

Minutes of the meeting of the Newsplan (Wales) Implementation Committee held at the Western Mail Offices, Cardiff at 11.00am on Thursday 23 May 2002

Present: Andrew Green (Chairman), John Cosslett, Edmund King, John Lauder, Nigel Soane, John Turner, John Woods, Iwan Jones (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Rhidian Griffiths, Linda Tomos and Gareth Haulfryn Williams.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2001 and matters arising

2.1 The minutes had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record.

2.2 Newsplan (Wales) Report on-line (2.2)

The Newsplan (Wales) Report could not be put on the web in its existing form. The National Library of Wales had no plans to put the data on line at present but agreed to keep the matter in mind.

2.3 Newspapers on the web – preserving web sites (2.4)

The *Wales on the web* project had now developed a trial web portal linking together Welsh web sites, making use of the earlier CORC project at the National Library of Wales. Funding, which had been provided by BL partnership funding, Resource, and RSLP, was due to end in December 2002. The meeting welcomed the news that the Welsh Assembly had showed interest in funding a possible extension of the project. Plans to preserve web sites of interest to Wales had been included in the National Library's Strategic Plan.

2.4 Approach to Welsh AMs and MPs (2.6)

The relaunch of Newsplan was now expected some time in the autumn of 2002 and it was agreed that it would be an appropriate time to draw attention to Newsplan in Wales. A range of library projects was to be the subject of an exhibition at the Welsh Assembly at the end of May 2002. The success of the exhibition would influence any further approach to the Assembly.

2.5 Memorandum of understanding

A memorandum of understanding on digitisation between the Newsplan Trustees and the Newspaper Society was still under discussion. The aim was to allay the fears of the newspaper industry regarding uncontrolled digitisation of newspaper titles.

3. Minutes of the Working Party meeting held on 18 April 2002

3.1 Arrangements for ordering film at the special price

Film ordered from Newsplan 2000 at least one month before filming would be available at a special low price of £17.00 per reel (plus vat and packaging, and rising

at the rate of 3% a year). The price of film ordered later would be substantially higher. In order to take advantage of the special rate libraries had to be aware of the schedule for filming newspaper titles, available on www.newsplan2000.org. Members of the Working Party had been made aware of the arrangements for ordering film at the cheap rate. Nigel Soane agreed to draw the attention of higher education librarians (through WHELF) to the opportunity and Andrew Green would warn further education librarians. John Woods agreed to draw the attention of chief librarians (through SCL) to the need to order early if they were to make the best use of their budgets. Ed King asked whether additional funds could be found for the work, possibly through research bodies such as HEFCW, but it was thought unlikely that ELWA would contribute.

4. Report on the Newsplan (Cymru) survey of newspaper use

It was a condition of HLF funding that surveys of newspaper use should be carried out before and after the Newsplan 2000 Project. Iwan Jones reported on the survey which had been carried out through the Working Party and distributed a summary of the survey returns with a commentary. 246 completed questionnaires had been received from ten library authorities, giving good coverage of Wales. The findings showed that while most researchers consulted fairly recent local newspapers for personal or family interest, a substantial proportion of readers used newspapers of all periods for academic research, educational use and publication. The returns were broadly consistent with survey findings in other Newsplan regions, and confirmed the wide use of newspapers and their value in all kinds of research.

Ed King explained that nine out of ten of the Newsplan regions had now carried out surveys and that he would collate the findings to present to Newsplan panel meetings in the autumn.

5. Report on the Fourth Newsplan Conference

Four members of the Committee had attended the Conference which had been held at the British Library on 9 April 2002. It was agreed that the event had been most successful and that the papers given by speakers from abroad had been particularly useful in placing Newsplan in an international context.

6. Report on Newsplan 2000 Progress

6.1 Progress in filming newspapers

John Lauder, Newsplan 2000 Director, tabled a report on progress and explained that Microformat UK Ltd had now started filming for Newsplan 2000 at Rochester. Although progress was still slow, the arrangements put in place were good and the first films produced were of high quality. The web site www.newsplan2000.org now contained the final schedule of the filming programme and an updated version of the Project Handbook. It was intended to organise a formal launch of the Project later in the year. The first tranche of matching funding had been received from the newspaper industry with the assistance of the Newspaper Society, and the contributors included

the Trinity Mirror Group, owners of the Western Mail. In future it was hoped to widen the net of funding.

6.2 Distribution of equipment

John Lauder explained that it had been felt necessary to review the distribution of equipment to public libraries. It was essential that HLF money should be used wisely and that there should be no grounds for criticism of, for example, the distribution of readers to libraries that did not want them or could not use them. In particular it was felt that it would be inappropriate to place readers in libraries that had no Newsplan film to show on them. Newsplan 2000 was therefore asking all regions to review the position regarding the distribution of readers and reader-printers bearing in mind criteria identified in the Director's report.

104 readers and 6 reader-printers had been provisionally allocated to Wales. In discussion it was agreed that many libraries preferred reader-printers and some did not want microfilm readers, so that a review was necessary. It was agreed that John Woods would raise the issue through the SCL to make clear to all library authorities that failure to acquire any Newsplan film would make them ineligible to receive equipment. This was felt to be a matter for the budget holders rather than the members of the Working Party. John Woods agreed to report back to the officers of the Committee so that a response could be made to Newsplan 2000 regarding how best to distribute the readers and reader-printers within Wales.

7. Any other business

There was no other business

8. Date and place of next meeting

11.00 a.m. on Thursday 31 October 2002 at the National Library of Wales.