



CORRESPONDENCE FILE 1
(Pages 1 – 12)
Placeplan Meeting

24ain Hydref / 24th October 2024

ATC Placeplan

Subject: FW: Place Plan funding
Attachments: S106 available balances

From: Richard Clarke <richard.clarke@conwy.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 August 2024 16:47
To: ATC Placeplan <placeplan@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>
Cc: ATC Clerk <clerk@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>; James Harland <James.Harland@conwy.gov.uk>; Shane D. Wetton <Shane.Wetton@conwy.gov.uk>
Subject: Place Plan funding

Hi Abby,

As discussed, in our view the most appropriate funding source for S106 money for your post is the Regeneration funds, from the source as detailed below. The amount available has decreased from my previous email (attached) due to the approval of the QR Boxx funding.

Code	Source	Amount available
1429006900120027	Land at North Wales Business Park, Abergele	£ 16,967.29 (plus interest)

As it stands the decision on 23rd May doesn't secure S106 money for the post as the Board doesn't have authority to take decisions on Affordable Housing S106 spend. Once you're able to re-visit the decision, I suggest that this revised source of funding is proposed to the Board.

Kind regards,

Richard Clarke BSc(Hons), MSc

Swyddog Rhwymedigaethau Cynllunio / Planning Obligations Officer

Polisi Cynllunio Strategol / Strategic Planning Policy

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol CONWY County Borough Council

Ffôn/Phone: 01492 575447

Gwe/Web: www.conwy.gov.uk/cynllunio www.conwy.gov.uk/planning

CFpgl.

ATC Placeplan

Subject: FW: Grant for Place plan officer post

From: Richard Clarke <richard.clarke@conwy.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 October 2024 15:53
To: ATC Clerk <clerk@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>
Cc: ATC Placeplan <placeplan@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>; James Harland <James.Harland@conwy.gov.uk>; Shane D. Wetton <Shane.Wetton@conwy.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Grant for Place plan officer post

Hi Mandy,
Apologies for not getting back to you sooner on this. I've looked at what's available and there isn't much at the moment. There is approx. £17k town centre regeneration money available, which I previously suggested as the source for the £10k towards the post.

There is also the ~£8k open space money which was previously released from the 4G pitch project and was recently refused for the pump track. This remains available and, as the Place Plan officer deals in part with open space projects this is a reasonable source of funds.

So between open space and regeneration there is around £25k currently available subject to approval, but of course the more that is used for the post, the less is available to spend on projects. The figures below show the latest balances for these two sources of funding, but as always these exclude any interest accrued since April.

Category	Source	Ledger Code	Amount available
Open Space	Land at North Wales Business Park, Abergele	1429006800120027	£8,180.64
Regeneration	Land at North Wales Business Park, Abergele	1429006900120027	£16,967.29
		Total	£25,147.93

There is also the possibility of additional S106 funds becoming available from new developments, but there is nothing that can be guaranteed at this stage. The St George Rd is yet to have a date set for Planning Committee, so any money from here (if approved) is still some way off.

Kind regards,

Richard Clarke

From: ATC Clerk <clerk@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>
Sent: 09 October 2024 11:30
To: Richard Clarke <richard.clarke@conwy.gov.uk>
Cc: ATC Placeplan <placeplan@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>; James Harland <James.Harland@conwy.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Grant for Place plan officer post

Hi Richard

Hope all is well with you.

Are you able to provide any update to my email from last week?

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Kind regards

Mandy

Mandy Evans
Clerc y Dref/Town Clerk
Cyngor Tref Abergele Town Council

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From: ATC Clerk
Sent: 04 October 2024 15:33
To: Richard Clarke <richard.clarke@conwy.gov.uk>
Cc: ATC Placeplan <placeplan@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>
Subject: Grant for Place plan officer post

Hi Richard

We are in the process of preparing a grant application for the place plan officer post for the next three years. Historically S106 has offered match funding for the post of £10k per annum. Are you able to confirm if this is something that can be offered for 2025-2028 please? I had a quick chat with Shane and he said you contact you directly. If you are to confirm either way before the end this month I would be grateful, as we will be budget setting next month and it would be good to know what funding is in place.

Many thanks for your assistance

Kind regards

Mandy

Mandy Evans
Clerc y Dref/Town Clerk
Cyngor Tref Abergele Town Council

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ATC Placeplan

Subject: FW: Biodiversity in Conwy

From: Cllr Paul Luckock <cldr.paul.luckock@conwy.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 August 2024 21:29
To: ATC Clerk <clerk@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>
Cc: ATC Placeplan <placeplan@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>
Subject: Fwd: Biodiversity in Conwy

Good evening, Mandy,

Is it possible to place this Topic on a future Agenda in the Autumn.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Paul.

Sent from Outlook for iOS

From: Cllr Chris Hughes <Cllr.Chris.Hughes@conwy.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 6:02 PM
To: Cllr Charlie McCoubrey <cldr.charlie.mccoubrey@conwy.gov.uk>; Cllr Paul Luckock <cldr.paul.luckock@conwy.gov.uk>; Cllr Keith Eeles <cldr.keith.eeles@conwy.gov.uk>; Cllr Ros Griffiths-Williams <cldr.ros.griffiths-williams@conwy.gov.uk>; Cllr Andrew Wood <cldr.andrew.wood@conwy.gov.uk>; Cllr Alan Hunter <cldr.alan.hunter@conwy.gov.uk>
Subject: Biodiversity in Conwy

I'm sure you will recall that earlier this year I was appointed the county bio diversity champion, during the first six months of my appointment I have been focusing on improving my knowledge, awareness and understanding of what is a huge topic.

I have attended a number of training events provided by one Voice Wales and the the centre for Sustainable Energy, much of my work during the past 6 months has been in Colwyn Bay were I have worked with the Bay of Colwyn Town Council to declare a climate and nature emergency.

The Bay of Colwyn Town Council recently created a Climate and Nature Challenge Sub Committee, which will become responsible for delivering the Town Councils Biodiversity and resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report under section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 and associated action plan.

I am now keen to get out into your communities and meet up with groups in your wards to improve my knowledge of the projects that are already underway In our communities.

I'm keen to set aside some time to meet with yourselves to-discuss any projects in your wards and meet with community/friends groups to understand how they are working to address the climate, nature emergency which exists here in Conwy it is only by working in partnership with our communities that we can ensure a sustainable future.

I hope to hear from you soon,

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Chris.

Cyng. / Cllr. Chris Hughes,
Hyrwyddwr Bioamrywiaeth / Biodiversity Champion
Cyngorydd Llafur dros Ward Glyn/ Labour Councillor for Glyn Ward
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol CONWY County Borough Council
Ebst / Email: cllr.chris.hughes@conwy.gov.uk
Ffon / Tel: [07960014931](tel:07960014931)

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

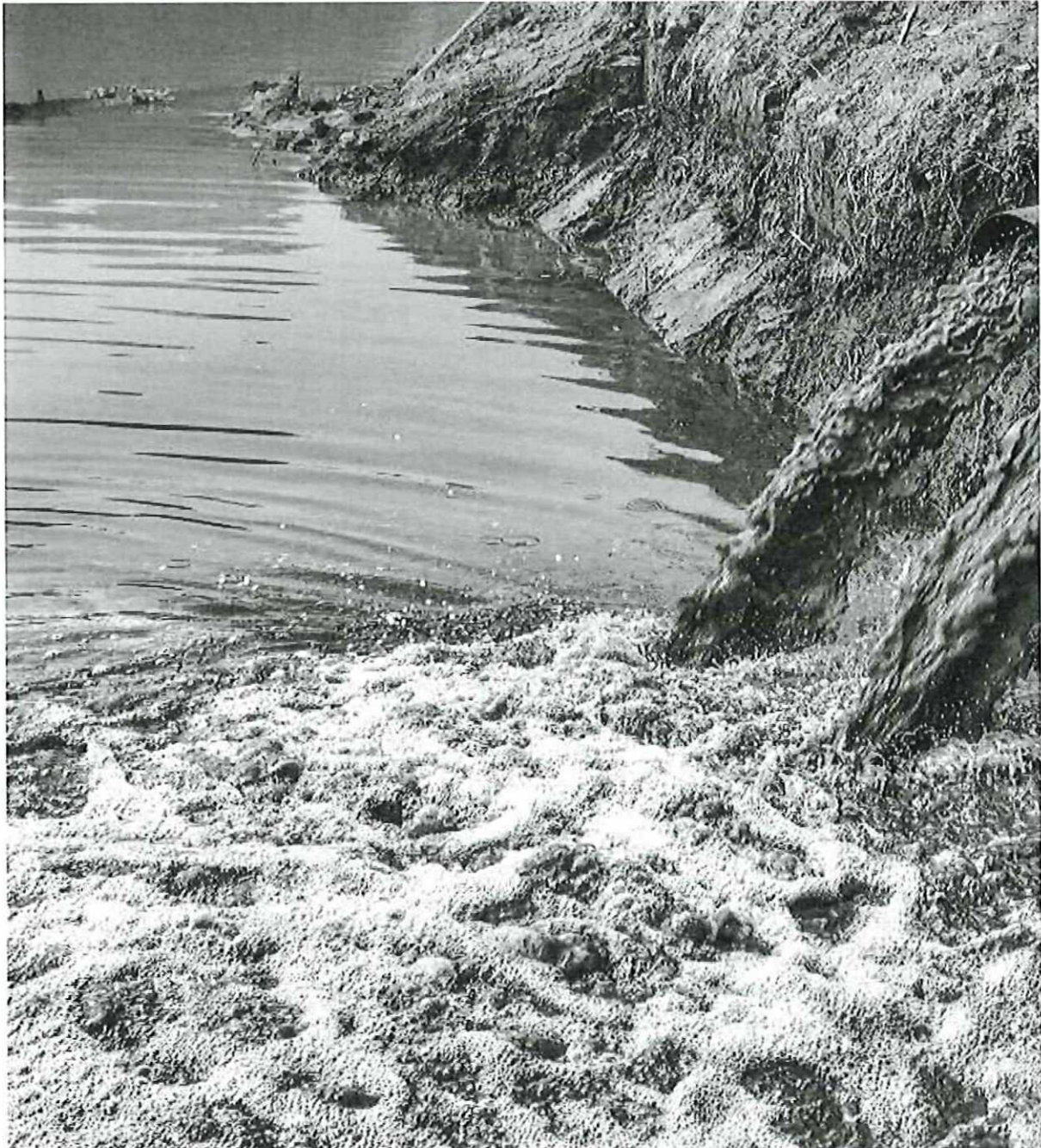
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Wales 'nowhere near' biodiversity target



By **Stephen Price** on 18th September 2024



Storm overflow pipe

Chris Haines *ICNN Senedd reporter*

Wales is not on course to meet a key 2030 biodiversity target amid concerns about dwindling funding and an overreliance on goodwill, a committee heard.

Steve Ormerod, a professor in ecology at Cardiff University, warned Wales' is "nowhere near" a target of protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

He said: "This is a very, very significant target. At the moment, we have about 12% of Wales' land surface which is identified for biodiversity – less than half of that is in good condition."

Prof Ormerod, who is deputy chair of Natural Resources Wales, said government funds are shrinking at a time when Wales needs to pick up the pace and increase scale.

"We don't really have cash incentives to make this happen," he said as he gave evidence to a new Senedd climate change committee inquiry on halting and reversing nature loss.

He added that Wales is relying on goodwill and teamwork to hit the "30 by 30" target.

'Critical'

Richard Unsworth, an associate professor of biosciences at Swansea University, said studies show significant degradation of Wales' waterways continues.

He warned: "What's happening on the land is continuing to degrade what is happening in our oceans and with that we have significant threats to biodiversity."

Dr Unsworth emphasised: "We need to pick up the pace in terms of actual marine management and not paper-based marine management – that is the critical thing."

The ecologist told the committee there is a lack of recognition of how degraded Wales' oceans are, with a Bangor University study showing fisheries have been destroyed.

Dr Unsworth stressed that agriculture, one of the biggest drivers of decline in waterways, must be a part of the conversation, saying: "We can't hide from it."

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He also called for action to better monitor the impact of offshore wind farms on biodiversity.

'Slipping'

Llyr Gruffydd, who chairs the climate committee, raised concerns about a "plethora" of strategies, action plans, devolved and non-devolved bodies involved in the field.

"There's so many different moving parts here," he said, warning it feels overly complicated.

Janet Finch-Saudners, the Conservatives' shadow climate change secretary, suggested the Welsh Government may need to conduct a deeper deep dive on biodiversity.

Delyth Jewell, her Plaid Cymru counterpart, focused on the "hotly anticipated" environmental governance bill, questioning whether Welsh ministers understand the urgency required.

Prof Ormerod said: "One of the key things I think we should all take away ... is that biological diversity is slipping through our fingers.

"The nature of Wales and its environmental fabric has changed dramatically."

'Extreme'

Dr Unsworth told the committee that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is facing extreme funding pressures with more than 250 jobs at risk.

He said: "We can create all the legislation we want but if we're not funding the capacity of NRW as the principal delivering agent .. then we're not going to do anything."

The ecologist warned that marine special areas of conservation are grossly underfunded as he gave evidence to the inquiry on September 18.

Prof Ormerod said financial pressures on NRW could result in a substantial squeeze on monitoring while there is an increasing need given the 30 by 30 target.

He said: "We don't yet fully understand what the outcomes of resource reductions in NRW will be but I think they could be significant in frontline areas such as monitoring."

The ecologist added: "If all we are doing is monitoring the decline of nature that's not always particularly helpful, so I think we could streamline."

'Underfunded'

In a second evidence session with environmental organisations, Annie Smith, head of policy at RSPB Cymru, said the Welsh Government has been quick to commit Wales to targets.

However, she said: "We're developing frameworks, developing approaches but not necessarily seeing the actions being driven yet in the way they need to."

Alex Phillips, policy and advocacy manager at WWF Cymru, echoed Ms Smith's comments, calling for a focus on delivery and concrete improvements

Asked about the Welsh Government's white paper on environmental principles, Mr Phillips raised concerns about a suggestion some headline targets could be weakened.

Chloe Wenman, policy and advocacy manager at the Marine Conservation Society, warned that the marine sector is chronically underfunded.

She said: "When you think about the speed at which things like offshore wind are being pushed forward, nature recovery is not happening at anywhere near the speed."

Comment

Led by James Davies / Karen Probert from PAW

Context for PAW as WG-funded charity charged with:

- Planning and Advice helpline
- Training
- Documentation production
- Engagement

Placeplans have been a priority including engagement and production of guidelines, in particular with CCBC

Context for challenges with Placeplans:

- INTEGRATION can be a challenge due to range of organisations with differing aims, range of departments within these with differing remits, resulting in proliferation of plans covering all manner of topics / themes eg Biodiversity plans, Flood plans, Town Council plans, Economic plans etc
- PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING of planning in general (but also an opportunity for engagement)

In theory, Placeplans:

- Have a focus on land-use (or, as confirmed later in the meeting, could have an element of focus on land-use eg a chapter, or one of several “folios”, or “appendices”)
- Foster engagement, improve relationships, and build knowledge via cross-pollination of information
- Inspire action, and also provide context / framework for actions
- Can serve as a springboard for funding applications

About Placeplans from PAW perspective:

- Local level land-use plan
- Community-led
- <15 year
- CAN be SPG, but must be “in conformity” (eg National Planning Policy -> LDP -> Planning applications)
- CAN serve as a link between LDP and Planning applications eg as Placeplans can sit within this link, either as an extension of the LDP as SPG, and/or provide a “statement of approach” in terms of how the local area responds to planning
- CANNOT introduce new sites to LDP (except perhaps a v small site)
- CAN be topic / theme based (e.g. “Affordable Housing”) or site-specific “Land based at...” but must always fit within the planning hierarchy as above (if to be considered in planning, because a Placeplan could be just that, and detach itself from planning altogether (eg “Community plan” or “Neighbourhood Plan” that focuses on events or whatever the community has identified, as these models also have validity in their own right, in different ways)

Context for this Stakeholder Group:

AP asked for:

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- The framework to include details about the benefits of being SPG, given that ATC was now in a position where we had been the leader, but were now told our plan was a “Placemaking Plan”, so we were having to re-visit the Placeplan structure / elements for inclusion and marry these together with pre-existing priorities, and the priorities highlighted in the 2023 mid-term consultation.
- The framework to include suggestions for potential /engagement activities / questions if necessary, given that we have a Plan in place and do not wish to start again, but also, will need to address some elements that the current Plan does not address, with / for the public (ie the disconnect where public have told us what they want so we are working to those priorities but the public did not reference planning, specifically)
- Templates / tick boxes to support us as laypeople to know that we are doing the appropriate activities / asking appropriate questions / presenting what is required to meet conformity
- Easy-read info for the public ref planning in general

*Other attendees emphasised the holistic approach (with ATC used as an example of what went well) and James, PAW, concurred with this approach (so yes, Place Plan needs to be about land-use, but also will include all manner of things, as long as that land-use element is clear...)

*Shane, CCBC, confirmed to AP that there was documentation aimed at public and he would search for these and send on, and perhaps this could be discussed at a future Placeplan network meeting.

James, PAW, said new documents should be ready mid-November (1st draft only)

ATC Placeplan

Subject: Quick update?

From: Sarah Murphy <Sarah.Murphy@cartreficonwy.org>
Sent: 17 October 2024 14:28
To: ATC Placeplan <placeplan@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales>
Subject: RE: Quick update?

Hi Abby,

The hoardings are coming down I think on the 30th October but there is still abit of cleaning etc that needs to be done but by the Friday (Nov 1st) the area will be fully available for the public to use. An opening gathering is likely to be w/c 17th Nov but I will double check with Adam/ funders that a day in that week works for everyone.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah Murphy
Rheolwr Prosiect Datblygu
Development Project Manager

07342067405



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