



LLANDUDNO  
COASTAL  
FORUM

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ARFORDIROL  
LLANDUDNO

**Minutes of Llandudno Coastal Forum Meeting**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**

**1. THOSE PRESENT**

Cllr Frank Bradfield - Conwy County Borough Council  
Mrs Eileen Burrows – Llandudno Chamber of Trade  
Mr Peter Byron – Friends of West Shore  
Cllr Dave Cowans - Environment, Roads & Facilities,  
CCBC  
Mr Edward Hiller - Mostyn Estates Ltd  
Mr Berin Jones - Llandudno Hospitality Association  
Ms Alison Shields - Restore Our Beach  
Mr Mike Shields Restore Our Beach  
Mr Dyfed Rowlands - Environment, Roads & Facilities,  
CCBC  
Mr Nigel Treacy - Destination Conwy (**Chairman**)  
Ms Debbie Wareham - Ships' Timbers (**Secretary**)

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Glynne Davies - Llandudno Town Council  
Mr Geraint Edwards - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC  
Mr John Farrell – Restore Our Beach  
Cllr Dewi Miles - Conwy County Borough Council  
Cllr Greg JT Robbins - Llandudno Town Council (**Vice  
Chairman**)  
Ms Rachel Roberts – Independent Conceptual Artist  
Mr Gerry Sweeny – Friends of West Shore

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**3. MINUTES**

**3.1 To receive the minutes of Thursday 31<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 as a true record of the meeting.**

Proposed by Mr Berin Jones and seconded by Ms Alison Shields.

### **3.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 31.03.2016**

None

### **3.3 Minutes Thursday 17.03.2016**

Ms Debbie Wareham (Forum Secretary) brought to the Forum's attention some changes she had made to the Minutes of 17.03.2016 for Members approval. Forum Members approved the changes.

### **4. URGENT ITEM**

None received at the time of publication.

### **5. West Shore Proposals**

**5.1 Ref 1 (14.03.2016): Table of west shore issues (prepared by LCF) – Updated (31.03.2016) (circulated via email)**

**Ref 2 (14.03.2016): Plan of west shore with list of issues - prepared by Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) (circulated via email)**

- 1. To consider text and list of options in Ref 2**
- 2. To compare Ref 1 with Ref 2 with a view of updating / affirming Ref 2**

Members agreed that they were happy with the content of document **5.1 Ref 1 (14.03.2016): Table of west shore issues (prepared by LCF) – Updated (31.03.2016) (circulated via email)**.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) offered to compare the updated list of 5.1 Ref 1 (14.03.2016) with the plan prepared by CCBC (5.1 Ref 2) and will update the CCBC Plan. Once complete, this will be circulated to Members.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) suggested that it might be appropriate to have a summary document for progress about Llandudno's North Shore for display at the Public Consultation. This was agreed by Members.

### **5.3 LCF West Shore Public Consultation May 2016**

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explained that she would not be able to co-ordinate the LCF West Shore Public Consultation due to other commitments at that time. Ms Debbie Wareham (Forum Secretary) offered to help co-ordinate the exhibition in Ms Shields' absence. Ms Shields thanked Ms Wareham for offering to help.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Forum Secretary) commented that she would go to the Lilly Restaurant to meet the owner and see the exhibition space. After that she would contact the Llandudno Archives to book the exhibition boards. Ms Wareham will circulate an email to Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF), Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice Chair) and Mr Mike Shields (RoB) to progress the development of the Public

Consultation work. Mr Mike Shields (RoB) asked about the format for the Consultation and how it would compare to the one of the north shore? Ms Wareham (Secretary) commented that it would have the plans of wests shore developed by CCBC, and photographs and text taken from the LCF Matrix developed about the West Shore issues. Ms Wareham suggested that evaluation forms are also needed. Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) offered to develop evaluation forms for the Consultation.

#### **5.4 Ships’ Timbers – Ar Lan y Môr Project**

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships’ Timbers) confirmed that she had submitted the funding application and provided some additional information for the Big Lottery Fund. The next step is that Ms Wareham will be contacted by a Project Officer to discuss the project, and a decision will be made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016. Ms Wareham confirmed that project details had been detailed in previous Forum Minutes. Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) summarised the scope of the project.

#### **6. North Shore Interim Work – Update**

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) conformed that they will have engineers out on site on the north shore to see if they need to do any works to tidy the ridge of the sea defences for the summer. They are trying to get funding together for the removal of stones from the lower beach. There is every intention to do this work it is just a matter of getting the funding. As soon as funding is in place Forum Members will be informed. Mr Rowlands asked that if Members are aware of any funding opportunities, he would welcome them being shared with him. As regards the Beach Management Plan Mr Rowlands confirmed that CCBC still had not heard back from Welsh Government about funding. It was suggested that it is unlikely that we would hear anything before the May Assembly Elections.

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) asked if funding was not successful would the Beach Management Plan still go ahead. Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) replied to say that if funding was not successful on this occasion, then CCBC would revisit the application and highlight the need for the piece of work to take place.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Forum Secretary) asked for clarification about the recommendation from the CCBC Cabinet and Scrutiny Meeting earlier in the year that if funding is obtained from Welsh Government for a Beach Management Plan, then this will release funding from CCBC and Llandudno Town Council to put towards the interim works (re-profiling and additional works) on the north shore.

Cllr Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) confirmed that would be the case.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) commented that during the Cabinet Meeting earlier this year it was suggested that notification of funding would be given within four weeks.

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) explained that the delay was due to the Welsh Government elections in May.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) stressed the urgency of carrying out the interim works on the north shore, and asked how long it will take to begin the works once CCBC hears about funding, and how long will the works take to carry out?

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirmed that it would be likely to take two to three weeks to carry out the riddling works on the lower beach. It would also depend on the stones that are there. In terms of how quickly the works could start, that could be immediately. CCBC have applied for a new license from NRW to increase the scope of the riddling works, and are waiting to hear back from NRW about that. This is the work that Cabinet gave approval for. The current license only includes the area known locally as kiddies corner.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) expressed his concerns about the lateness of carrying out the interim works to the north shore and questioned the issue of funding highlighting that funding is available for usual re-profiling work but that no dates have been set yet to carry that out.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) explained that there are two pieces of work that are being carried out – the annual re-profiling and the additional stone removal. Because additional works are going to be carried out to remove stones from the lower beach, it is funding for these additional works that needs to be found. Historically, when the Council have had machinery on the north shore they have as a good will gesture removed stones from the base of the Slipway for the RNLI to launch and recover their craft. But CCBC does not have the funding for stone removal from Kiddies Corner area and the new area that has been agreed. So if we get the money from Welsh Government it will release the money from the Town Council to go towards that piece of work.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) comments that Llandudno Town Council has given funding for clearance of kiddies corner area.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) explains that CCBC have had promise of funding from Llandudno Town Council for money towards the new beach Management plan but no money for interim works.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC – Elected Representative) confirmed that money was given by the Llandudno Town Council last year to remove stones from Kiddies Corner. It was confirmed that CCBC needs that money again from Llandudno Town Council to clear those stones again from kiddies corner.

Mr Edward Hiller (Mostyn Estates) comments that what he is concerned about is which premier seaside resort anywhere, in the world in the northern hemisphere, does beach works potentially in June. Mr Hiller goes on to say that he struggles with the whole principle of this adding that we have one shot this year to deliver a new experience to a new profile of people who are going to turn up in this town because of other things happening elsewhere. We need to deliver it, and we need it now, not in June, it should be done.

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) explains that we are talking about the democratic process and in the budget shakedown that depends on fifty nine elected Members on Conwy and for 2016 / 2017 we had to find 1.4 Million pounds.

Cllr Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) adds that it is a ridiculous situation to be in emphasising that a lot of thought has gone into the preparation of the budget for Conwy.

Mr Edward Hiller (Mostyn Estates) replies to say that I am going to explain to you the reality, which is, tourists turn up, the experience is poor, and they don't come back, that is reality.

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) replies to say that the reality is the budget plan figures have gone through the roof.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments to say that what Mr Edward Hiller is saying is absolutely correct and that what Cllr Dave Cowans is saying is also correct. But we are not talking about Llandudno here in the past we are talking about Llandudno here in the future and we need some place that people will come back to. That has been the history of Llandudno, people return year in, year out, adding that Cllr Bradfield supports everything that Mr Edward Hiller has said.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that she agrees with everything Mr Edward Hiller has said adding that she has said before, that in the future these people will not come back. While we are the number one seaside resort in Wales at the moment, that is not going to carry on, and we have generations to protect in this town, our children, their children. This is what the hoteliers are saying, and the people are saying, what is the point of coming to a beach with no sand.

The Forum Chair asks Members how this view is taken forward. Can the Forum be presented with any data, or information which helps the Forum with this argument, as it is obvious that some Members are frustrated with the situation?

Cllr Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments to say that we are working hard to get things done but there are fifty nine people who determine where the money is spent. Cllr Cowans added that he is happy to take this back to Cabinet and ask, can they find us £20,000.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) asks what support can this Forum give to get £20,000 to get the stones cleared from Kiddies corner and the lower beach because the whole of Conwy County will suffer because the money that tourism from Llandudno delivers to the County is massive and we are only looking for £20,000 not £2million.

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC – Elected Representative) explains that we could put in a revenue business case at short notice but that will be considered against other requirements.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) expresses her concerns that Members have sat around the table at Forum meetings discussing interim works for many months and only now these alternative funding options are being suggested.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) reiterates that prior to the summer holidays CCBC carries out re-profiling work to the sea defences if there are significant ridges on the sea defences present following winter storms. CCBC has never funded any other additional work from their own Funds, but are happy to organise this, and write to the Town Council, or other businesses to get the funding.

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) asks how the funding application was pitched to Welsh Government and asks was it explained there is no beach left.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands replies that the application was for coastal defence and tourism, but did not state there was no beach left.

Forum Chair asks is there any way the Forum can take this forward? There is some disconnect between the local Council who have to find savings but there are interests of businesses and tourism in the area. There is a direct impact on tourism, and one of the things we need to impress is knowing tangibly what that figure is. If we don't move the stones this is what it will cost the economy, if we do move the stones, this is what it benefits the economy. You make a short term saving for a long term loss. We could go to Tourism and explain that this is going to happen.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) suggests that the Forum Chair writes to Llandudno Town Council and others for some funds towards the interim works costs.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) offers to write to various businesses and individuals to find funding.

Ms Wareham asks how long after the May elections will we find out about the funding, and is there any way to ensure a reply.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands explains that we have to just wait.

Ms Eileen Burrows (LLChT) asks for clarification that there was no mention lack of sand on the North shore in the funding application.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) explains that the application form is pro-forma asking for details of location, and what we want to do.

Ms Burrows (LLChT) adds that perhaps if everyone wrote a letter to say that there is no sand on the beach that might help.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) replies that a letter from the Forum to Welsh Government would help.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments that Llandudno has so much support, but that Colwyn Bay appears to get money straight away. It is known that Llandudno has a beach like a quarry. Other locations have tractors that go out every day to re-profile the beach. There is a worry that we have

to accept the beach as it is. There is now a younger age range visiting Llandudno, with nowhere for them to go. If the Forum writes to the Town Council Cllr Frank Bradfield said he would be glad to receive it and we can discuss it together.

Ms Wareham (Forum Secretary) asks why the Town Council can't just fund the £20,000? Other projects get funding. If the north shore is so important to the economy of this Town why doesn't the Town Council focus its money on that, instead of blaming everybody else such as the County Council and others? Why doesn't the Town Council pick up the costs, and pay for the interim works on the north shore?

The Forum Chair asks how much money is left?

Cllr Frank Bradfield replies to say there is no grant money left.

Ms Wareham (Forum Secretary) comments that there is still the allocated £10,000 for the BMP from Llandudno Town Council so that could be used which would just leave £10,000 to find from other sources such as £1,000 from 10 businesses.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that it is the responsibility of CCBC to do those interim works which we have been discussing since September 2015. And we are now at a point that we are just before the summer, and it is the Councils responsibility, bringing it back to Cllr Bradfield's comments that back in 1997 all the hoteliers were writing letters asking where the beach had gone? These mistakes happen over and over again and that is why we are here discussing this, and if nothing happens with the beach management plan then this will have been a talking shop. We hear the same things from the Council. How can we go to the people to ask for money to take the rocks off the beach?

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) comments that he will write to Llandudno Town Council and others to ask for funding for the interim works. The Forum Secretary will send contact details of who to write to across to Mr Rowlands.

## **7. LLANDUDNO BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN / FEASIBILITY STUDY – UPDATE**

Item seven is included in item six.

## **8. RNLI LLANDUDNO NEW LIFEBOAT STATION – SEA WALL AND ROCK ARMOUR**

Members discussed the plans and documents of the new lifeboat station that were available for public viewing prior to planning permission being granted. There was a general feeling that people were not informed appropriately, and that they are modifying the sea defence before the BMP has been agreed. The issue was raised if that amount of rock armour is justifiable as the building is not that close to the sea. People have been misinformed by the plans which clearly show sand around the building and not rock armour. It was noted that plans can be re-submitted for amendment at any time. Forum Chair asks what the Forum wants to do, and also if Members do write a letter, what we put in it? Also it is also important to highlight the fact that the RNLI has not attended Forum Meetings. It is likely that the RNLI outside

Llandudno is not aware of these issues. It is important to be clear about which Members support this letter despite who is attending meetings. It was agreed to write a letter to the RNLI. The Forum Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary will arrange a suitable time to meet to compose the letter.

**9. MATTERS ARISING RELEVANT TO THE LLANDUDNO COASTAL FORUM**

None

**10. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

**10.1 Ref 1 (14.03.2016): Email from John Ratcliff NRW who is available to give a talk to Members about Dune Ecology.**

Forum Secretary will email John Ratcliff about giving a talk to the Forum on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016.

**11. TO NOTE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**The date of the next meeting is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, at 18:00hrs in the Town Hall, Llandudno.**

**MEETING ENDED 20:00HRS**