



Fairbourne Project Board

28th August 2013

Minutes of meeting

1. Background

A workshop was held on 7th June 2013 at Dolgellau. The aim of the workshop was to gather together relevant representatives of organisations and the community affected by (and with the potential to influence) the coastal management decisions made at Fairbourne.

A series of actions were agreed at the meeting and these formed the agenda for an initial Project Board meeting on the 28th August 2013, looking as to how these actions might be taken forward in detail.

Attendees:

NAME	AFFILIATION
Huw Davies	Gwynedd Council (YGC)
Nia Davies	Gwynedd Council (Planning)
Bryan Jones	Gwynedd Council (Emergency Planning)
Louise Pennington	NRW
Kerry Keirle	Welsh Government
James Morris	Welsh Government
Helen Jones	DCWW
Stuart Eves	Community Council
Greg Guthrie	RHDHV

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Leadership					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
1	<p>The Consensus of the meeting recognised that the issues fell broadly between the remits of the community, Gwynedd Council, NRW and Welsh Government</p> <p>It was recognised at the meeting that no one body could act on behalf of the whole group at present. However, it was also agreed that one body does need to co-ordinate actions.</p> <p>It was agreed in principle that a multi-agency / community group should be set up and that this would provide an overall supervisory role in taking forward specific actions.</p>	Gwynedd Council officers will discuss this further within the Council, possible through their Climate Change forum and will propose a structure for management.	HW	<p>Create a Project Board structure to get the process off the ground (based on Gwynedd Council experience with Pwllheli Pilot).</p> <p>Those present agreed to participate as members of the Project Board.</p>	
			CC	<p>It was agreed that further representation from the community would be useful and that commitment from two more members of the community would be sought. It was considered that involvement from the business community would be sought. This might be based on the previously active business group. (Community Council)</p>	09/2013
			YGC	<p>It was agreed that the Gwynedd Council Member would also be kept aware of the project. Also that the Clerk to the Community Council would be sent information. (YGC to add to circulation list).</p>	09/2013
			YGC	<p>It was agreed that YGC would contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other service providers – Broadband, Electricity suppliers, Network Rail • National Park Planning Authority • Principal landowners <p>To make them aware of the project and to keep them informed. (YGC to identify contacts and add to circulation list.)</p>	09/2013
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that through the Project Board, one essential item was to present a common understanding of the issues and common messages. • It was agreed that SE would be the main point of contact with the Community Council at present but that it was important to support this by circulating information through the clerk to the Council 				

Communication					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
2	<p>It was agreed that there was a pressing need to improve communication with respect to individuals within the community. It was noted that a meeting had been planned to discuss the present flood risk management scheme. This is being led by NRW but would now be attended by GC. Following this meeting further consideration would be given to what further communication is required. It is anticipated that this would need to be an on-going process and that this should be led by the Community, with contributions from other bodies.</p> <p>This process would only work if there is positive progress in resolving both immediate issues and in taking forward an agreed plan for change. This therefore needs to be co-ordinated through the structure or framework discussed above.</p>	<p>The Community leaders would review the outcome of the planned flood risk management meeting and from this establish what further improvements in communication are needed.</p>	SE	<p>The meeting organised by NRW was seen as being useful in presenting details of the present works that are being carried out. However, it was felt that there was still confusion as to existing flood risk, present flood management and future approach to flood management. It was also highlighted that only a relatively small proportion of the community attended the open meeting.</p>	
			SE	<p>The Community Council propose to prepare an awareness sheet. It was suggested that this covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is happening now • What is likely to happen in the future • How do we go about change? <p>The aim of the sheet will be to elicit questions from people. (Community Council)</p>	Sept 2013
			YGC / NRW	<p>The Community Council will circulate the awareness sheet to members of the project board for comment and contributions. (Support would be provided by YGC and NRW.)</p>	Sept. 2013
			CC	<p>The Community Council will circulate the sheet within the community and organise for people to respond. They will collate questions and issue these to YGC. (Community Council)</p>	Oct/Nov 2013
			CC/ YGC/ NRW	<p>The Community Council will organise possibly three community meetings locally, to be confirmed to allow engagement with the full community. The intent of these meeting would be for representatives of NRW and YGC to present aspects of the issues and to address the specific questions raised by the community. (Community Council in discussion with YGC and NRW)</p>	Nov/ Dec 2013
			YGC/ CC	<p>Develop an on-going communications plan. (YGC/ Community Council)</p>	Dec 2013
			3		<p>Gwynedd Council, NRW, Community (drawing also of the experience of WW) to ensure co-ordination of the emergency response plans and produce a written</p>
SE	<p>The Community Council will develop a written version of their plan, using the CRERP and will share this with YGC and NRW for comment. (Community Council)</p>	Oct 2013			

Communication					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
		version of a combined plan. In the first instance this needs to be discussed between Gwynedd Council and the Community.	SE	The community is considering a dummy run of their emergency plan. They will discuss this with Gwynedd Emergency Planners to share previous experience. (Community Council)	Sept 2013
			LP	NRW will check on and provide details of the flood warning system with the council. (NRW)	Sept 2013
			LP	Obtain copy of NRW Emergency Response Plans (NRW)	Sept 2013
4		The Community, supported by Gwynedd Council develop a quarterly newsletter from within the community. This needs to both act as a forum for discussion within the community and provide an authoritative voice for other bodies. (It was suggested that this could also provide a briefing point for the media).	SE	First newsletter could include update on the NRW work and the SMP2 (what it means for you living in the community of Fairbourne).	
			SE	Following further consideration, there is concern from the community Council that a quarterly newsletter may not have enough new information and would not work at this stage. It was agreed that the existing new journal (Whisper) be used at present to communicate information. This would be reviewed following the community meeting. (Community Council to explore submitting information).	Oct 2013
			HD	It was still considered useful to provide the Community with updates, possibly on an annual basis on monitoring information. (YGC to develop approach)	TBC
5		WG would discuss with their communication team how	SE	It was agreed that the Cambrian New be invited to the public meeting (item 2). (Community Council)	Oct 2013

Communication					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
		information could be disseminated to the media. Advice would be provided to the Community.	KK	Kerry Keirle would discuss with WG communications team about ideas for positively informing the press. (KK)	Oct 2013
6		Gwynedd Council officers will examine how technical information can be provided to the community on issues such as coastal monitoring and climate change. This might be co-ordinated through the Welsh Coastal monitoring Centre and may form an example of how this could be applied to other locations (possible article for newsletter on a yearly basis).	HD	This is picked up in item 4.	
			HD	Initial information would be collated in preparation for the meeting (Item 2)	Nov 2013
notes	In discussion of the Gwynedd Council Resilience Emergency Response Plans, it highlighted the difference between emergency planning and long term planning to mitigate future risk. However, it was noted that, while different, certain headings within the CRERP still had a relevance to that long term planning. For example, the need to identify vulnerable people; the fact that potentially vulnerability to long term change would tend to be different to those identified as vulnerable under an emergency situation. It was suggested that the CRERP be used in this way to identify potential issues that need to be encapsulated through the project.				

Technical					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
7	There are various initiatives on-going at present. It was agreed that these should feed into a broader picture of the technical understanding. There were also areas where it was felt that further work needed to be undertaken.	NRW would investigate how the current study into fluvial flood risk might be extended to include surface water and groundwater risk analysis.	LP	It was noted that the current study was drawing to a conclusion and that this may not be possible. During discussion the issue of ditch clearance was discussed. It was agreed that this could be an immediate issue in terms of flood risk but that it was still important to look at how this fitted within the overall system of flood risk.	Nov 2013
			LP / HD	NRW / YGC would discuss how this overview of risk might best be taken forward (LP and HD)	
8		NRW. There needs to be a detailed definition of the condition and responsibilities for various defences and the significance or criticality of how these defences contribute to the overall system of risk management. This should include discussion of riparian ownership and responsibilities and should also clearly set out how current management practice fits within the overall system approach (possible summary within newsletter).	LP	This action might sensibly be taken forward through item 7 above.	

9		Gwynedd Council / - NRWto establish monitoring of ground water in relation to tidal levels. This would be considered within an overall package of monitoring for application for funding to WG.	HD / LP	This has been discussed between YGC and NRW and will be developed in more detail as a bid for funding.	Oct 2013
notes					

Planning, Social and Legal					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
10	Insurance: WG are in discussion with the insurance industry. The issues at Fairbourne are part of this but present different scenarios from what is currently being discussed.	Through the Community actual cases would be presented to WG to support their discussions. This is linked to item 15	SE	SE reported anecdotal data of difficulty in getting insurance. He would attempt to gain actual evidence.	
11		WG would report back on insurance discussions (possible item for newsletter).	JM	JM gave a report on the current situation and will provide a summary of this together with further information that may be relevant. This will be emailed to the Project Board	Sept 2013
12		The Community, through the development of their emergency plan, would identify vulnerable people. Identification of vulnerability due to planned long term change.	SE	This would be included in their emergency plan (item 3).	
			all	Consideration needs to be given to those vulnerable to long term change. This will be a key issue in management of change and is something that will be discussed at the next meeting. All	
13		Gwynedd Council will include aspects of the discussion within the Local Development Plan as appropriate.	ND	There would be specific inclusion of issues relating to Fairbourne within the Plan. This would also identify the area as a Coastal Change Management Area. ND	
	ND/ HD		Consideration needs to be given to how this may facilitate change within the community, recognising the time limited approach to risk management. ND		
14	Gwynedd Council will consider the issues over the change anticipated in the community structure	ND /HD	Gwynedd Planners will look at developing an evidence paper considering the options of change management in support of the LDP. It was considered that this would be a core document in taking forward the project. This would be funded through the LDP.		

		over time and examine ways in which this might be addressed.			
15		Gwynedd Council and WG will discuss implications of reducing house prices and the possible opportunities for addressing this.	HW	The impact of long term planning was discussed in terms of house prices, insurance and mortgages. While it was anticipated that there could be a reduction in the value of property, there was no definite evidence of this. It was considered essential that this was monitored. This will be taken forward by Gwynedd Council's Research Group (YGC).	Dec 2013
		This is linked to item 10	YGC		JM identified that this information would be useful at the national scale. Information would be fed through to WG (YGC)
16		WG, with the support of Gwynedd Council and the Community, would initiate collation of relevant information / research on the socio-economic consequence of adaptation within the coastal zone. This may identify gaps in knowledge that could be taken forward through a consortium approach to research, using issues around Fairbourne as an example case. The principle of this would be too fed into ideas discussed below.	KK /JM	This will be taken up with the WG evidence Group. (KK and JM)	Nov 2013

17		Gwynedd Council would examine in more detail the legal issue of private defence and the rights and consequent responsibilities associated with individuals (organisations) undertaking their own defence works.	HD	This would be taken forward in discussion also with NRW so that there is a consistent and common message.(YGC)	Nov 2013
notes	<p>The Board had a discussion led principally by SE as to what change might look like. The main thrust of discussion was that basically it was a case that we are starting from now but that in 30 or possibly 60 years' time there would be no community of Fairbourne. Put bluntly, the project was how do we get rid of the village in its current position.</p> <p>Given that there (at present) is no compensation, this boils down to people moving out or being trapped until they are forced to move due to the increased risk. Is, therefore the real question one of when do the community have to move. It was highlighted that if the end result was the same, the greatest difficulty and uncertainty was when. This is likely to cause as much stress as the actual need to move. Could this be removed by defining an end date, even though we do not have all the evidence?</p> <p>The counter discussion was had, that while an end date might be helpful in some ways to people, at present with some of the technical uncertainties it would be very difficult to predict. That the project should therefore be looking to how the community might be sustained in a positive way, while ensuring that this did not increase the problems in the future.</p> <p>Within this discussion the very practical approach was put forward, that instead of spending £6M on defence, why could this not have been shared between property owners allowing them to move from Fairbourne.</p>				

Ideas					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
17	Different ideas for future management were discussed briefly. These were not considered to be exhaustive and are presented purely as a starting point. Buy the rent back.	WG to investigate examples from the Pathfinder process (linked to action 15 above).	KK	This would be taken forward as part of the national review by WG	Nov 2013
18		Gwynedd Council would examine its powers in this regard	HD	This would be examined	Nov 2013
19	Experience from the English Pathfinder project would be useful. There is a need to establish the powers under which this might be carried out.	Housing on stilts. Consider this idea further.	All	This idea has been put forward to prompt other ideas	
notes					

Funding					
Item	Background	Action identified	Owner	Progress	Date
20	To take forward these actions will require short term funding and longer term investment of resources.	WG would investigate possible sources of funding and would advise Gwynedd Council accordingly.	HD/KK	This will be progressed by WG Alternative funding arrangements will be examined by YGC	
21		Gwynedd Council will develop a submission based on Flood and Coastal Management for funding to cover aspects such as monitoring and the development of the Multi-agency / community group.	HD/ LP	This is being developed under item 9.	
notes					