council
Ian Christopher	IC	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
Paul Rees	PR	Rhondda Cynon Taff Tourism Association
Tracey Morris	TM	Royal Mint Experience
Heledd Williams	HW	Head of Business Events, VW
Gerwyn Evans	GE	Head of Tourism Development, VW
Peter Francombe	PF	Tourism Industry Support Manager, VW
Hugh Evans	HE	Stakeholder Liaison Manager, Transport for Wales
Louisa Giles	LG	Regional Engagement Manager, VW

Apologies

Ieuan Sherwood	Bridgend County Borough Council
Bob Guy	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Katrina Rohman	Brynmeadows Golf, Hotel & Spa
Phillip Sykes	Aneurin Leisure Trust
Sarah Clifford	Cardiff Airport
Ken Smith	The National Trust
Hannah Williams	Tiny Rebel Brewery

<p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u></p> <p>Minutes & Actions: Minutes were agreed and actions discussed.</p> <p>Actions carried forward: DMG to provide an update to members on Destination Investment Plan regional projects at the next meeting.</p> <p>GE updated members that the plan was presented to City Deal Leaders in July. Kellie Beirne is the new City Deal contact who will be invited to the next Forum meeting.</p> <p>Claire Chappell, Visit Wales Marketing, to provide an update on working with partners to develop a regional marketing campaign as part of Digital Gateway project by next meeting.</p>	<p>DMG</p> <p>VW</p> <p>VW</p>
<p><u>Visit Wales Regional Update, Gerwyn Evans</u></p> <p>GE updated members on South East Regional projects. RTEF & TPIF will be a two year programme from 2019-2021, and Expressions of Interest will be launching soon. Projects will need demonstrate a strategic fit with the Wales Way and Year of Discovery thematic approach, information on this and our previously funded projects can be found at: https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/finance#guides-tabs--0</p> <p>VW has a positive pipeline of investment proposals from private sector. However, the South East region still falls behind other areas of Wales in the amount of applications received for all schemes. Industry roadshow and other regional fora feedback that early indications show a growth in visitor numbers over the summer. Overseas visitor numbers (IPS figures) are expected to be released shortly.</p> <p>GE encouraged partners to work collaboratively with private sector when developing future projects with new approaches needed to be considered.</p> <p>An Investment Conference is taking place on 29th November to highlight private and public sector development opportunities in Wales with investors active in the tourism and hospitality space.</p> <p>All tourism businesses seeking financial support from Welsh Government will need to develop their own Economic Contracts with VW in line with the ambitions of the new Economic Action Plan.</p> <p>VW are actively engaged with Valleys Regional Park work who have recently announced a £7m fund for new Discovery sites across the region.</p> <p>ACTION: Valleys Regional Park to present at the next Forum meeting</p>	<p>VW</p>

Minister for Culture, Sport & Tourism Question & Answer Session

The Minister was asked a series of questions from members on matters relating to Tourism Tax, industry skills and local museums.

Members were encouraged to contact the Minister Office with suggestions on good training models and any barriers facing local Museums to hold National Museums Wales exhibitions throughout Wales.

Judith Evans, Coleg y Cymoedd, provided members with an update on the courses, recent investments and support available to the industry. Members were encouraged to contact Paul Rees, Employment Engagement Officer, to discuss any skills / training needs, Paul.Rees@cymoedd.ac.uk

GE reminded members that they had the opportunity to feed into the Regional Skills Partnership when they were determining the priority areas. Unfortunately, due to the lack of representation, tourism and hospitality skills are missing from the core strategic areas.

PF updated members on the work being undertaken by David Chapman, UK Hospitality, on behalf of the sector skills issues and giving members the opportunity to feed in.

Rail & Tourism Presentation, Hugh Evans, Transport for Wales

Presentation has already been circulated to members.

If members have specific queries covered in presentation they can make contact directly: Hugh.Evans@amey.co.uk

Business Events Wales presentation, Heledd Williams, Visit Wales

Presentation has already been circulated to members.

Members were encouraged to share their business event news MeetInWales@gov.wales and product news to ProductNews@gov.wales
Members were urged to considering attending future VW overseas trade events to promote their business and to benefit the region as a whole.

AOB / Closing Remarks

PF updated members on a Tourism Awards proposal received, specifically for the South East region, offering members the opportunity to get involved and play a part for proposed date of November 2019. Peter.Francombe@gov.wales

Regional Updates were previously circulated prior to the meeting for member's

<p>information.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to inform VW if they plan on attending meetings or sending alternatives in advance of meetings.</p> <p>GE informed members that it was the Chairs last meeting and thanked him for his contribution to the role. Nominations are open to a new South East Wales chair and members are invited to send through their nominations before the next meeting. The role does attract a modest daily rate of remuneration for the 3-4 per annum forum meetings and 3-4 meetings with the Visit Wales Management Board (attended by the Minister).</p> <p>Our Tourism Summit will take place on 28th March 2019 in Llandrindod Wells, invitations to follow.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>Date of next meeting: 21st February – Location TBC</p>	