

ISSUE 10 JANUARY 2016



Chair

Pete Cole

Vice Chair

Sylvia Stephenson

Secretary

Phil Parker

Treasurer

Beverley Wilkins

DONATIONS WELCOME

Bank Name

HSBC

Branch

Dolgellau

Account Name

Fairbourne
Facing Change

Account Number

41488651

Account Sort Code

40-19-19

CONTACT US

Communication boxes in the Village Hall foyer and Fairbourne Newsagents.

Alternatively, contact the FFC Secretary, Phil Parker.

Email

phil_w_parker@hotmail.com

Telephone

(01341) 250080

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

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

SPECIAL EDITION

FAIRBOURNE'S FUTURE - TWO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Two vitally important meetings concerning the very future of our village are fast approaching. It really is **extremely important that you attend these meetings** if it is at all possible, it's very much in your own interests to do so. The village needs to show its support against plans to **decommission the village leading to abandonment** to those who make the final decisions (Welsh Government), and simply by attending you will be doing exactly that.

These meetings are also vitally important as they will keep you up to date with the latest news and plans which affect us all here in Fairbourne. As a resident of Fairbourne you really cannot afford to miss either of these meetings.

Friday 22nd January 2016 – Fairbourne Village Hall Fairbourne Moving Forward Board – Public Meeting

The Fairbourne Moving Forward Board (made up of statutory bodies) is now moving forwards to implementing plans to deliver the Shoreline Management Plan 2. They are currently putting together a Master Plan setting out **how and when Fairbourne will be abandoned!!!** Are you prepared to sit back and let this happen?

The Agencies who have put Fairbourne in this position are Welsh Government, Gwynedd Council, Arthog Community Council and Natural Resources Wales. These agencies will all be represented at this meeting. It is in your own interests to attend the meeting in order to make challenges and make your views known at this critical point in developments. Let them know what you think..... while you still can!

Please see the attached leaflet (produced by the Fairbourne Moving Forward Board) for details of this meeting.

Please note: Fairbourne Facing Change Community Action Group's involvement with the Fairbourne Moving Forward Board consists of attending their meetings as observers with speaking rights. This approach puts us in a better position to influence their decisions, and to make challenges in the interests of the community.

Friday 5th February – 2pm & 6pm. Fairbourne Village Hall Fairbourne Facing Change – Public Meeting

The FFC will be holding its own public meeting on Friday 5th February at Fairbourne Village hall. The aim of the meeting is to discuss and collect your views on how to best respond to the significant new developments of the statutory bodies as they move to implement the full force of the Shoreline Management Plan 2 upon us.

Again, it is **crucially important for you to attend**. We need to know your opinions, and to ensure that the direction taken by FFC is one that commands the confidence of the community of which you are part.

Learning Project for Fairbourne

You may see two new faces around Fairbourne this year. Charlotte Beattie and Steve Smith are independent researchers who form part of a Welsh Government funded project that is supporting Fairbourne Facing Change Community Action Group and the Fairbourne Moving Forward Project to learn from the experience of the SMP2.

Their first job will be to speak to a wide range of local people and organisations and also to Gwynedd Council, the Community Council and others such as Natural Resources Wales and Snowdonia National Park. The idea is to get a **good independent understanding of the impact on the community of the SMP2** and the subsequent process of engagement and consultation. They will first consider what went well and what could be improved. The recommendations and learning will be fed back to the community, Councils, agencies and Government. This 'reflection part' of the project is likely to be complete by March 2016.

In the second part of the learning project Charlotte and Steve will continue their work, but their role will form more of a 'critical friend' to FFC and the Fairbourne Project, attending key meetings, talking to everyone involved and feeding back learning and recommendations on a regular basis. It is hoped the project will not only support the community engagement process here in Fairbourne, but also help other coastal communities at risk across Wales and beyond.

Inside this newsletter there is a short Resident's Survey form which we hope you will complete. This form enables you to give your views and concerns directly to the research project. You can return the completed form in a number of ways...

- By dropping it off at **Fairbourne Village Hall** whilst visiting the meeting there on **22nd January 2016**.
- By scanning the form and sending as an email attachment to **fairbourne@jbaconsulting.com**
- By completing an online version of the form at **<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FairbourneJan16>**
- By posting the form (stamp required) to: **Fairbourne Residents Survey,
JBA Consulting, Bank Quay House,
Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1NN.**

Charlotte and Steve work for two organisations, 'JBA Consulting' and 'Icarus'. JBA Consulting is an Environmental Consultancy specialising in risk management, climate change and sustainability, while Icarus are specialists in community engagement processes.

Both Charlotte and Steve will be attending some upcoming meetings and can arrange to meet with the main clubs and societies in Fairbourne. In addition, they are both happy to speak to anyone personally or over the phone if there are views you would like to feedback directly to us. Our telephone number is 01925 570876.



STEVE SMITH



CHARLOTTE BEATTIE

Your Support Is Vitally Important

The FFC exists to represent Fairbourne residents in our fight for justice, fair play and the best possible outcome against plans to wipe our village, homes and businesses off the map. Strong words you may say, scaremongering even. Absolutely not. The FFC is not making these plans, we are actively fighting against them!

The Welsh Government, Gwynedd Council, Arthog Community Council and Natural Resources Wales have put us in this nightmare situation. Did you know that plans are being drawn up for the "abandonment" and "decommissioning" of Fairbourne? It's true. In the meantime stress and anxiety levels rise and our property values fall by the week.

The FFC spends many hours attending meetings, developing ideas and strategies, writing letters, making phone calls, lobbying ministers, and much more. There are times, however, when **we need you to help us AND yourselves** – this is one of those times. You will have seen the front page item concerning the two meetings to be held shortly in Fairbourne. It is vitally important that residents attend these meetings. You will be keeping up to date with the latest plans, making your views known, and simply by attending you will be demonstrating your opposition to the abandonment plans to those in power. It really is a case of 'stand up and be counted'. We cannot attend for you!

It is also very important to fill out and return the 'Learning Project' questionnaire which accompanies this newsletter. It's a wonderful and practical way of getting your views and opinions directly across to the decision makers in Government. It's a great opportunity – please don't waste it. **Together we really can make a difference.**