

**Subject:** Fairbourne Project Board

**Author:** Cefin Edwards

**Date:** 24/07/2015

**Location:** Council Offices, Dolgellau

**Present:** Cefin Edwards (CE) (YGC)  
 Lisa Marshall (LM) (YGC)  
 Julian Kirkham (JK) (ACC)  
 Phil Parker (PP) (ACC)  
 Peter Cole (PC) (FFC)  
 Sylvia Stephenson (SS) (FFC)  
 Greg Guthrie (GG) Royal Haskoning DHV (RHDHV)  
 Louise Pennington (LP) Natural Resources Wales (NRW)  
 Huw Davies (GC)  
 Shirley Huws (SH) Gwynedd Council  
 Emergency Planning (GC)  
 Gareth Lloyd (GL), Snowdonia National Park (SNP)  
 Phil Parker (FFC)

**Apologies:** Huw Williams (GC)  
 Kerry Kierle (KK) Welsh Government (WG)  
 Richard Williams (RW), Welsh Government (WG)  
 Louise Hughes (GC)

Item No	Action	By who	Date
1.	CE welcomed all to the meeting		
2.	<b>Minutes and action arising:</b> The minutes of the 24.03.15 meeting were taken as being accurate.		
3.	<b>Frequently Asked Questions 3:</b> Due to this document now needing to be translated, it is expected to be distributed by end-August/early-September.  Upon issuing of the revised FAQ, FFC will review the document with a view to categorising the questions for easier reading.	LM  FFC	September 2015  October 2015
4.	<b>Project Appraisal Report:</b> GG/CE outlined a strategy for producing the PAR and how its development will approach the process of adaptation. PC requested that FFC be involved in this process in terms of planning for the future and that it will require careful management to avoid the potential for creating negative responses.  PC re-emphasised that FFC are not actually part of the Project Board.		
5.	<b>Funding &amp; Possible Work Programme:</b> LM stated that the project had only a small amount of money available to it for this financial year and we therefore		

	<p>had to be economical with what we spend and ensure we maximise a return on its investment. This could include considering whether we really need another public event or whether the event should be focussed on, eg, Buy to Let and funded from that funding. All present agreed we should find more economical ways of working and would bear this in mind.</p> <p><b>WG Bid Timeline &amp; Appointment of Researcher:</b> Richard Williams from WG had sent LM an email providing an update on the above which culminated in stating that the researcher should be appointed in October 2015.</p>		
6.	<b>Working Group Meeting Update:</b>		
6.1	FFC have agreed that the flood leaflet – as distributed to the communities of Porthmadog and Abersoch – would be beneficial. LM committed to produce this at the earliest opportunity.	LM	ASAP
6.2	Flood Warden Scheme is now up and running; LM passed her thanks onto Julian Kirkham for onward communication to Mike Scott and Matt Burrows for making this happen.		
	Mock Emergency Exercise: Eirian Redmayne has advised that this is likely to happen in late spring 2016.		
6.3	<p>Network Rail - HW has been unsuccessful in his attempts to arrange a meeting with NR.</p> <p>Good open discussion held, with GG sharing dialogue with Network Rail during the SMP2 consultation period, LP sharing NR/NRW discussion and KK sharing WG views on devolved matters and on NR long term strategy and finance issues.</p> <p>LP to provide Project Board with information on NRW/NR interface at selected locations which includes Fairbourne.</p>	<p>HW</p> <p>LP</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>
6.4	A separate meeting was held with RICS on 06.07.15 to discuss liaison with estate agents with regard to valuation of properties and approaching lenders with regard to the 60 year rule on mortgages. Separate minutes and action from this meeting are available upon request.	LM/PC	End September 2015
6.5	Annual report has now been distributed to the community and all stakeholders. It has been generally well-received, although concern has been expressed from some members of the community that great expense has been wasted in producing such a 'posh/formal' document'. LM responded by stating that the document is not just for members of the community but also funding stakeholders and the projected needs to instil in those stakeholders that we are a professional group, capable of producing official documents. This was agreed by the relevant members of the community.	LM	
6.6	Six-month report: It was agreed at the Working Group that		

	a six-month report was unnecessary and not the best use of funding/resources. This was accepted by the board.		
7.	<p><b>Report from ACC:</b> JK stated that ACC would have a presence on all future Board Meetings and Working Group Meetings in the future. He went on to say that the Flood Warden stand at the public event (below) had received good feedback so far.</p> <p>The new ACC website has recently been launched and JK confirmed that it would accommodate all documentation relating to the Fairbourne: Moving Forward project.</p>		
8.	<p><b>Report from FFC:</b> PC stated that FFC had recently issued their revised Action Plan and a copy would be sent to the Board. He went on to state that the new Fairbourne Festival was taking place over the bank holiday weekend and this would contribute to Fairbourne being seen as a go-to destination for tourists and local people alike.</p>		
9.	<p><b>Public Events:</b> Fairbourne Moving Forward: Public Event – 10.07.15: The event was attended by 30 people and was well-received. Many people who attended came to speak about the Annual Report and queries were answered to their satisfaction. Again, the most popular topic of conversation was the ‘Buy to Let’ project. At the event, a questionnaire was given to all attending, asking them whether they had bought their property with cash or mortgage. This was to support work being undertaken by the Working Group in relation to approaching lenders with regard to the 60 year mortgage rule.</p> <p>Some complaints were made at the event due to the lack of handouts/written information available to take away. Upon explaining why, members of the community were frustrated at the necessity and ‘waste of effort/money’ in obtaining documentation in Welsh when the community had more important issues to deal with. (See Any Other Business, below).</p> <p>Fairbourne at ICE Flooding Conference – 17.06.15: LM gave a presentation at the above event in Cardiff which was well-received. Copies of the presentation are available upon request.</p>		
10.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Recent complaint about unavailability of project information in Welsh:</b> This topic had been discussed extensively at the Working Group meeting and the content was communicated further at the Board Meeting.</p> <p>FFC stated at the meeting that their preferred language of communication was English, although Welsh documentation</p>		

	<p>should be available upon request. FFC have since communicated this in writing.</p> <p>ACC stated that their preferred language of communication was English and their recently-launched website is also in English. They would like to continue to receive documentation in English, with Welsh available if requested.</p> <p>Frustration was expressed at the delay in documents being released to the public due to having to be translated and also that some technical documents may not be available to the public, if Gwynedd fail to relax their policy of all project documentation being available bilingually. If certain documentation is not available due to not being translated into Welsh, then this may cause distrust within the community and potentially the project could be seen as withholding information. This is an issue of great concern, given the problems encountered earlier in the project.</p>		
11.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 10.30am at Dolgellau Offices.</p>		