



LLANDUDNO
COASTAL
FORUM

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LLANDUDNO

Minutes of Llandudno Coastal Forum Meeting
Thursday 28th January, 2016

1. THOSE PRESENT

Cllr Frank Bradfield - Conwy County Borough Council
Mr Peter Byron – Friends of West Shore
Mr Geraint Edwards - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC
Mr Berin Jones - Llandudno Hospitality Association
Cllr Dewi Miles - Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Greg JT Robbins - Llandudno Town Council (Vice
Chairman)
Ms Alison Shields - Restore Our Beach
Mr Mike Shields (Restore Our Beach)
Mr Nigel Treacy - Destination Conwy (**Chairman**)
Ms Debbie Wareham - Ships' Timbers (**Secretary**)

APOLOGIES

Mrs Eileen Burrows
Cllr Dave Cowans - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC
Cllr Glynne Davies - Llandudno Town Council
Mr John Farrell – Restore Our Beach
Mr Edward Hiller - Mostyn Estates Ltd
Mr Paul Moreton – RNLI
Ms Rachel Roberts – Independent Conceptual Artist
Mr Dyfed Rowlands - Environment, Roads & Facilities,
CCBC
Mr Gerry Sweeny – Friends of West Shore

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

3. MINUTES

Item 6, p.2 Paragraph 3: To change the word 'hence' to read 'It was questioned by Members'.

4. URGENT ITEM

None received at the time of publication.

5. West Shore Proposals

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) raised the issue of the west shore cycle path saying that it is no longer a cycle path due to the amount of sand. It has been mentioned many times, with various solutions such as

redirecting the cycle path over the top. The local authority does carry out interim clearance of the sand from there, so should that continue or do we leave that to nature?

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers – LCF Secretary) mentioned that in the list of issues that was generated about the west shore in the previous LCF meeting, not all of the ideas are part of the beach management plan that is being produced. Some of those things can be addressed before or while the report is being produced. Is the cycle path going to be looked at in the beach management plan, or is that separate or should we be looking at that in more detail?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) explains that wind-blown sand on the west shore is a key feature of the beach management plan, the local authority will continue to clear sand from the cycle path in the interim period, but not when there are strong winds such as over the next two or three weeks. We will do that sensibly.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) asked about the west shore pond and whether it would be possible to get mini-diggers in to clear it out as it is in a bad state. Is it ever cleaned out completely?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) explained that it is cleared out at least once a year.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / LCF Vice Chair) asked that as the cycle path is part of the National Cycle Path is there any money available for repair?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) explained that there are grants available but that part of the cycle path would probably not attract funding. If CCBC continues to maintain it as an interim measure, the BMP might identify various options, one option was to take it onto the road, even though it would be less attractive as a route, and possibly over the golf course or raising the levels of the track itself so it is less susceptible to wind-blown sand.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) asked how much it costs to clear the wind-blown sand from the cycle path?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replied that he would bring the costs to the next meeting.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC – Elected Representative) explained that we want stop the sand from encroaching onto the west shore, is there any way we could do so with Dunes?

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) confirmed that re-establishment of Dunes has been discussed and it an active consideration.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) explained that to make sand dunes viable they need to have a certain width.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explained that Dunes on the west shore used to come up to the double wall.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replied that we need to wait until the options of BMP come through.

Mr Nigel Treacy (LCF – Chair) mentioned that the information boards on the Conwy Morfa explained that the pebbles stopped the dunes receding. Is there anyone who could explain to the forum about Dunes?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) said that he had contacts who would be suitable to advise the Forum about Dune ecology, he would pass those on to the Forum.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explained that the dunes were a paradise, and it was devastating when they were removed.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) said that the small section of Dune could be improved to help improve the cycle path. Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) suggested that it would be of benefit if someone gave a talk to the Forum about Dunes.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) suggested that the Consultant would do that during the BMP development.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Destination Conwy / LCF Chair) asked would the Forum like that information before the Forum goes forward?

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers – LCF Secretary) suggested that it would be nice if the Forum Members had the knowledge now as we are discussing it now and so we can also have a conversation with the Consultant.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC – LCF Vice Chair) comments that at some point during the engagement process with the Consultant when we are talking about increasing sand dunes, we want to talk from the point of view of an informed Forum and not just that we want that, we need to be able to ask questions. How it works, mechanisms. It would be beneficial to have a short presentation.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) comments that we have had a presentation from Geraint on sea defences, and Edward Hiller about sea currents, and we have had that input to help us formulate our thinking processes for the future which are being put forward so it would be beneficial.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asks if there are any reports on sand dunes on the west shore before they were taken away as they were a natural sea defence at that time.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replies that there is a national report which takes into account the sand dunes on the west shore but is not aware of any Llandudno base dune report.

Chair asks if the Forum knows of anyone who could talk to the Forum?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replies that he will send a list of contacts to the Forum Secretary.

Mr Mike Shields (Rob) asks if it would be feasible to raise the cycle path on the west shore or add a board walk?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replies that is an option.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) asks if there was any objection to this sort of development, adding structures to the sand dunes?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replies that a boardwalk would probably slow dune erosion.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) mentions the boardwalk at Newborough.

Forum Chair summarises that as we are removing sand from sand dunes, we are pushing sand back we are starving the dunes of sand, so are short term costs more than a more long term investment.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / LCF Secretary) asks if a method statement could be produced to develop board walk on cycle path now?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC/ ERF) replies to say it is in BMP, but the capital costs could not be found within the next twelve months, so could not see the point of doing that now as it will be in BMP, but engineers could look at a plan.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) are interim costs a waste of money and could be invested in a boardwalk.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representatives) can we add things that can be done now into BMP as we are talking ten years down the line?

Chair clarifies that is why we have separate interim work updates on the Agenda.

Mr Peter Byron (FrOWSh) asks could SYSTAN support the board walk?

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) asks if that part of the path is cycle route and Wales Coastal path? So is there anything in Wales Coastal Path Funding?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) replies that we are awarded money for damage to path but not upgrading it. Would be happy for engineers to look at this, but as it is NCR5 it has to reach certain criteria so would have to significant structure, and very costly.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) mentions a funding pot for Conwy that was advertised on the internet from Welsh Government.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / LCF Vice Chair) affirms that although this is in the BMP a separate plan for a board walk could be delivered by the Forum over two years and this would be seen as a focal point for people to see.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / LCF Secretary) comments that the list generated from the previous meeting is that something we could start to work on and produce a method statement / action plan for each one of those items, and see where we can take them forward. For example, Berin suggested a dog agility area so Berin would be the key person who could take responsibility for that, do the background research, then come back to the Forum and say what that is about? Then that is something we could actually implement. Others on the list are the cycle path which we have discussed, reintroduce the dunes, biodiversity boards so that is easy task to put together, so if we all take responsibility for separate items we can then bring them back.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) comments that he does have the information and could bring it to the Forum. Not a difficult job to do. It would still be part of the BMP.

Chair highlights Mr Edward Hillers previous comments that 'he liked the west shore as it is'. So what can approach this as what is current reality – what needs action, issues need resolving now, what needs changing. Are we looking at the detail too soon?

Peter Byron (FroWSh) comments that no money is ever spent on west shore including the shelter.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments that a lot of money has been spent on the west shore such as the model railway, rabbit statue, tram shelter.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) comments this is the opportunity to put things down on paper to get resolved.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments that the cycle path and wind-blown sand is always mentioned and a way to use that path is needed. Not everything is important. Tram shelter is not being used and it will go into disrepair.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / LCF Vice Chair) comments that LLTC and CCBC are working together to put out a tender for an organisation to take it on. So we hope we will have someone to take that on.

Mr Berin Jones (LHA) asks if we will see our ideas on a plan. Is Dyfed preparing a plan?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replies to say that he will ask Dyfed to send a plan to LCF Secretary to circulate to Members.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments about the stepped revetment on the west shore, and was the wind-blown sand worse or better before the groynes were put in place? And whose reports will be referred to for information, as we have been let down by a number of these Consultants in the past and so we want to know who else's view will be taken into consideration?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replies that the BMP will take all that into account and the wind-blown sand is a key component and it won't just be previous reviews that will be considered.

Ms Shields (RoB) confirms that the funding she mentioned earlier was a £9 million funding pot for local communities to improve their environment, called 'Create your Space' (11.01.2016).

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) replies that he was not aware of this but will ask someone to investigate this.

Chair asks if we have a final list for the west shore?

Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers / LCF Secretary) suggests that Members send all issues to Secretary about west shore.

Ms Berin Jones (LLHA) asks if everything in the minutes includes all that was discussed about west shore.

Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers / LCF Secretary) confirms that the list is complete, but she will send out a request / list to Members to ask for any other items and will consolidate.

Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers / LCF Secretary) asks if forum chair might wish to look into external showers for water users / kayakers.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Chair) confirms he will do this by talking to people to see if this is something of interest.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments that he is hoping to contact Welsh Water to ask them about this.

Cllr Dewi Miles and Chair Nigel Treacy will work together on this item.

Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers / LCF Secretary) asks if she can take responsibility for the Biodiversity information boards on the west shore. This was agreed by the Forum.

Further discussion followed affirming that the BMP can be developed and is a long term solution but other smaller projects can be developed and implemented alongside that.

A press release was suggested as being useful to generate further ideas for the west shore from the public. (Cllr Frank Bradfield)

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) suggested that we could have a public consultation within weeks.

It was Agreed to have a public Consultation on ideas for the west shore.

The Consultation will include ideas generated by Forum Members, drawings generate by CCBC, old photographs. Maybe three boards of then now and future. To be held in the Tram shelter.

Suggested Schedule:

- **Two Weeks ideas brought to Forum**
- **Two weeks after information boards developed**
- **Two weeks after that have consultation.**

6. North Shore Interim Work – Update

CLlr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice Chair) gave an update to the Forum about the money available towards feasibility study costs which is £10,000 and an additional £5,000 towards any work costs that may be required for Kiddies Corner or anything else that can potentially be match funded.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asked about ownership of the Feasibility Study Report?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) explained that the Report is a public document, so ownership is not an issue, but usually the organisation who makes a financial contribution 'owns' the report.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asked if the Forum will be able to be part of the process when the Report is developed?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) explained that the Report will be produced with consultation of stakeholders and also the general public.

CLlr Greg Robbins (LITC / LCF Vice Chair) confirmed that the money from Llandudno Town Council will be available to part fund the Report during 2016 / 2017.

CLlr Dewi Miles (CCBC – elected representative) asked if the money that is made available from Llandudno Town Council and the money from CCBC exceeds the money needed for the Report, can the excess money be used for something else?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) confirms that this is what CCBC is hoping to do.

7. LLANDUDNO BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN / FEASIBILITY STUDY – UPDATE

Agenda Item 7 was discussed with Agenda Item 6.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) commented that there is no update yet, until we hear from the welsh government about the funding which will be in February / March 2016.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) about alternative equipment to remove large stones from the beach

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) replied to say that the report submitted to Scrutiny and Cabinet identified interim work on the north shore using traditional equipment (large truck and bucket).

8. LCF WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA – UPDATE

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) pointed out that there are still some updates needed on the LCF Website specifically concerning 'contact a representative'. Mr Nigel Treacy (Chair) confirmed that he would update that and consult with John about additional changes.

The LCF Facebook Page and Twitter Accounts were discussed, and it was noted that neither had been updated due to access restrictions. It was agreed that the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary should be able to access these facilities to update the public about LCF Activities which is becoming especially more necessary with the forthcoming planned activities of the Forum. It was suggested that if the current accounts could not be accessed then new accounts could be established and promoted with a link from old to new.

It was agreed that the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary would have access to Facebook and Twitter and the Forum Chair would contact Mr John Farrell (RoB) asking for access again in the first instance before new accounts were set up.

9. MATTERS ARISING RELEVANT TO THE LLANDUDNO COASTAL FORUM

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) asked is we had clarified the explanation of Mean High Water Mark with reference to the temporary access ramps that are going to be created on the north shore?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC / ERF) explained that there is an amended Marine License Application being put together which will allow the access ramps to be taken beyond the Mean High Water mark, and onto the beach. A Marine License is needed for this work to take place.

10. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / LCF Vice Chair) commented that he had received notification from Mr Tony Lockett from the Llandudno Sailing Club to say he had resigned from the Llandudno Coastal Forum.

The Members of the Llandudno Coastal Forum gave their thanks to Mr Lockett for his help and suggested that he is contacted to see if he could remain a consultant if needed.

It was agreed that the Forum chair would write to Mr Lockett to thank him for his support and ask if he would be willing to be a consultant.

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

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 11th January, 2016, at 18:00hrs in the Town Hall, Llandudno.

MEETING ENDED 20:10HRS