

**Subject:** Fairbourne

**Author:** Cefin Edwards

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Location:** Council Offices, Dolgellau

**Present:** Mr & Mrs. Brian Law (BL), Residents  
 Eric Wilding (EW), Arthog C.C.  
 Susan Jones (SJ), Arthog C.C.  
 Councillor Louise Hughes (LH)  
 Michael Lloyd (ML), Resident  
 Greg Guthrie (GG), Royal Haskoning  
 DHV  
 Rachel Smith (RS), Royal Haskoning  
 DHV  
 Huw Williams (HW), GC  
 Huw Davies (HD), GC  
 Cefin Edwards (CE), GC

ITEM NO	MINUTES	ACTION	TARGET DATE
1.0	HW outlined aims of the meeting as well as explaining the purpose and composition of the multi-agency Fairbourne Project Board.		
2.0	BL expressed his reaction to the BBC 'Week in Week Out' programme and his lack of knowledge of the SMP 2 and its contents.		
2.1	GG provides an outline of the basis of the SMP: it is a non-statutory policy document for coastal defence management planning. It takes account of other existing planning initiatives and legislative requirements and is intended to inform wider strategic planning. The SMP2 has to be signed off at ministerial level.		
2.2	BL believed that GC'S consultation process and engagement strategy was inadequate, in particular they felt, as holiday home owners, that they should have been contacted directly at their home address.		
2.3	GG outlined the consultation process for the SMP2s in general. In particular, a consultation meeting was held at Fairbourne, and, although only 23 people recorded their attendance, EW stated that over 100 people actually present and was the best attended of all the SMP2 consultation meetings.		
2.4	HW explained that a Frequently Asked Questions Document was available.		
2.5	BL questioned if dredging of the estuary would be beneficial to Fairbourne and that an offer had been made to carry out these works for free.		
2.6	GG responded by stating that dredging of the estuary would not make a difference to the water levels at Fairbourne. HD stated that the offer to carry out the works did not have any substance. HD also stated that monitoring of the coastline had been carried out since 1992 and that this was an on-going process.		
3.0	<p>EW stated that following the media coverage that meetings had been held in the village and that the following observations had been raised by local residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had compensation been made to other areas in Wales</li> <li>• The negative effect on local tradesmen</li> <li>• That insurance brokers as still interested in insuring in Fairbourne, but for</li> </ul>		

	<p>how long? EW stated that an insurance had been refused prior to the SMPs and based on Flood Maps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The negative effect on mortgages.</li> <li>• The negative on value and property sales.</li> <li>• The rate of Community Charge</li> </ul> <p><b>3.1</b> HW/GG responded by stating that it was not possible to provide insurance against erosion and neither against a policy. It was beyond the remit of Gwynedd Council to provide advice on aspects of compensation and that discussion would be required with Welsh Government.</p> <p>EW stated that following the community meetings that an action group had been formed – ‘Fairbourne Facing Change’ (FFC). At present there are 6 people in the core group and that they are attempting to prevent a ‘revolution’ in Fairbourne in the short term. FFC have been discussing issues raised at the community meetings with Councillor Gareth Roberts</p> <p><b>3.2</b> HW asked what were the long term objectives of FFC.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> EW responded that in the long term the objective of FFC was to ‘get the best deal for Fairbourne’.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> HW and GG further responded that the best outcome for Fairbourne would be for FFC to work with the Fairbourne Project Board. GG emphasised the value and importance of this happening so that it would be possible to move forward by drawing not only on the expertise of the current board but also the experience and concern of the community. HW stated that for success there needs to be synergy.</p> <p><b>4.0</b> It was noted that the Fairbourne Flood Evacuation Plan could be exercised during August or September 2014. This required conformation via the Community Council.</p> <p><b>5.0</b> SJ stated that a planning application for a conservatory at Fairbourne had been accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment,</p> <p><b>6.0</b> EW added the following additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flooding to the property owned by Mr &amp; Mrs Stevens required the reinstatement work at the location of the steps at the sea wall</li> <li>• The removal of shingle from car parking area.</li> <li>• The completed works along the Mawaddach estuary had not been officially opened.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.1</b> GC will investigate the possibility of completing the above.</p>		
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