

## ISSUE 11

FEBRUARY 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](mailto: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.

## The Community Decides to Fight Back!!!

Fairbourne Facing Change Community Action Group held two public meetings on 5/2/2016 in the Fairbourne Village Hall. These meetings provided the opportunity to respond to the public meeting held by the public sector agencies on 22/1/2016.

A report was presented on initial legal advice from a leading London barrister specialising in planning and local government law based at Gray's Inn Square Chambers in London. The barrister, Tim Leader, concludes that there could be a potential claim under the 1990 Planning Act's provisions on blight notices, the development of a European Convention argument, and also a possible procedural challenge that focuses on consultation and fairness. The barrister has offered to undertake the legal work on a fixed fee basis, and at a fraction of normal rates. The potential costs, including protection against defendant's costs and VAT, is estimated at £20,000. FFC has £5,000 in reserves to put towards this cost.

Tim Leader has been very sympathetic to our plight, and has carried out all his initial work for us, and given his advice to us, for absolutely no charge at all. FFC would like to thank Tim publicly for his help and support.

In voting overwhelmingly in favour of accepting this opportunity it was recognised by the community that this was an opportunity not to be missed, and that consequently £15,000 needed to be raised very quickly in order to proceed. It was also realised and accepted that individual members of the community would need to contribute in order for any legal challenge to proceed. FFC is delighted that donations began to come in immediately after the meeting!

Cheques made payable to '**Fairbourne Facing Change**' can be dropped to, or collected by:

- Bev Wilkins (Treasurer), Tonnau Gwyn, Penrhyn Drive South, Fairbourne. Telephone: (01341) 250917.
- Pete Cole (Chair), The Mill, Francis Avenue, Fairbourne. Telephone: (01341) 251270.
- Sylvia Stephenson (Vice Chair), Farcroft, Penrhyn Drive South, Fairbourne. Telephone: (01341) 250210.
- Phil Parker (Secretary), 9 Heol Y Cader, Fairbourne. Telephone: (01341) 250080.
- Bob Turnpenney (Publishing), Morfa Bychan, Glan Y Mor, Fairbourne. Telephone: (01341) 251290.

Bank transfers can be made directly to:

- HSBC Bank, Dolgellau Branch, Sort Code 40-19-19. The account name is 'Fairbourne Facing Change', and the account number is 41488651.

A record will be kept of individual donations so please include your name and address along with any cheques or cash donated. The monies for this legal challenge fund will be kept separate from any other monies held by FFC. Any funds not needed for legal work or costs will be reimbursed to the donor.

The final decision to proceed can only be made when the funds are in place. As always, you will be kept fully informed of developments.

If you rent your property please pass this information on to your landlord.

## Environmental Challenges

There are four Shoreline Management Plans covering Wales, two of which, including the one covering Fairbourne, used the more aggressive sea level rise predictions of 1 metre in 100 years. The other two used more optimistic forecasts. If these same forecasts had been used for Fairbourne then the timeline would have been extended by many years.

The 2016 sea level rise forecast produced by the National Tidal and Sea Level Facility (Endorsed by DEFRA, The Environment Agency, Meteorological Office, National Oceanography Centre and the British Oceanographic Data Centre) concluded that sea levels could be expected to rise 50 centimetres (NOT 1 METRE) in the next 100 years... and with only a modest 10 to 20 centimetre rise in the next 50 years.

**FFC has never accepted the predictions used for our Shoreline Management Plan, and the latest scientific evidence proves that we were right!**

FFC will continue to put pressure on the relevant agencies to review their forecasts for Fairbourne in light of these latest predictions, and we are meeting with Professor Mike Phillips from the University of Wales (who is a leading International authority on environment and coastal issues) to discuss these matters.

This marks a significant development for Fairbourne Facing Change and also for our community in moving to secure the best possible outcome for Fairbourne. It was enormously heartening to see the strength of our community's unity at our recent public meeting.

The Comments and questions received at our meeting will be fed in to the 'Frequently Asked Questions' process.

## Researcher's Survey

The Researcher's Survey (funded by the Welsh Government) has received a number of replies to the questionnaire which accompanied our last Newsletter (Issue 10), but more are needed.

It really is important that you take the opportunity to express your feelings and views directly to the Welsh Government. There is no better way to get your views and opinions directly to the decision makers in Cardiff.

The form should be completed and either placed in the 'Survey Return Box' in Fairbourne Village Hall foyer, or posted to **Fairbourne Residents Survey, JBA Consulting, Bank Quay House, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1NN.**

Alternatively (and probably more easily if you're computer savvy), you can fill out the online version of the survey form by typing <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FairbourneJan16> in to your browser.

The researchers are going to be in the village for personal interviews. Look out for the notices with dates and details.

## Village News

Poet, musician, artist, story teller, and one of the funniest men in Britain... the legendary Richard Digance returns to Fairbourne Village Hall on Sunday 15th May for one night only.

Richard's last visit to Fairbourne was extremely popular and tickets sold out a whole month in advance of the actual show. Tickets for this year's show will go on sale at Fairbourne Post Office next month.

More details soon. Keep an eye open for posters popping up around the village!



**RICHARD DIGANCE AT FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL IN 2015**