



LLANDUDNO  
COASTAL  
FORUM

FFORWM  
ARFORDIROL  
LLANDUDNO

## **Minutes of Llandudno Coastal Forum Meeting**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

### **1. THOSE PRESENT**

Clr Frank Bradfield - Conwy County Borough Council  
Mrs Eileen Burrows - Llandudno Chamber of Trade  
Mr Peter Byron – Friends of West Shore  
Clr Dave Cowans - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC  
Clr Glynne Davies - Llandudno Town Council  
Mr Geraint Edwards - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC  
Mr Ken Finch - Democracy, Regulation & Support, CCBC  
Mr Dewi Miles - Conwy County Borough Council  
Mr Dyfed Rowlands - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC  
Ms Alison Shields - Restore Our Beach  
Mr Nigel Treacy - Destination Conwy - **Chairman**  
Ms Debbie Wareham - Ships' Timbers Ltd – **Secretary**

### **APOLOGIES**

Mr John Farrell – Restore Our Beach  
Mr Edward Hiller - Mostyn Estates Ltd  
Mr Gerry Sweeny – Friends of West Shore  
Clr Greg JT Robbins - Llandudno Town Council – **Vice Chairman**  
Ms Rachel Roberts – Independent Conceptual Artist  
Mr Berin Jones - Llandudno Hospitality Association  
Mr Tony Lockett - Llandudno Sailing Club  
Mr Paul Moreton – RNLI

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

### **3. MINUTES**

No changes were brought forward from the previous minutes, therefore it was agreed to accept the minutes of the Forum Meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

### **4. URGENT ITEM**

None received at the time of publication

### **5. PROGRESS ON CONSULTATION BRIEF AND TIMESCALES**

**Ref 1, 08.10.2015, Document:** Draft programme to Deliver Llandudno Beach Management Plan Appraisal.

A document (Ref 1) was circulated to Forum Members by Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC - ERF) outlining a draft schedule for the Feasibility Study from the date of submission of the CCBC prepared Report (outlining the Feasibility Study Brief) in December 2015 to the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the submission of the final Feasibility Study Report to the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2016.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) summarises the document for Forum Members.

Mr Nigel Treacy (The Forum Chairman) explains that Forum Members need to know what is happening, when it is going to happen, and what is going to be achieved so that Members can report back to their individual group members.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) asks about the source of the funding for the Feasibility Report?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) explains that there will be various sources used to obtain funding.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) enquires if the Feasibility Study will attract funding because it is an independent study?

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explains that the Timeline as shown is difficult to understand, and asks does the report being prepared need to go to Cabinet?

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) outlines his concerns about the current state of the north shore whereby nothing is being done to address issues there at present. Mr Shields (RoB) suggests that soon there will not be any sand left there at all?

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) points out that there is plenty of sand left on Llandudno's north shore, as much as there has ever been. Mr Finch explains that an interim Beach Management Plan is being prepared as well.

Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers) clarifies that there are two plans being considered, an interim plan to address current issues, and the long term plan.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) explains that the report to address the interim work that is needed for Llandudno's north shore is being prepared and will be presented to the Forum in four weeks.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chairman) asks that the interim plans for Llandudno's north shore is included as a regular item on the Forum Agenda?

**IT IS AGREED THAT: A regular Agenda Item will be included at every Forum Meeting giving an update on the interim work for Llandudno's north shore.**

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) agrees to rewrite the draft schedule using a different language style to help understanding of the timeline; to circulate this document via email and have further contribution to its development from Forum Members. Mr Finch (CCBC) stresses that he feels confident about the Feasibility Study Brief being approved through the democratic process and that funding will follow. Mr Finch (CCBC) confirms the email he sent to Forum Members outlining the democratic process followed so far concerning the Llandudno Coastal Forum from its inception on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014, and the outcomes / resolutions since then up to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chairman) confirms that the email list supplied by Mr Finch (CCBC) is a very useful summary of the achievements made by the Forum so far.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) asks that further to the Feasibility Study being sent to Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee / Cabinet in December 2016 what is the long term timeline after that until project completion?

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC Elected Representative) explains that it is not possible to answer that.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) enquires about the amount of consultation that will emerge from the final feasibility report? As it is an 'independent study' with recommendations how much will be asked of the public for their 'opinions' further to that report being completed?

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) points out that from the previous consultation in June 2015 there were two preferred options.

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC Elected Representative) points out there will be a number of options offered from the Feasibility Report.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) explains that the options that have come out of the recent 2015 Consultation asking for public opinion will be part of the Feasibility Study and the consequences of those options will be considered along with the cost. They will form part of the wider public Consultation once the Feasibility Report is complete.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) asks for confirmation that the resolution of Cabinet in June 2015 agreed to the Feasibility Study, and that the Funding was in place as part of that agreement?

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) explains that the resolution in June 2014 agreed to the establishment of the Llandudno Coastal Forum and that a Feasibility Study would be considered further to a Business Case being presented to Cabinet.

The resolution from the Cabinet Meeting in June 2014 is quoted as follows: **Cabinet 8.8.14 – Resolved (f) – Any Feasibility Study resulting from the consultation be subject to a business case.**

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) expresses his disappointment that the Funding for the Feasibility is not in place already.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asks is it going to take two months to agree to this?

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC Elected Representative) explains that a detailed Business Plan is being prepared which has to go to Scrutiny and then to Cabinet adding that the Council support the request for a Feasibility Study.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explains that she did not know a Business Case had to be presented to Scrutiny and then to Cabinet adding that after the June 2015 Cabinet meeting she was happy.

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC Elected Representative) emphasises that a positive and good business case is being prepared.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chairman) thanks CCBC for their explanation of the democratic process concerning the commissioning of a Feasibility Study adding that it is very easy to misunderstand this process.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative) commented that he felt the whole process was taking a long time with no real progress; if Members could see progress that would help. People are behind the Forum but we don't know what to say. If Colwyn Bay can develop their beach while working with local businessmen then why can't Llandudno?

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC Elected Representative) pointed out that Colwyn bay took ten years to deliver from initial idea; it is not a quick process.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) commented that only Cabinet, and sometimes the Council, can make decisions.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative) commented that people in the street don't understand this process. Next Christmas is a long way off.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) commented that he would be happy if the Forum would move on. Cllr Dewi Miles added that he would also be happy if the funding for the Feasibility Study was in place as he thought it was in place; £20,000 - £50,000 is the amount to find, and he is a bit worried about finding this sum as there is the additional need to go to external sources. Cllr Miles asks, if the funding can be guaranteed?

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC Elected Representative) comments that the democratic process has not agreed funding yet – but we are at a good place; it is how decisions are made. The Business case has to be agreed first.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) comments that the Forum needs to say something to the general public about progress?

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that Restore Our Beach wants to say something positive, but we ask questions yet get no answers, and now we are getting jargon in this timeline, and it is very difficult.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) comments that the Forum has to be careful about what is said, but there are some difficult truths that have to be given about the time it will take to achieve the outcomes for the north shore.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explains that regarding the interim work for the north shore, there may be the possibility of securing the machinery to remove the stones from the lower foreshore. Ms Shields (RoB) asks that if the machinery could be obtained (without cost) would the Council agree to this, if finding suitable machinery is the only reason that is preventing the stones from the lower foreshore from being removed?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) explains that the cost of the interim work to the lower foreshore is not known yet.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) asks, if the Local Authority will agree to a dialogue about this at the appropriate time?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) agrees to a dialogue about this at the appropriate time.

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) enquires about the existing beach management.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) explains that CCBC carry out monitoring of the movement of the sea defences to assess if the levels have dropped; this is done twice a year. The Council are also engaged in litter removal from the beach and have been doing this throughout the summer.

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) enquires if this beach management work includes removal of displaced stones following extreme storms?

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) comments that certain material can be moved, and this has happened once this year, where the sea defence levels were restored.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) comments that from the lifeboat slipway up to kiddie's corner the beach was re-profiled.

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) comments that there is no sand on the north shore.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that the green stones covering the beach look dreadful.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) comments that the stones on the lower foreshore are from the current sea defences.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) explains that there are a number of factors to consider in a beach management plan such as amenity value, access, a suitable means of sea defence etc. A report is being prepared to remove the stones from the lower foreshore which will be brought to the Forum in four weeks, and which has to be cost effective. This may be sent to Scrutiny and Cabinet.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) comments that the Forum needs to see the report and then we have to see how this work will be done. At this time we can include the offer of local support.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) clarifies that the report will identify the current concerns on the north shore.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that all the rocks on the north shore are a product of the sea defences and are covered with a green slime.

Cllr Dave Cowans (CCBC Elected Representative) comments that the current Flood Defence Management Plan includes beach re-profiling, but now we need a beach management plan. There is no revenue for beach management however we are now working towards a solution.

Mr Peter Byron (FrWSh) comments that he thought all beaches have a beach management plan?

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) comments that Colwyn Bay has a beach management plan, so why not Llandudno?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) comments that management plans exist for tourism and community and others for coastal defence. A beach management plan is more than just being about coastal defence it includes all of these. Previously a coastal scheme was developed based upon purely coastal defence. What we want to do now is develop a long term plan that will look at all criteria affecting the beach. Dyfed is preparing a report of the interim measures that can be applied to address the long term problem facing the north shore with the current sea defences. This report will be brought to the Forum in four weeks. The interim measures will be brought in by the summer season. Hopefully you will not disagree with that?

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that the season is all year round.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) comments that Dyfed's report is long term so there will be a solution available within two months. This cannot be done immediately due to the democratic process that we have to follow.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) asks about the cost of the Feasibility Study and how can full funding be applied for if the exact costs of the Study are not known?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) comments that the cost of the Feasibility Study is between £20,000 and £60,000, the study as a significant piece of work is likely to be at the upper end of that. The price is not absolute as there may be some additional work that we may like to do.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asks for clarification that everything that we had in the Consultation will be included in the Feasibility Study?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) comments that the Feasibility Study will assess the Coastal Defence as it is now against the various options to put in place, and maintain.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asks for clarification that the current means of sea defence is not going to be considered as an option in the Feasibility Study as it was not a preferred option in the recent June 2015 Consultation?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) explains that the current means of sea defence will be used in the Feasibility Study as base line for comparison. The Consultant may suggest other options as being too costly or suggest other options that have not yet been considered.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) asks that the Consultant could suggest that some modification is made to the current means of sea defence to stabilise the upper foreshore combined with removal of stones from the lower foreshore, adding some increased access options, as this might be the lowest cost option overall?

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) confirms that the Consultant may recommend some modification to the existing sea defence as an option.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments that we must be prepared for the independent report, and that we can't say that it will be what we want.

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC – Elected Representative) comments that he is concerned for the future of the people of Llandudno and the children and families who will not come to Llandudno if there are rocks on the beach; ten years is too long. A whole generation will miss out on building sand castles on the north shore.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments we had a public consultation to find out the preferred options.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected representative) explains that what we want may not be feasible and we must be prepared for what the Consultant finds.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) comments that the Forum should have more confidence in the work done as a Forum so far, but the report needs to be credible for large scale funding.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that she will go along with the Feasibility Study findings, but is concerned with past events.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) comments that the Consultant will review all previous studies, but suggests having confidence in the work done by the Forum so far.

Mr Mike Shields (RoB) asks if the Feasibility Study could recommend the current means of sea defence to stay?

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) suggests that it's like an optimization problem where we have to consider the various constraints such as amenity value, access, environment, heritage, sea defence, but keeping it cost effective. As all of these are part of the proposed beach management plan, by default, the current means of sea defence, as it is, cannot be presented as an option.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) asks about the medium term schedule?

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) comments that we need to consider west shore.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) suggests the Forum needs to agree the Timescales Document.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) comments that he will email the document which outlines the timescales asking for feedback to make it more reader friendly then the amended document can be put on the Forum website.

**THIS WAS AGREED to put the draft timescales document on the Agenda for the next Forum meeting**

## **6. TO REVIEW THE DRAFT LETTER TO CCBC MEMBERS**

As Cllr Robbins (LLTC) is preparing this item, but unable to attend the current meeting it was agreed to postpone the Agenda item to the next Forum meeting, and to ask Cllr Robbins (LLTC) to prepare, and circulate a draft letter as appropriate.

## **7. MATTERS ARISING RELEVANT TO THE LLANDUDNO COASTAL FORUM**

1. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) brought to the attention of the Forum that Mr John Farrell (RoB) is currently unwell so is unable to attend meetings at the moment. When fully recovered, Mr Farrell (RoB) will resume his attendance at Forum meetings. The Forum wishes Mr Farrell (RoB) well, and a speedy recovery.

2. Mr Nigel Treacy (The Forum Chairman) asked the Forum about administration of the Forum's Social Media and Website. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) explained that in Mr Farrell's (RoB) absence she will take on administrative responsibilities for these means of communication.

3. Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative) brought to the attention of the Forum the excellent Minutes that had been produced by Ms Debbie Wareham (Secretary). This was acknowledged by the Forum Chairman, and Forum Members. Ms Wareham (Secretary) thanked Cllr Bradfield (CCBC) for his comments.

4. Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) brought to the attention of the group the need to be mindful of the timescales for the various Local Authority meetings during the formulation of ideas for the west shore beach management plan. Also to allow time to canvas opinions on the issues about the west shore. Mr Peter Byron (FrWSh) explained that The Friends of West Shore were currently without a location to meet. Mr Nigel Treacy (The Forum Chairman) offered the facilities of the Llandudno Ski Centre as a meeting place for the Friends of west shore. Mr Peter Byron (FrWSh) was grateful for the offer of this location for the group to meet.

5. Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chairman) raised the issue of communication with CCBC between meetings, carried forward from the last Forum meeting, asking if this had improved? Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) commented that she had sent an email to Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC - ERF) about the north shore heritage features and had received a reply. Hence, communication had improved.

## **8. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

### ***Ref 2, 24.09.2015, Letter - From Llandudno Civic Council***

Cllr Frank Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative) attended the meeting of the Llandudno Civic Council on Friday 25th September, 2015 in the Community Room at Llandudno Library. As the Forum has only just reconvened after the summer break, it was agreed at the meeting of the Llandudno Civic Council that Cllr Bradfield (CCBC Elected Representative) would attend another meeting of the group in three months to give a further update.

#### **9. TO NOTE THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is 22nd October 2015, at 18:00hrs in the Town Hall, and provisionally the November meetings will be 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015, and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**MEETING ENDED 19:40HRS**