

ISSUE 7

FEBRUARY 2015



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Sylvia Stephenson

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Phil Parker

Treasurer

Beverley Wilkins

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Branch

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CONTACT US

Communication boxes in the Village Hall foyer and Fairbourne Newsagents.

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A Welsh language version of this newsletter can be made available on request.

O wneud cais gallwch dderbyn fersiwn Gymraeg o'r cylchlythyr hwn.

FFC Organises Hustings for the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

This edition of the Fairbourne Facing Change Newsletter contains an invitation to an important meeting on Saturday 21st February 2015 at 2:00 pm, taking the format of the TV programme "Question Time".

The six currently declared Prospective Parliamentary Candidates for the Dwyfor Meirionnydd seat in the 2015 Westminster Parliamentary elections have all agreed to attend. They are Councillor Louise Hughes (Independent), Neil Fairlamb (Conservative), Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru), Mary Griffiths Clarke (Labour), Stephen Churchman (Liberal Democrats), and Christopher Gillibrand (UKIP).

This is an opportunity for the Candidates to explain to our community what they can do, if successful, to support us!

Please provide your details and your question on the form attached to this newsletter. Questions will be selected to provide a spread of issues.

If your question is selected, you will be informed in advance and asked to read it out on the day.

It is important that members of the Community attend and hopefully this will be over-subscribed. As space is limited entry will be by free ticket, made available to those raising a question on the day. Remaining tickets will be available in advance on a first come first served basis from:

- Pete Cole: Telephone (01341) 251270.
- Phil Parker: Telephone (01341) 250080.
- Sylvia Stephenson: Telephone (01341) 250210.



Future Meetings

If you have any ideas for the format of the next public meeting (in April) then please write them down and post in to one of our communication boxes.

FFC in the News

Welsh Language newspaper 'Dail Dysynni' interviewed FFC secretary Phil Parker for their New Year edition of the monthly newspaper. The result was a very supportive article about the way in which Fairbourne is facing the challenge posed by the Shoreline Management Plan.

The article (a full English translation of which is available on our website www.fairbournefacingchange.com) describes the media coverage of this time last year as "misleading", discusses the impact on the housing market and insurance provision, and also how FFC have worked to try and resolve these issues.

The article also praises the people of our community for their determination to do everything possible to save Fairbourne from an uncertain future.

'Dail Dysynni' is available in the Welsh language only, and is available from newsagents in Dolgellau and Tywyn priced at 50p.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Phil Parker and Mark Wiles are elected unopposed as Councillors on to the Arthog Community Council. Congratulations to both.

Gwynedd County Council – Updates

The "54 Questions" (FAQs): Getting responses to the 54 Questions has taken longer than expected but they are now ready. They are currently being ratified by Huw Williams, Head of YGC. This is an ongoing process and further supplementary questions are still to be assessed.

Bore Hole Progress: Huw Davies of Gwynedd Council has compiled a list of people interested in hosting a borehole and plotted them on a plan to achieve an acceptable grid, this will be sent to the consultant hydro geologist to determine suitability. Huw has sent out for details of the location of all the utility services so that they can be avoided. Indirect preparatory work will continue but due to pressure of work on the consultant the bore hole installation work is not programmed until April.

Sandbags: The following is an extract from the "FLOODING: HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME?" leaflet produced jointly by Welsh Government, Gwynedd County Council, and Natural Resource Wales.

- Similar to any other owner, the Council is responsible for managing flood risks associated with its land and properties, for example roads, buildings etc.
- Gwynedd Council will not routinely be able to issue sandbags to defend private assets, for example houses, gardens and land.
- If you consider that you need the use of sandbags then it is your responsibility to arrange it.
- Preparation is the best line of defence against flooding as very little can be done once the water levels have risen.
- The key message is that it is the owner's responsibility to instigate any such actions to defend against occurrences of flooding to their property.
- Gwynedd Council will, however, be able to aid the people of Gwynedd to become more resilient to the increasing threat of flooding from all sources.

Natural Resources Wales – Updates

FFC have expressed our disappointment that previous target dates we have published have not been met. NRW assure us that dates are given in good faith and that they are keen to sustain good communications with the community of Fairbourne.

Morfa Friog (by John Davies, Project Manager): The Morfa Friog salt marsh habitat creation works are required as part of the Fairbourne Flood Risk Management Scheme that was completed in 2013.

Natural Resources Wales attended the drop-in on 21 November 2014 to answer any questions that the community had regarding the project. The works, originally planned for Nov 2014, have had to be put on hold and it is now hoped to complete in Feb 2015. It is likely that Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd will deliver the works. If there is further delay the community will be advised through Fairbourne Facing Change.

Friog Corner (by Gareth Evens, Asset System Management Team Leader): Since our previous update Natural Resources Wales have appointed engineering consultants Peter Brett Associates to carry out the study for Friog Corner, and this will be complete by the end of March. The study will hopefully provide viable options for Natural Resources Wales to consider and progress so that an appropriate appraisal report can be produced.

Flood Warden Scheme (Information provided by Councillor Mike Scott of Arthog Community Council): The Fairbourne Community Flood Plan is presently being updated from the previous plan that was in place, and is being co-ordinated by Mike Scott on behalf of Arthog Community Council and Natural Resources Wales. Fifteen Volunteers have been appointed and have Matt Burrows as the Lead Warden with his Assistant being Mike Murray. Each of the Volunteers either live on or live close to the street or road of their responsibility. They will shortly be coming to every household in their area to obtain information drawn up by NRW that will be passed on to the Emergency Services led by North Wales Police. This information will be for their database, to assist them in the event of any evacuation.

Two More Concerts Confirmed

The Coal Porters will be playing live at Fairbourne Village Hall on **Sat 28th March**. **Tickets (£10) from Cath's shop.**

Lindisfarne's **Rod Clements** ('Meet Me On The Corner') is returning to play a solo concert. This time the concert will be at Y Ganolfan in Llwyngwriol on **Saturday 2nd May**. The venue change is due to the village hall being unavailable. Tickets (a bargain at only £6-50) are only available from Bob (Tel 07595 156202). They will also be on sale at The Coal Porters concert. Please note: **for this concert only – no shop sales.**