



LLANDUDNO
COASTAL
FORUM

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LLANDUDNO

Minutes of Llandudno Coastal Forum Meeting
Thursday 10th December 2015

1. THOSE PRESENT

Mr Peter Byron – Friends of West Shore
Cllr Glynne Davies - Llandudno Town Council
Mr Geraint Edwards - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC
Mr Ken Finch - Democracy, Regulation & Support, CCBC
Mr Berin Jones - Llandudno Hospitality Association
Cllr Dewi Miles - Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Greg JT Robbins - Llandudno Town Council **(Vice Chairman)**
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 **(Secretary)**

APOLOGIES

Cllr Frank Bradfield - Conwy County Borough Council
Mrs Eileen Burrows - Llandudno Chamber of Trade
Cllr Dave Cowans - Environment, Roads & Facilities, CCBC
Mr John Farrell – Restore Our Beach
Mr Edward Hiller - Mostyn Estates Ltd
Mr Tony Lockett - Llandudno Sailing Club
Mr Paul Moreton – RNLI
Mr Mike Shields (Restore Our Beach)

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 19th November, 2015.

4. URGENT ITEM

None received at the time of publication.

5. West Shore Proposals

At the previous LCF Meeting, Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) handed out plans of the west shore for Members to add their comments / ideas about current issues, or ideas for improvement. Forum Members were given an opportunity to give their feedback at this meeting. As follows:

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) commented that he had attended the last Friends of West Shore Meeting and noted the main concerns – sand is causing tremendous problems decreasing the value of people's properties, drains clog, people are looking for long term solutions such as planting marram grass or restoring groynes to control sand and improve beach, the issues are causing real hardship, there is a need to permanently improve the cycle path, but it is an ongoing problem, access onto the beach is a problem across quarried limestone which is used for building igloos and dens, it is unsightly and collects detritus from the tides affecting the look, wheel chair access is not good.

Mr Peter Byron (FoWSh) commented that from personal experience he was addressing serious issues with the drains and front windows due to sand, car was damaged, and all neighbours struggling.

Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) suggested that the cycle path which is covered in sand would benefit from coming up to the level of the golf course, with it being important as part of the Wales Coastal Path. Toilets on the west shore work quite well. There is no changing facility for people, and no encouragement for people to use the boating lake, UK Model Boat championships take place there which is great, and Model Railway Development is great. West shore is not the same as the north shore which is more commercial and we would not want to make it like that, but as a facility it is not as well used. Perhaps we could have an exhibition of west shore ideas in the restored tram shelter.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice-Chair) commented that the Model Railway Society had received much support from the Llandudno Town Council and they continue to gain support. The Society is a major asset to the Town. Dunes and Grasses are a good way to deal with the ongoing sand problem, protection barrier could be made from rocks perhaps, and the tram station is available for lease from the Llandudno Town Council should anyone wish to develop a project in the building - contact Cllr Robbins if they have any idea for its use.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) suggested that the west shore could have zoned areas, commercial areas, a round board walk, and a barrier.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) commented that the rocks on the west shore were unsightly, and asked why they were there and if when the groynes were there, was there a lot of trouble. The cycle path over the top could be a viable option.

Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) commented that when the fishtail when on the groyne the sand problem became worse.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) commented that many people were unhappy about the fishtail groyne being developed.

Forum Chair commented that the Forum needed to look at the wider water users and issues. It is a complex issue. Do we need a strategy for this, maybe two approaches – long term and interim?

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) commented that we need to find out what the BMP will be and it is up to Council Officers to come up with plans and for everyone else to add comments. North shore and west shore are very different.

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) commented that the proposal is to go to Scrutiny and Cabinet for a BMP for north and west shore which will give alternative solutions. The modifications were made to the Groynes as the dry sand and strong winds were causing beach levels to drop significantly presenting us with a high risk of flooding at that time. Modifications were made to the rock Groyne over time to allow more dry sand time for the beach but the tides continue to take the sand away causing levels to drop.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice-Chair) commented that he spent many weekends at the boating lake with his Grandchildren and that part of the land was owned by the Church in Wales.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / Forum Secretary) commented that ideas for the west shore would be to extend the sea wall further towards the direction of the golf course in front of the area that flooded a couple of years ago, and had there been a wall in place here at that time it is likely that this would have held the sea back and not flooded the west shore beach cafe. Additionally, Ms Wareham mentioned that the area in front of the Bishops Palace remains used to be ploughed fields during the medieval which indicates the amount of erosion that has taken place since then. Ms Wareham went on to suggest the idea of adding some additional sea defences to the area beneath Bishops Palace remains as the small cliffs there were very fragile / sandy.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) commented that the west shore did not need a seawall.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) commented that the level of sea wall is decided by what is needed to protect an area. We look at 1 in 100 year event which is the current design standard, however the levels may go up.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) suggested that we may have temporary structures.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) commented that he would be happy if BMP ideas were put forward by CCBC and stakeholders were involved in that once a plan was formulated to give input.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / Forum Secretary) commented that the development of the dunes and cycle path were important.

Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) commented that many people supported the development of dunes.

Ms Alision Shields (RoB) commented that many years ago the dunes were extensive on the west shore.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) commented that dune systems do not provide sufficient protection from the sea from his knowledge of living in south wales suggesting the need for stable structures and dunes.

Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) commented that he had brought the thoughts of the Friends of the West Shore to the Forum and the group is willing to be engaged in the process when we have a proper BMP. The group is open to quite a few changes.

Forum Chair asked if there is a mechanism in place for the development of feedback

Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replied to say that there will be a public consultation to consider the findings of the Consultant. Mr Edwards also commented that there is a design standard for the height of seawalls when used as a defence e.g. the work in Deganwy. But we need to understand the risk. Having this piece of work will give various options and visuals.

The Forum Chair asked how the matter of canvassing opinion about the west shore can be taken forward. Cllr Dewi Miles (CBC – Elected Representative) suggested that it was down to the press, the Town Council and County Council to move things forward with the people they represent. Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) explained that the Friends of West Shore Group was well attended so he could do a letter drop. Mr Peter Byron (FoWSh) suggested a letter to residents. Ms Alison Shields (RoB) suggested asking for feedback on plan. Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) explained that had already been done and the Group came up with a wish list. Additional ideas can be taken to the Friends of West Shore Group. Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) suggested that perhaps the Friends of West Shore Group could be brought up to date with the issues and the approach taken with the north shore.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / Forum Secretary) asked when ideas for the west shore were needed by. Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) replied to say before the work goes out to tender.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) concluded that it had been a great discussion and he had noted all the ideas down. What the Council will do next is put it all on a drawing, and share with the Consultant. Using the ideas we have now a proper plan will emerge as the Consultant will also have ideas.

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / LCF Vice-Chair) commented to say that it had been a practical way forward and if any other ideas emerged then send them across to Dyfed for review.

Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC – Elected Representative) agreed that we won't be overwhelmed with ideas so let Dyfed put the ideas down.

Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) commented that the next Friends of West Shore Meeting is 1st February, 2016.

Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) commented that economic development may need input from CBS.

The Forum Chair asked if the Friends of west shore are happy with how the issues are being managed by the LCF.

Mr Peter Byron (FoWSh) replied that they are happy.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / Forum Secretary) asked if it is okay to send additional comments about the west shore via email.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) replied that it is fine to send additional comments via email.

The Forum Chair asked how Friends of west shore decide to meet, how can non-members attend the meetings?

Mr Gerry Sweeny (FoWSh) replied to say that notice of the next meeting is given in the previous meeting.

6. North Shore Interim Work – Update

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships Timbers / Forum Secretary) asked for clarification of the title of the report being requested from a Consultant as recently references had been made to a number of reports such as Feasibility Study, Appraisal Report, and Beach Management Plan. Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) explained that a feasibility Study was contained within a Beach Management Plan (BMP). The local Authority had recently been talking with Welsh Government over the possibility of obtaining some funding for the BMP / Feasibility Study. At that time reference was given to a BMP as this is a broader piece of work and would be an expected Report for Welsh Government. Welsh Government talked positively of the Report funding request. The Forum was in agreement that BMP is a better term to use than Feasibility Study.

Ms Alison Shields (RoB) asked if the report to Scrutiny would be well received. Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) commented that he thought the report would be well received, and confirmed that the Report had been published today (10th December). Mr Finch also commented that if the Forum had any other comments they wished to add to send them via email to him. Mr Finch commented that the Forum had come a long way to understand everyone's view, and that he could not guarantee what would eventually happen in the long term as it was not possible to say where the funding would come from at this stage.

Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers / Forum Secretary) mentioned that she thought the Forum had been negligent over the environmental aspect of the north and west shore, as there had been no mention of biodiversity, protected species, habitats, or species that currently live, or should be living on the beach. Ms Wareham added that Dune regeneration had been mentioned for the west shore but in the twenty years since the redevelopment of the west shore there was very little Dune Regeneration or efforts being made to support this. Ms Wareham added that it would not take much for an expert in marine / coastal ecology to assess what was needed and to develop a plan to implement this. Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) commented that Marine Licenses being applied for will be directed to NRW who will consider the Environmental needs. Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice-Chair) commented that the Forum did suggest asking a

representative from NRW to give a talk on Environmental issues of the north and west shore to the Forum, but this was never followed through.

7. LLANDUDNO BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN / FEASIBILITY STUDY – UPDATE

The Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting will be meeting on 17th December 2015, to discuss the update from the Llandudno Coastal Forum which will include the presentation of a Business Case for the procurement of a Beach Management Plan for Llandudno, and a request to agree Interim Work for Llandudno's north shore.

8. PRESS RELEASE

Mr Nigel Treacy (Destination Conwy / Forum Chair) handed out two versions of a draft press release for Members to read and discuss. It was agreed that the date for the Press Release would follow the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting scheduled for 17th December, 2015. Hence, the current draft press release would need rewriting to focus on the outcome of the Scrutiny meeting. Forum Chair emphasised that the Forum needs to be telling the public about the work of the Forum. Cllr Dewi Miles (CCBC Elected Representative) highlighted the need to emphasise that an 'independent Feasibility Study' is being requested. The Forum Secretary would contact NWWN about the Press Release to ask for the best way forward.

9. LETTER FOR CCBC ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES - UPDATE

Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice-Chair) commented that the letter was ready for sending by email to CCBC Elected Representatives and includes the additional comments suggested by Members when the letter was previously discussed. The date to send the letter was agreed as the Tuesday before the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting (17th December 2015). Illustrations of the North Shore Beach showing various options for the north shore drawn Ms Rachel Roberts would also be included in the email. The Forum Secretary will send the letter via email to all CCBC Elected Representatives.

10. LCF WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA – UPDATE

Mr Nigel Treacy (Destination Conwy / Forum Chair) asked for an update on the LCF Website Access. Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / Forum Secretary) confirmed that she had received an email from Mr John Farrell (RoB) with password details for access to the LCF Website for forwarding on to the Forum Chairman. Ms Wareham added that access was still needed to LCF Facebook Page and Twitter Account. Forum Chair suggested that the Forum Secretary send an email request to Ms Alison Shields (RoB) requesting access to both of these accounts.

11. AUDIO RECORDING OF LCF MEETING TO SUPPORT MINUTE TAKING

Ms Debbie Wareham (Forum Secretary) made a request to Forum Members if she could use a digital Dictaphone to record Forum meetings in order to supplement minute taking. Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice-Chair) commented that meetings used to be recorded when the Forum was first set up and thought that recording meetings again was a good idea.

IT WAS AGREED that Forum Meetings could be recorded using a digital Dictaphone to aid minute taking.

12. LCF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers) brought the Llandudno Coastal Forum's Terms of Reference to the attention of Forum Members highlighting the fact that Heritage was not mentioned. Ms Wareham mentioned the importance of our local heritage and the need to explicitly mention this in the Terms of Reference. Ms Wareham explained she had contacted Polly Groom at CADW, the Nautical Archaeology Society and the vice-Chair of MOROL about this matter and all three supported the need to include Heritage in the Terms of Reference. Ms Wareham went on to explain that the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage is enshrined in planning policy at a local and national level and is a factor in the determination of marine license applications. Also visitor surveys have repeatedly highlighted that the importance of archaeology and history in influencing people's decisions about where to take holidays and what to do when there. Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers) asked that 'cultural heritage' is added to the terms of reference as follows:

3. 'To improve and protect the natural environment, cultural heritage, recreational space and aesthetics,'
Cllr Greg Robbins (LLTC / Forum Vice-Chair) objected to the word 'protect' in the terms of reference saying that the Forum is not a conservation group. Ms Wareham (Ships' Timbers) accepted the inclusion of 'cultural heritage' in the Terms of Reference without the word 'protect'. Mr Ken Finch (CCBC) commented that although the Terms of Reference did go to Cabinet to be agreed initially, adding 'cultural heritage' would not need to be taken to Cabinet.

IT WAS AGREED that the Llandudno Coastal Forum Terms of Reference, would be amended as follows:

From,

3. Improve the natural environment, recreational space, and aesthetics

To,

3. Improve the natural environment, cultural heritage, recreational space, and aesthetics

13. MATTERS ARISING RELEVANT TO THE LLANDUDNO COASTAL FORUM

Mr Nigel Treacy (Destination Conwy / Forum Chairman) expressed his concerns that some Forum Members were regularly not attending meetings suggesting that they may not wish to be part of the Forum anymore. It was suggested that a list be compiled of Forum Members attendance since June 2015 and those Members who regularly did not attend, could then be contacted. Ms Wareham (Forum Secretary) agreed to look back at past attendance and draw up a list of past attendance.

14. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None Received

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

The date of the next meeting is 14th January, 2016, at 18:00hrs in the Town Hall, Llandudno.

MEETING ENDED 20:05HRS