



LLANDUDNO
COASTAL
FORUM

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LLANDUDNO

Minutes of Llandudno Coastal Forum Meeting
Thursday 24th September 2015

1 THOSE PRESENT

Cllr Frank Bradfield - Conwy County Borough Council
Mr Peter Byron – Friends of West Shore
Cllr Glynne Davies - Llandudno Town Council
Mr Geraint Edwards - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC
Mr John Farrell – Restore Our Beach
Mr Ken Finch - Democracy, Regulation & Support, CCBC
Mr Edward Hiller - Mostyn Estates Ltd
Mr Dewi Miles - Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Greg JT Robbins - Llandudno Town Council – **Vice Chairman**
Mr Ian Robbins - Llandudno Hospitality Association
Ms Rachel Roberts – Independent Conceptual Artist
Mr Dyfed Rowlands - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC
Ms Alison Shields - Restore Our Beach
Mr Gerry Sweeny – Friends of West Shore
Mr Nigel Treacy - Destination Conwy - **Chairman**
Ms Debbie Wareham - Ships' Timbers Ltd – **Secretary**

APOLOGIES

Mrs Eileen Burrows - Llandudno Chamber of Trade
Mr Berin Jones - Llandudno Hospitality Association
Mr Tony Lockett - Llandudno Sailing Club
Mr Paul Moreton – RNLI

LATE APOLOGIES

Cllr Dave Cowans - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Two forum members were proposed for the post of Chairman of the Llandudno Coastal Forum, Mr Nigel Treacy (Destination Conwy) and Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative / Mayor of Llandudno). Further to a show of hands, Mr Nigel Treacy was duly elected Chair of Llandudno Coastal Forum. Congratulations were given to Mr Treacy on the appointment of his new post as Chairman.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Cllr Greg Robbins (Llandudno Town Council) was proposed unchallenged for the post of Vice Chairman of the Llandudno Coastal Forum. Further to a show of hands, Cllr Greg Robbins was duly elected as Vice Chairman of Llandudno Coastal Forum. Congratulations were given to Cllr Robbins on the appointment of his new post as Vice Chairman.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) was proposed unchallenged for the post of Secretary of the Llandudno Coastal Forum. Further to a show of hands, Ms Wareham was duly elected Secretary of Llandudno Coastal Forum. Congratulations were given to Ms Wareham on the appointment of her post as Secretary.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs Eileen Burrows (Llandudno Chamber of Trade)

Mr Berin Jones (Llandudno Hospitality Association)

Mr Tony Lockett (Llandudno Sailing Club)

Mr Paul Moreton (RNLI)

Late apologies were given at the meeting for Cllr Dave Cowans (Highways, Environment and Sustainability CCBC)

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

6. MINUTES

No changes were brought forward from the previous minutes, therefore it was agreed to accept the minutes of the Forum Meeting held on Wednesday 20th May, 2015.

7. URGENT ITEM - CURRENT STATE OF LLANDUDNO NORTH SHORE: RAISED BY RESTORE OUR BEACH

The current condition of Llandudno's north shore is brought to the attention of Forum Members by Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explaining that this issue was raised at the Forum meeting of 20th May, 2015. The current condition of the north shore from the Imperial Hotel up to the Jetties is a direct result of the current sea defence, and has become worse and worse (AS). Comments have been received from visitors, hoteliers and locals and something needs to happen (AS). It has been said there is not enough funds for this season but the season is all the year round and the beach condition is as important now as in the summer. What is going to happen and when? (AS)

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) replied to say they have been litter picking on the north shore throughout the summer, but the equipment they have is not suitable to pick up large stones. CCBC are aware of the concerns. They are looking at suitable options to clear stones from that area. Aim to have something within the next two months.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asked what will happen in the meantime? Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) replied to say there is no current plan to do anything. Ms Shields suggests that we should be looking at this as an urgent issue adding that the money from parking on the north shore could be used to fund the removal of the stones from the sandy area of the beach.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) explains that CCBC are looking at various options which can address the change in beach levels, but which are also cost effective.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative) suggests that the Forum needs a member who can deal with finance adding that Kiddies Corner is unlikely to be cleared, and suggests that the Forum now moves on to consider the Feasibility study. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explains that it is not just Kiddies Corner that has lost its sand coverage but all of the north shore.

Mr I Robbins (LHA) adds that Social Media is reporting not to go to Llandudno as the beach here is stony. The Chairman (NT) suggests the Forum should not get bogged down with this issue.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC) suggests we await the scheme and asks about time scales? Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) explains they have been litter picking on the beach but their work is restricted due to the tidal conditions. CCBC will put a report together within the next two months. A meeting was held to discuss the north shore two weeks ago.

Chair (NT) of the Forum asks for regular updates from CCBC at every Forum Meeting.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explains that RoB have sent many emails to CCBC but have had no reply.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) suggests that in future copy emails in to him (Mr Ken Finch (CCBC)) and Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF).

IT WAS AGREED : Forum Members emails to CCBC are to be copied to both Mr Ken Finch (CCBC), and to Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF).

Mr John Farrell (RoB) adds that the north shore is a 'hot potato' with many people asking about this. People need to know what progress is being made and those questions need to be brought to the Forum. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asks if CCBC have a twenty year plan for the north shore, and one year ago put 50,000 tons of rocks on the north shore, then why do they not have a machine to pick those rocks up (as part of the maintenance)?

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) replies to say that where there are stones on all beaches it is a never ending battle but public money cannot be used to remove stones from a beach. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) replies to say that other beaches have not had the same type of sea defences as Llandudno and that Llandudno cannot be compared to other beaches as each beach is unique.

Cllr Robbins (LLTC) requested that the Forum move on to the feasibility study as this was overlapping on the discussion.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) enquires why the season is suggested as now being extended beyond the summer season? Mr Edwards suggests that the Forum waits to hear the recommendations and costings of the report being prepared by Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF). Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) explains that when the sea defence work was carried out in 1996 and 2000 the stones were washed away and down the beach initially at that time; it is not a new phenomenon. CCBC acknowledges that people are talking about the north shore, but interim work cannot be done overnight. CCBC are now working to develop an alternative piece of work to address this.

Mr John Farrell (RoB) requests that the report is brought to the Forum. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explains that her concern is for the survival of Llandudno as a tourist industry.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) points out that the Forum is going over old ground and requests to move on to the Feasibility Study?

Ms Debbie Wareham (ST) points out that both the current condition of the north shore and the feasibility study are important however if a report is being prepared by Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) then hopefully the recommendations from that report can be implemented for the 2016 season.

Forum Chair (NT) suggests that the report being prepared for the north shore is discussed at the next meeting.

IT WAS AGREED: Progress of the North Shore Management Report is to be discussed at the next Forum meeting

8. PROGRESS ON THE CONSULTATION AND TIMESCALES

Ref 1, 24.09.2015, Document: Draft Brief Content for Discussion at Llandudno Coastal Forum

A document was circulated to Forum Members by Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC - ERF) outlining the draft content that is required from the feasibility study on the future beach management of Llandudno's north and west shores. Forum Members went on to give their feedback on the document and the next phase of the process.

Cllr Dewi Miles enquires if there is funding for the Feasibility Study? Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) explains that the report brief with the options has to be written first and taken to Cabinet then funding is sourced for the feasibility study. Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) points out that it had been suggested with some certainty that the funding was in place and would come from CCBC and LLTC and without the funding the report does not mean anything.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) explains that the report has to go to Cabinet first further to which there may be a grant available for the feasibility study, but it is currently unknown if there is any funding in the future to do the work. Cllr Dewi Miles re-emphasises that it was previously suggested that the money would be there for the feasibility study. Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) explains that Cabinet did not agree funding in June. That meeting was to enable the Forum to continue. We now have to develop the content for the report and submit that to Cabinet.

The Chair (NT) of the Forum enquires about timescales. Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) explains it is expected that approval would be given by Christmas.

Mr John Farrell (RoB) points out that the process for this had not been explained and it was not clearly stated that it would be necessary to return to Cabinet. Mr Farrell adds that the Public will not wait. Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative) highlights that people want to see a future investment in Llandudno asking while they wait where are they going to go with their buckets and spades? MR John Farrell (RoB) re-emphasises that we had our consultation on the options in June and those ideas went to Cabinet.

The Chair (NT) points out the need for deadlines for the project plan.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC) points out that the Forum should have had the draft document three months ago emphasising that the Forum needs to move forward.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) points out she is very disappointed to only have this document now adding that many people have commented that the Forum has only been created to quieten the Restore Our Beach Campaign Group. Mr John Farrell (RoB) asks if this is a delay tactic. The Forum Chair (NT) enquires about a reasonable deadline, and what happens next in the process.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) explains that an officer will write the report which will go to Cabinet possibly in November. Mr Finch adds that CCBC formed this body to address the issues of the north shore and resents comments that CCBC is delaying anything. Funding has to be approved through Cabinet further to submission of the report. This is the democratic process of Cabinet and it is hoped that there would not be a problem in securing funding for the feasibility study. The Llandudno Town Council will be contributing £5,000 and it is possible that Welsh Government will also make a contribution. The Forum exists to discuss the issues, and has worked well, but it is still necessary to go through the appropriate process.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) suggests that as it has been suggested that there are only two consultants who can possibly do this work, could the Consultants be approached for more precise costings if the range is between £20,000 and £60,000? Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) explains that there is no need for physical modelling (*which is where the two firms referred to comes from*), and he is optimistic about the funding.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC) points out that all items raised in the Forum are in the Draft. Ms Debbie Wareham (ST) enquires if the future use of the pier by larger ships will be taken into account within the Feasibility Study? Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) explains this is considered under the section commercial interests.

Mr John Farrell (RoB) enquires if all the options considered by the Forum will be included in the feasibility study? Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) confirms that all options will be considered as well as their sustainability, and protection of the Town. There will also be the suggestion from the Consultant of other options that the Forum may not have considered.

Ms Debbie Wareham (ST) enquires if the Feasibility Study will also include the option of the current means of sea defence? Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) explains that the current method of sea defence is used as a base line for comparison.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) enquires if the list of criteria is good enough to go to Cabinet and then acquire the costs for the feasibility study?

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) enquires if she can send her feedback within a couple of days? Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC) suggests the Forum accepts the Draft brief so the production of the report is not delayed.

The Forum Votes on accepting the Draft brief. **THE DRAFT WAS ACCEPTED.**

Chair (NT) acknowledges that the Forum agrees the draft brief.

Mr Ian Robbins (LHA) enquires about the length of the Consultation. Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) explains it will take about six to nine months to produce with time to share the findings with the Forum, and with the Public.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) asks that Forum members contact their local CCBC Elected Representative and tell them about the work of the Forum and the hard work that is being done here. Mr John Farrell (RoB) explains that RoB do contact their local CCBC Elected Representatives.

Forum Chair (NT) enquires if CCBC Members should be contacted by individual Forum members or by the Forum as a Group? **IT WAS AGREED** that both individual members and the Forum as a group would contact CCBC Elected Representatives and that Cllr Greg Robbins would compose a draft letter to be sent to CCBC Elected Representatives on behalf of the Llandudno Coastal Forum.

Ms Debbie Wareham (ST) enquires about the inclusion of the west shore in the feasibility study brief. Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) explains that the west shore will be included in the report as an additional piece of work that is being developed.

The Forum Chair (NT) enquires about how we manage people's expectations. Mr Ian Robbins (LHA) suggests that it will take between five to seven years due to procedural process. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) suggests that as CCBC has completed similar work in Colwyn Bay, and learned from that process, then the work at Llandudno should be quicker. Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) explains that the work at Colwyn Bay took ten years to deliver.

Mr John Farrell (RoB) enquires about the timescale from the feasibility study with funding considerations.

Forum Chair (NT) requests that a timeline is established.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC ERF) AGREED to produce a timeline for the Forum from Report Brief to Feasibility Study to tender, for the next meeting.

Chair (NT) acknowledges that a schedule of events is to be produced to manage public expectation.

IT WAS AGREED that a Schedule of Events is to be included at the next Forum Meeting.

9. TO REVIEW AND AGREE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM

It was agreed that no changes would be made to the Membership of the Forum

10. MATTERS ARISING RELEVANT TO THE LLANDUDNO COASTAL FORUM

1. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) brings to the attention of the Forum a text message she has received from a member of the public asking about the use of the money from the parking on the north shore especially given that Colwyn Bay has free parking? Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) answers to say that people will be charged for parking in Colwyn Bay in the near future.

2. Ms Rachael Roberts (Independent Member) points out there is a significant quantity of sand covering the cycle path on the west shore. Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) replies to say that sand is cleared where possible, but sand does return. Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC ERF) confirms that CCBC Open Spaces do maintain that area. Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC) suggests that the issue is included in the discussion on the west shore at the next Forum meeting.

11. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Ref 2, 24.09.2015, Letter - From Llandudno Civic Council

A letter has been received from the Chairman of the Llandudno Civic Council requesting that a member from the Forum brings the group up to date as regards the stones and sea defences on the Llandudno north Shore.

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Frank Bradfield would attend the next meeting of the Llandudno Civic Council on Friday 25th September, 2015 in the Community Room at Llandudno Library.

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

IT WAS AGREED that the dates of the next two meetings would be 8th October 2015, 18:00hrs and 22nd October 2015, 18:00hrs in the Town Hall.

MEETING ENDED 19:45HRS