ISSUE 1 WINTER 2018

One Planet News
Newyddion Un Blaned

A newsletter for all current and prospective One Planet Developments

Newsletter 2018

Welcome to One Planet News! Croeso i Newyddion Un Blaned!

Tour at Lammas Ecovillage

This newsletter focuses on the events and developments of the One planet Development (OPD) community in Wales. This is the first edition of this newsletter, thereafter it will be published bi-annually.

The aim is to share information about relevant events, share news and information within the OPD community and beyond, keep in touch and provide moral support. Hopefully, this is the first of many, and it offers a source of support and promotes the growth of the OPD community. This newsletter aspires to be community-led and hopes to have input from across the OPD community going forward.

Suzanne Pearton-Scale (editor)

News from the One Planet Council

This year we had a well attended "One Planet Moot" in April 2018, which raised some interesting issues for further discussion and provided a social gathering for current OPD's to share stories and offer support. Thanks to Tao and Hoppi Wimbush at Lammas for hosting the day.

July 2018 saw the successful implementation of numerous One Planet open days, by creating a timetable for various OPD's to host an open day within one week, it ensured common publicity and good attendance in which to raise awareness and demonstrate good practice.

It was encouraging to see the Publication of new Rural Planning Handbook with a Wales/OPD chapter. The Rural Planning Handbook (formerly the DIY Planning Handbook) is available from Chapter 7, the land is ours (TLIO). http://tlio.org.uk/rural-planning-handbook/

In February of this year the One Planet Council responded to a somewhat negative depiction of the OPD policy within the Swansea Local Development Plan and can happily report that they have now adopted the suggested terminology that more positively reflects the national policy. https://swansea.jdi-consult.net/ldp/index.php

All in all, it has been a positive year for the One Planet movement, with more and more successful applications and the continuance of positive representation alongside growing awareness of this pioneering policy we are so fortunate to have here in Wales.

NEW OPD'S 2018:

Tir Heddwch
Dyfi Valley, Powys..
Cwrcoed-Uchaf
Llangoedmore, Ceredigion
Twiscob Top
Cascob, Powys.
Allt Cefn Ffynnon
nr Llanarth, Ceredigion.
Coed Allt Goch
Llanddewi Brefi, Ceredigion.
Pencoed
Llechryd, Ceredigion.
Ty Coed
Glyndyfrydwy,Denbighshire.
Cae Calon
Narberth, Pembrokeshire.

LINKS:

One Planet Council
www.oneplanetcouncil.org.uk
Practice guidance
https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/121114oneplanetguideen.pdf
TAN 6:
https://gov.wales/docs/desh/policy/100722tan6en.pdf

OPC MEETINGS

Feb 7th
Cardigan 17.30pm
Grosvenor Hotel
(Welsh language option)

See OPC facebook pages for future planned meetings.

Mark Waghorn: One Planet Homes.

One Planet Modular Home
www.mwd.wales

In light of the recent news that a new One Planet Development was approved in Powys using Mark Waghorn's open source 'One Planet Home' design, we asked Mark his story.

Can you give a brief summary about your One Planet Homes?

"MWD has developed designs for different models of family home, to be part of a One Planet Development site using low impact principles. Framed and clad using local welsh timber, the houses make reference to local vernacular and are designed to sit lightly in the landscape. The One Planet Park Home has been designed to meet BS:3623 for park homes. It is constructed in two halves, manufactured off-site and requires minimal labour to be assembled on site. Our One Planet Modular Home has been designed with a portal frame, allowing the house to be extended and adapted to suit changing needs with minimal disruption".

What does 'open-source' mean?

"*We've taken the designs forward as an open-source project, developing the designs for free for everyone to download, including plans and a model you can play around with. There are no limitations on how it can be used - it's for everyone to use for themselves."*

Where you see things going with this design?

"*We have been having a lot of requests recently for the One Planet Home designs. We hope that our designs can offer people the chance to speed up the process of building their home and allow more time to focus on their land-based requirements. Beyond OPD, we have also had a lot of interest in the designs from people looking for an accessible, low impact and truly affordable way to own their own home."*

This an an exciting opportunity for prospective One Planet applications, having a free source of home designs that people can be comfortable are within the parameters and criteria of the One Planet policy, future applicants can have confidence in using these designs within their applications. This allows accessibility to all, especially with limited means for traditional architectural designs and the associated fees. A forward step to promote the One Planet way of life and future applications making things more accessible to all.

ONE PLANET PRODUCE STICKERS

The One Planet Council has launched a label to identify produce grown on One Planet Developments. Only approved One Planet Development enterprises may use the label.

The 'One Planet Produce' label serves both to raise awareness, and so that consumers can see the provenance of the goods they are purchasing. Consumers will have confidence that the product is from a land-based business on an approved One Planet Development with a low ecological footprint. Although not accredited 'organic' it is likely to be so.

This is the only product mark we are aware of that gives consumers such confidence.
For more information about how to get your OPD produce stickers contact the OPC:
http://www.oneplanetcouncil.org.uk/one-planet-produce/

OPEN WEEK 2018

In July 2018 an 'Open Week' was organised. This involved numerous OPD's and plots on Lammas opening their doors to the public for a day or two within one week.

This made it possible for the public and potential OPD practitioners to attend many OPD's at the same time if they wished.

It was a great success with many attending each plot.

The One Planet Council have agreed that due to its success, it will be continued and have already arranged the date for 2019.

Open days are important part of community engagement and by having them all on one week, it means that the publicising of open days becomes cohesive and easier for individual plots and also gives the chance for OPDs to advertise further afield.

Open week 2019: July 22-28th.

The Future of OPD?

Where do people hope to see OPD in years to come?

The One Planet Development policy was adopted by the Welsh government in 2011 as part of its "One Wales: One Planet " scheme. So, seven years on, what do professionals and OPD practitioners think of the future of this unique policy?

Nant Y Cwm Farm; the first OPD

The Future?

Having posed the question to a number of OPD practitioners, members of the OPC, consultants and professionals linked to the OPD movement; the general consensus was positive and ambitious.

Keith Burgess at Hafan Y Coed believes in the growth of OPD produce and the prospect of *"supplying great quality organic produce to the local markets. Individuals going out of their way to purchase One Planet Produce which is more available in more mainstream shops"*. Many of the OPD practitioners aspire that one planet produce will become more available and enhanced by the one planet produce stickers, that are being further developed: www.oneplanetcouncil.org.uk/one-planet-produce.

A consensus was that OPD projects will be appearing more and more, and James Shorten (writer of OPD Practice Guidance) hopes that *"OPD will become normalised, and we will move on to the next levels: its application in far more situations and at larger scales including around urban areas".*

Challenges?

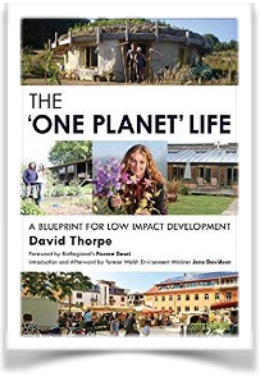
There will inevitably be challenges along the way of this relatively new and progressive policy. It is difficult to predict what the community may come up against in the future that may be a challenge. Jacqui Banks (Pencedni) sees the main challenge being *"encouraging individuals to embrace the opportunity... we can help by creating excellent working examples",* although OPD may be seen as a challenge for some, this can be overcome with a positive approach and by *"integrating and involving the locals to show that OPD is of benefit" (Nerina Vaughan, OPC).* An opinion was posed that Brexit may upset the balance of the OPD movement in terms of the re-structuring of land post-brexit. This is dependant on the outcome of recent negotiations and possible change in leadership….only time will tell?

How will One Planet Developments continue to flourish?

Regardless of possible challenges that we may face in there future, the overwhelming response from the OPD community was a proud and affirmative one. We translate words into action, we will encourage others, spread the word, demonstrate this innovative and forward-thinking way of life firm in the belief that we have only one planet and our model will *"increasingly shine as a beacon of hope for those people willing to reconsider their relationship with the natural world"* Tao Wimbush (Lammas).

"Trailblazers who are facilitating the path for all people"
A Note from David Thorpe

As author of "One Planet Life", it seemed fitting to approach David Thorpe for his thoughts on the One Planet Development Policy and its progression into the future:



"The One Planet Life" book by David Thorpe.

"Over the next ten years I see the concept being broadened in terms of acceptance on the grass roots and the political and hybrid OPDs becoming more common. The food component of anyone's ecological footprint (EF) is about 27 to 30%, and it it is the hardest component of all to reduce. OPD helps with this by supplying local communities.

Politically, together, the Environment (Wales) Act, and the revolutionary Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA), which uses the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN and EF as indicators, are an opportunity to broaden OPD. One of the relatively easy things to do to tackle both the ecological footprint and the carbon footprint and meet the requirements of these acts is to shorten supply chains and make those supply chains circular, in other words source locally, reuse everything, including nutrients in food. Also, by not importing food and other agroforestry products but sourcing them within Wales as a nation we have much more control over their impacts.

The five ways of working embodied by the WBFGA prescribe using procurement policy to achieve this. More intensive use of the countryside with greater employment, i.e. sustainable regeneration of rural Wales, to service the urban areas of Wales. It's generally agreed now that procurement policy by public bodies must change so that smaller firms can apply for contracts to supply hospitals, schools, prisons, colleges, care homes, etc. The Welsh government and local government need to lead by example by procuring from local firms/suppliers who are encouraged to cooperate with each other in consortia using additional social and environmental criteria, not just economic criteria, in the choice of suppliers as part of that process.

The Future Generations Commissioner, Sophie Howe has told me that she believes the £6 billion annual budget in Wales should be used "not just to buy from the existing market but to create the world we want to see, such as school dinners from local producers. We need to change the way we procure. I'm confident it will drive this change. This approach is intended to encourage sustainable practices right down the supply chains. It's reflected in the current consultation on the future of land management post-Brexit in Wales. The end goal is the same as 'one planet' developments in rural Wales but on a countrywide scale. Processing facilities, and logistics, will need to be linked to production on a more local scale, not that different from how they used to be a hundred years ago – before the era of cheap fossil fuels. Result: happiness.

There will always be people who want to live on the land in LIDs. This won't change but will become more accepted generally as the point of it within this context is more widely understood. The opportunities for OPDs are therefore limitless: landowners are beginning to make land available for OPD for rent. Architects are offering cheap off-the-peg housing. You don't have to have a lot of money or do everything yourself. The difficult part, which in Calon Cymru Community Land Trust we are trying to overcome by talking to the minister, is that at the moment Cardiff doesn't support housing co-ops or CLTs, and that land is expensive. This is where subsidies and help from the council would come in handy.

I am always impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of those who want to pursue OPD, (I wish I could do it myself) and regard them as trailblazers who are facilitating the path for all people one day to live in a way that's in keeping with what science tells us the planet can support, mixing the best of old traditions with the best of new knowledge and technology"

Autumn Gathering
27th Oct 2018

The recent gathering had good attendance, and some interesting discussions.

The general AGM was held, confirmed officers and members of OPC.

A tour of Tao and Hoppi's plot was well received.

Discussions regarding the following have resulted in proposition statements (to be distributed by OPC in due course):
1. OPD produce stickers
2. Monitoring
3. Retirement
4. Settlement Connected OPD.
5. OPD in England

Other discussions involved; communications, welsh language options. Thanks to Pete Linnell for leading discussions.

A great day for both prospective and current OPDs to meet and discuss relevant topics, with thanks to the generous hosting of Lammas.

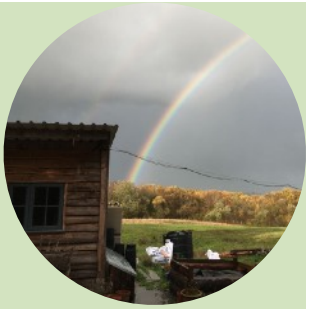
OPD Moot:
30th March 2019
For those with OPD/ P52 permission
11-4pm

Our Stories

MAES MELANGELL GLANDWR, PEMBROKESHIRE

Successes?
We've had many successes this year - including: aubergines; developing an effective strategy for deterring blackbirds from raiding the blueberries; building a new dual-chamber compost toilet.
Challenges?
The cold March/ April winds damaged our orchard blossom and disrupted the geese incubating their eggs
Top Tips?
Autumn Olive berries are great when they're dehydrated

PENCOED OPD SINCE SEPT 2018 LLECHRYD, CEREDIGION



Successes?
We received formal planning permission early Spring 2018. It's been full on since. Earthworks for water, broadband and house completed. Cabin made using all natural materials. Converting existing agricultural sheds into productive spaces. Erecting a 60' poly tunnel.
Challenges?
I pulled a muscle in my lower back while digging soil first thing in the morning. I was out of action for a good three weeks and then it took time to rehabilitate. Plans had to be changed which was actually helpful. The long hot drought. Since buying the land in 2016 we had planted over 2000 trees & shrubs and it was touch and go wether they would survive in our baked clay soil which was cracking open around the root zones. Thankfully we got through with only small losses.
Top Tips?
Don't overdo it, take regular time out to rest and play. Setting up an OPD can be all consuming if you let it. Make sure your mind and body are ready before any demanding physical labour. Plan for more extreme weather, droughts / high winds / high rainfall.

HAFAN Y COED GLANDWR, PEMBROKESHIRE

Successes?
Cauliflowers, ample electricity, start of dwelling house build.
Challenges?
Severe weather and damage, prolonged dry spell, still no water on tap!
Top Tips?
Enjoy the journey, utilise help

TY GWENNNOL AT RHIW LAS, CARMARTHENSHIRE

Successes?
We have finished the outside of the house and it's looking fine! And we've had a really positive experience using many willing volunteers and making many friends, mostly using 'Workaway'.
Challenges?
Lime rendering has been incredibly labour intensive. We worked intensively from May to October. This has been even harder because we've had had to work a job part time and we have two young children. The sheer relentlessness of the work has been taxing for everyone.Luckily we have had about 50 volunteers this year alone, they have come to learn and share and have been an absolute godsend for us, doing some childcare and learning about natural building. However, pressure to develop the business within 5 years is felt strongly as we haven't even started growing yet, being so busy with building
Top Tips?
Straw bales and lime render are inexpensive building materials, but look into more than one method to build with them. The one we chose might have taken far longer than other methods. If you have the choice, try to time having babies so you aren't building a house (or living in a static) during their early years! A polytunnel is such a useful space and great value for the cost. For us it has been a social space, play area, workshop and vegetable garden. It should be one of the first buildings erected by anyone who has the space and a Welsh climate. If you want to do an OPD I really recommend you move to the area before or while you apply for planning permission, start working the land, do some landscaping, plant trees, this will ease the stress later, it will also be very useful to get to know local builders merchants, mills and various suppliers

Our Stories contd...

WILLOW FARM TENBY PEMBROKESHIRE

Successes?
We managed to grow more crops that planned for first year. The community have been welcoming. We are ahead of schedule with house building and enterprise set up.
Challenges?
We struggled in the cold in our temporary accommodation and not having established wood stores. We have hopefully improved accommodation with added insulation for this winter. The drought this summer was challenging in that we struggled to water plants and have enough water for animals. More water butts have been installed since.
Top Tips?
Always have more water reserves for unexpected drought. Effective insulation is key!

GOLWG Y GWENYN (BEEVIEW FARM) NEWPORT, CEREDIGION

Successes?
We have built a bio-digester out of recycled IBC tanks which is successfully producing methane gas which we use to cook with!
Challenges?
Having worked hard on the farm everyday with our livestock for 5 years and bringing 2 children into the world we started to get burnt out so needed to slow down and have a break from livestock and focus on establishing edible perennials/self seeders to reduce workload.
Top Tips?
Schedule in time for yourselves, running an OPD can run away from you if you let it.

PENCEDNI (GARDD Y GAFEL) GLANDWR, PEMBROKESHIRE

Successes?
We raised the timber frame for our house, Hempcreted the house and we are currently getting the roof on. We have secured a woodland trust grant for a significant amount of planting on our land including lots of productive fruit trees. We had our first lambs, the lambing went smoothly and we are currently eating our first home reared meat!
Challenges?
Managing a self build whilst trying to develop land, care for sheep, maintain planting and still trying to work off site to earn some money. The hot weather caused grazing issues for our sheep. Mostly the problem was a lack of shade. We are going to be addressing this with large scale planting in the long term. The water from our on site spring ran very low in the drought just as we needed several thousand litres a day for hempcreting!
Top Tips?
Try to take weekends easy and observe rest in the evenings. You will always be busy and there will always be urgent jobs.

ROUNDHOUSE, BRITHDIR MAWR

Successes?
Good potatoes, twice volume of Black Hamburg grapes from our roof, lots of blackberry, progress in building new workshop. Few slugs.
Challenges?
Poor start so poor crop of red currants, black currants and raspberries
Top Tips?
Make more space for drying firewood than you imagine. Build a sun porch.

ONE PLANET COUNCIL
Supporting One Planet Developments