



LLANDUDNO
COASTAL
FORUM

FFORWM
ARFORDIROL
LLANDUDNO

MINUTES

Thursday 12th October, 2017

1. THOSE PRESENT

Cllr Frank Bradfield - Conwy County Borough Council
Mrs Eileen Burrows - Llandudno Chamber of Trade
Mr Owen Conry - CCBC (ERF)
Cllr Francis Davies - Llandudno Town Council
Mr Edward Hiller - Mostyn Estates Ltd
Mr Berin Jones - Llandudno Hospitality Association
Mr Jon Merrick – Conwy County Borough Council - CDS
Cllr Donald Milne – Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Greg JT Robbins - Llandudno Town Council (**LCF Vice- Chairman**)
Mr Dyfed Rowlands – CCBC (ERF)
Mr Nigel Treacy – Destination Conwy (**LCF Chairman**)
Ms Debbie Wareham - Ships' Timbers (**LCF Secretary**)
Mr Adam Williams – Llandudno Pier

APOLOGIES

Mr Geraint Edwards – CCBC (ERF)
Cllr Louise Emery – Conwy County Borough Council
Ms Alison Shields – Restore Our Beach
Mr Mike Shields - Restore Our Beach

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES

3.1 To receive and accept the Minutes of the Llandudno Coastal Forum meeting held on **Tuesday 22nd August, 2017**. Proposed by Cllr Greg Robbins, Seconded by Cllr Francis Davies.

3.2 Matters Arising from Minutes, **Tuesday 22nd August, 2017**.

None

4. URGENT ITEM

None received at the time of publication.

5. LLANDUDNO BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 BMP – Feedback from Conwy’s Scrutiny Meeting (28.09.2017) and Cabinet Meeting (10.10.2017) and the next step (Mr Geraint Edwards, Mr Dyfed Rowlands, Mr Owen Conry - CCBC ERF).

Cllr Greg Robbins commented that there were a few questions raised at the Scrutiny meeting about Funding, given the onset of Brexit, nevertheless, Cllr Greg Robbins proposed the approval of the Beach Management Plan, and Cllr Ronnie Hughes seconded that. The document was approved unanimously.

Cllr Donald Milne confirmed that given the document had been fully scrutinized, Cabinet were happy to accept the report and progress the funding for the next stage of the plan.

6. BMP – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6.1 Scope / Arrangements for the BMP Public Consultation / Drop In event CCBC – ERF (Mr Geraint Edwards, Mr Dyfed Rowlands, Mr Owen Conry).

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirmed that the information about the scope of the drop in event had been shared with Forum Members so the public can come in and talk to CCBC / AECOM / LCF about the Beach Management Plan. Mr Rowlands asked that with the agreement of the Forum the draft proposals can be taken forward which will be shared with the Forum before the event adding that the Forum can add to those documents.

Mr Owen Conry (CCBC – ERF) confirmed that proposed dates for the drop-in event are 24th and 25th November, 2017.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) added that we need to agree a venue for the event.

Mr Edwards Hiller (Mostyn Estates) offered the Forum the use of one of the units in the Victoria Centre for the venue for the drop-in event.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) asked Members if they are available over the two days to support the event. Cllr Greg Robbins, Mr Berin Jones, Mr Nigel Treacy and Ms Debbie Wareham said they were available to support the event.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirmed that the ERF Team along with representatives from Aecom would be available over the two days to answer any technical questions that people may have, and to help people sign in etc.

Mr Owen Conry (CCBC – ERF) made reference to the scoping document which had been circulated to say that the event would be to say what the Forum has achieved by the way of the north shore and west shore consultations and to discuss the Beach Management Plan.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) added that the event would also include the next step in the process so people know what is happening. It will be an information sharing event with the Public about the work of the Forum. A press release summarising that will be developed, and sent out, nearer the time.

Cllr Donald Milne (CCBC – ERF Cabinet Member) confirmed that the Beach Management Plan presents a range of options with various costs, and what we are doing in what order is what we are consulting the public on and getting the feedback on. The consultation is about the plan forward.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirmed that the next steps is in relation to getting funding to do the outline business case which will add strength to the options outlined in the Beach Management Plan adding that those options will be narrowed down and another public consultation will take place on those options. It will be at that point we will be asking the public which options they like when we know what is affordable and what is achievable.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Ships' Timbers / Forum Secretary) asked if there will be a feedback form to capture people's opinions.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirmed that a form will be produced. Also the idea is to put the BMP online prior to the event so they have time beforehand to read the document and have a joint press release nearer the time.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Secretary) asked if the BMP should be made available online straight away, and confirmed that the Pioneer are going to introduce the consultation event next Monday and again nearer the time.

Cllr Donald Milne (CCBC – ERF Cabinet Member) confirmed that the BMP document is already on the CCBC Website.

Members agreed that it would be a good idea to put the BMP on the LCF Website at this time as well.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) asked Forum Members if they wanted to discuss the scope of the drop-in event document.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Secretary) commented that in the draft document it mentions with regards to options appraisal next steps, 'if the options appraisal concludes that the scheme can wait, then the application for funding will be delayed for an appropriate amount of time'. Ms Wareham added that she felt shocked to read that statement.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirms that CCBC has a scheme in place for funding without any delay so there is no need to worry about that. If we get to a stage where we have a scheme and everyone is happy with that, but we only have 75% from Welsh Govt. and cannot secure match funding via help from CDS, then work would have to be delayed. But we do not know that yet.

Ms Wareham went on to ask that if the project is delayed, is there a risk given what is written in document one p40 / 145, that the current means of sea defence are not appropriate to protect Llandudno from an ingress by the sea given the emissions so you would think the project would be funded.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirmed that if there is a scheme that can be developed, and is justifiable and approved, then it is likely that Welsh Government will provide the 75% that is needed for the project. But there is a gap in funding, but at the moment we do not know what that gap is.

Cllr Donald Milne (CCBC – ERF Cabinet Member) confirmed that there is a pot of funding available over five years from Welsh Government but only for 75%. It used to be 100%. The match funding element may be flexible but as far as we know it is 75%. We cannot concentrate on the area yet because those aspects of the project are unknown at the moment. What we do know is that there is funding available, but what we want is funding that will take us on to the next part of our plan.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) adds that a good lever that we have in relation to Llandudno is that NRW have done a piece of work in relation to flood risk around the whole of Wales, and Llandudno is within the top five at risk of flooding from their study, so hopefully they will allocate funding towards areas of highest risk so that will add good leverage to our business case.

Mr Owen Conry (CCBC – ERF) adds that it is not just that Llandudno is within the top five in Wales at risk of flooding it is the cost of repair that is a factor as well.

Ms Wareham (Secretary) asked if there were any ideas about the content of the drop-in event materials.

Mr Owen Conry (CCBC – ERF) comments that they will produce eight posters to include north shore situation, west shore situation, options for both, the work of the Forum, over topping rates, leaflets.

Mr Berin Jones (LHA) asks if Forum Members will have an option to see exhibition materials before the event.

This is confirmed.

Ms Wareham (Secretary) asks when materials will be produced? Ms Wareham explains that she was concerned because in the draft scoping document it says present day and future flood risk for existing beach levels, on p40 / 105 of the BMP, which is now local guidance, how will that be communicated to people in terms of selecting the median emissions scenario, and why that was selected instead of a high level emissions scenario, and how that future flood risk result might be different if a different level was selected. In fact will a different result emerge from the outline business case if a high emissions scenario was selected instead of the median level scenario? Will there be something explaining future flood risk for people in the drop in event?

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) comments that we can have something explaining future flood risk, but not too detailed. There will be someone who can explain the technical side.

Mr Owen Conry (CCBC – ERF) comments that a general poster can explain flood risk in Wales with the 8 specific posters about the Beach Management Plan.

Ms Wareham (Secretary) asks that in context of the specifics of flooding that will be looked at in the Outline Business Case?

That is confirmed.

Ms Wareham goes on to say that according to the chart in the BMP there is 70cm rise in sea level predicted over the next 100 years, and 10cm over 10years based on median emissions scenario. But if the Outline business case comes back and says Llandudno is not at risk from flooding, are the current sea defences enough to protect Llandudno from a 10cm increase in sea level over the next 10 years?

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirms that there is a severe flood risk to Llandudno from sea level rise, more storms, more demand on the current sea defences causing more material to disappear quicker, with more waves onshore, and flooding, so there are two components there an increase in sea level rise and an increase in storminess. The studies done by Aecom during the production of the BMP indicate that there is a justifiable case to have a coastal defence scheme here. Present day the defences are adequate, but for 10, 20, 30 years with sea level rise, when we design the new scheme, we look to a standard that will protect the Town for the next 100 years.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Secretary) thanked Mr Dyfed Rowlands for his replies, which were much appreciated.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) suggests that it may be an idea to have questions with answers prepared on posters to go on the wall.

Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) confirms that will be possible and draft posters can be prepared to share with Forum Members at the next meeting.

7. CONWY CDS / LCF – ADDITIONAL AMENITY DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING

7.1 To outline a way forward for CDS / LCF to progress with additional amenity development and funding options for Llandudno's north shore / west shore coastal defence project CCBC – CDS (Mr Jon Merrick).

CLlr Greg Robbins (Forum Vice-Chair) commented that at the initial stages of the Forum many ideas were brought to the table for consideration many which were amenity based. But the work of the Forum has been focussing on the sea defence aspect. But this is now an opportunity to see how those ideas can be taken forward with the support from CDS.

Mr Jon Merrick (CCBC – CDS) comments to say that there are two aspects to consider, one is funding, and CDS are totally supportive of working with the Coastal Forum and helping to find funds, but it will be a challenge. European Funding is not an option and Llandudno will not attract regeneration funding. But CDS will work with Coastal Forum to lobby Welsh Government and other options. But it will be a challenge. The second part is to do some future scoping, which LCF may have done, rather than say what we want, we could look at what those amenities might be like in the future. It would be an opportunity to look at the Orme and north shore and west shore.

CLlr Robbins confirms that we have not done a full scoping work but we did develop some good ideas initially which we can take forward.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) added that it is a good idea to look at the economic benefits of having a sandy beach for example.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) commented that it is very encouraging to the Forum to now be working with representatives of CDS to help develop economic model building and amenity across all of the year in Llandudno. The help CDS can bring to this will be very welcome.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Secretary) asked Mr Jon Merrick about the second piece of work that might be developed. Would that assist with us getting funding? What would the time frame for that piece of work be?

Mr Jon Merrick (CCBC – CDS) replied to say that it would not help get funding, but it would make sure that whatever we do take forward, that we are getting it right. Mr Merrick confirmed that a meeting had been set up with Mr Geraint Edwards (CCBC – ERF) to see if the CDS work could run parallel with the Coastal Defence work. The work could be done fairly quickly but it will need costing and scoping.

Mr Edward Hiller (Mostyn Estates) comments that there are many activities that have been talked about which can work well together. But it's also possible to provide the facilities for a certain demographic, younger people, or older people, whether that is from an economic or social perspective. But it depends on where you want to take the Town. If it is thought the Town could look a certain way, what facilities do we need to attract that particular demographic? There is only a mile and a quarter of north shore and a mile of west shore, that's the limit. Different groups will have different ideas about what they want to see. It is not just about Tourism it is also about residential. It's a complex process.

Mr Adam Williams (Llandudno Pier) comments that he has worked a lot to support development at Rhyl over the years and sometimes it is a case of saying we have the money but we don't know where to go with that development.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) summarises that we are considering this from a tourism and economic perspective, but our ideas are anecdotal. Mr Treacy suggests the Forum needs some data to may help what the public want as well as sand on a beach.

Mr Jon Merrick (CCBC – CDS) confirms that there is some data available but it would be useful to have a Consultant look at what people want, and to look at the economic value of the beach.

Cllr Frank Bradfield comments that Llandudno's beach is important to Llandudno. And the beach is important. People want to stay in Llandudno and we need a beach for that. People visit Llandudno and expect to see a beach.

Mr Nigel Treacy (Forum Chair) adds that we need data to support that statement.

Mr Jon Merrick (CCBC – CDS) confirms that the piece of work is not to say if we need a beach or not it is to say what amenities we put in place around that.

Mr Adam Williams (Llandudno Pier) comments that the Pier Company has had a piece of work completed this year to look at what people want.

Mr Berin Jones comments that the seasons are changing and September is an important time of the year as much as the summer months.

Mr Edwards Hiller (Mostyn Estates) commented that general economic surveys can be seen as being esoteric, they are not fact based. It is very difficult to quantify the economic benefit of a beach. The Town has been successful but if you try to calculate that degree of success, it is a difficult thing to do as the

numbers will not be there. And there is no point going for funding for something if the object of that does not make sense.

Cllr Donald Milne (CCBC – ERF Cabinet) commented that any funding we get will fall into one of two categories either for amenity or business that is to encourage businesses to come into the Town. So we have to think about what we need to create as a public infrastructure for that. The sea defence project is all based on protecting the coast. The aim is how we can make that even more attractive. We need businesses to come and invest in the Town. We need to get involved in economic development. There is a risk that we can become too broad, but we can talk to other organisations to ask them what they can bring.

Cllr Robbins (Forum Vice Chair) asked Mr Dyfed Rowlands (CCBC – ERF) if he can bring that copies of the ideas the Forum had developed initially to the next meeting and if Mr Jon Merrick (CCBC – CDS) could also bring the data for Members to see.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Forum Secretary) asks what the data would be useful for and whether a Consultant would be better placed to look at all that.

Mr Jon Merrick (CCBC – CDS) commented that it needs more than just looking at data. There needs more work around that. Mr Merrick suggests putting together a proposal for the next meeting of how we take that work forward with a Consultant.

Mr Berin Jones (LLHA) commented that residents need to be engaged with this process, not just tourists.

Ms Debbie Wareham (Forum Secretary) asks if there is a Consultant report on the amenity side of the work, is there any mileage in going to Welsh Government on the tourism side for funding?

Mr Jon Merrick (CCBC – CDS) commented that is a possibility and Barbara Birchall (CCBC – CDS) funding manager will work closely with the Coastal Forum to explore such funding avenues. Mr Merrick adds that Llandudno is an international destination and that is a huge asset.

8. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None Received.

9. MATTERS ARISING RELEVANT TO THE LLANDUDNO COASTAL FORUM

Ms Debbie Wareham (Secretary) confirmed that the Pioneer newspaper had phoned to ask for an update on the Cabinet meeting and will cover the story in the newspaper next week. Ms Wareham asked that a comment from a Cabinet Member would be appropriate and Llandudno Hospitality Association. This was agreed. Ms Wareham will write the press release. It was agreed a joint press release will be produced from LCF and CCBC for the drop in event in November.

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

The next meeting of the Llandudno Coastal Forum will be at 18:00hrs, on Thursday, 16th November, 2017, Llandudno Town Hall.