

Subject: Socio-Economic Impact Task Group Meeting
Author: Lisa Marshall
Date: 9th September 2014
Location: Gwynedd Council Offices, Dolgellau

Present: Louise Hughes (GC)
 Peter Cole (FFC)
 Sylvia Stephenson (FFC)

Apologies: Cefin Edwards (GC)
 Margaret Jones (GC)

Copy: Fairbourne Project Board

Item No	Action	By who	Date
1	Apologies received from Cefin Edwards and Margaret Jones		
2	<p>LM stated that in view of no further issues being raised which were relevant to this group's work at the moment, the meeting would take the form of going through the previous minutes of the meeting and commenting where necessary.</p> <p>LM stated that she did not feel it appropriate to 'try and find' issues to discuss, but the group should be alert to any issues and communicate them to the group as and when necessary, for resolution or further research/work.</p> <p>All present agreed on this way forward.</p>		
3	<p>Raising the profile of Fairbourne and also challenging the misreporting of information by the media. LM stated that she had arranged for Sion Williams, Communications Manager for Gwynedd Council, to attend the next Communications Meeting and meet with Fairbourne residents to devise a campaign of positive press to communicate to the newspapers. This was agreed as a productive way forward by the group.</p> <p>PC stated that he had been approached by the BBC to produce another 'Week-in Week-out' programme. LM stated that she had been contacted by the reporter, Rhidian Thomas, who seemed adamant in stating that Fairbourne only had 10 years left, despite LM putting him right on several occasions. LM stated her frustration and worry for the residents of Fairbourne that this could end up being another 'bad news story' for Fairbourne and this was understood by those present. The BBC</p>		

	<p>reporter had also been in contact with Louise Hughes, who had stated that the community was 'in two schools of thought' in relation to the SMP. This matter was discussed in view of how the BBC may report this, which was also of great concern. Much discussion ensued on this topic, which will be moved to and discussed within the Communications Group.</p> <p>No further action at this stage by this Task/Finish Group.</p>		
4	<p>The STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) model will be used to calculate impact on tourism and economy in terms of reduced footfall and visitor spend per head, caused by the erroneous media reporting earlier in the year.</p> <p>This will be developed as a separate project and funding will be applied for this from WG.</p>	LM	On-going
5	<p>Evidence from local businesses that they are having orders and contracts cancelled for work to be undertaken locally as residents and homeowners are not investing so heavily in their homes in light of the adverse comments in the media.</p> <p>FFC stated that it would be really helpful if GC could draft a letter stating the actual facts about the SMP and referring to the letter which will be printed by the Cambrian News, stating the 40 year position for the village and referring to the Planning Advice Note (produced by Nia Davies – GC for the Property Values Task/Finish Group). This could then be circulated by FFC to those companies who have previously written to FFC stating they have had orders/contracts cancelled in view of the erroneous information in the press.</p>	LM	Next meeting
6	<p>The Cost of Care: This was discussed and whilst it was acknowledged that the Care Information Sheet had been useful and that Margaret Jones (representing Care at the recent Information day) had been very busy with enquiries, it would be useful to be able to write directly to all those individuals within the community who are either house-bound or have mobility requirements, to ensure they are in full possession of the facts relating to their care package and how it will be funded.</p> <p>SS suggested that maybe ACC could be approached for funding to deliver this and that GC would probably have details of all such individuals in the community. This</p>	LM	By next meeting

	<p>would also work well in terms of ACC being responsible for the Community Flood Risk Plan and as such, the co-ordination of flood wardens. Delivery of this project would also serve to support the activities of the flood wardens</p> <p>GC to approach ACC.</p>		
7	<p>The potential increase of anxiety-related illnesses was discussed as a direct result of the misrepresentation in the media. (Relates to Q15 in the FAQ).</p> <p>LM investigated this and found there was no such increase at any of the surgeries spoken to.</p> <p>This concludes this task. All present concurred.</p>		
8	<p>Queries should be raised with those who manage transportation infrastructure as well as utilities companies to discuss their Business Plan/Investment Plan for Fairbourne to ensure that the community continues to be supported and that, eg, roads/power lines etc will continue to be maintained and upgraded. This will be raised at Project Board level in the event that other organisations such as Welsh Water, Network Rail etc are involved as a stakeholder, within the project.</p> <p>GC have a meeting with Network Rail towards the end of September 2014; they will also be invited to the Project Board Meeting.</p> <p>PC referred to FAQ 6 and what HTL actually means for the railway. This has been discussed at Project Board level, however, PC emphasised the requirement for clarification; is HTL a conscious decision arising from the SMP2 or a default position?</p> <p>PC outlined the relevance and importance of the Cambrian Coast Line to the future economic viability of the area.</p> <p>PC has subsequently received a letter from Edwina Hart, via AM Rebecca Evans and also Network Rail direct, in relation to the future funding of the Cambrian Coast Line. These were discussed at the meeting however, it was felt that the item be discussed in greater depth at the Project Board Meeting. All present concurred with this.</p>		

9	<p>The possibility of a 'Buy to Let' scheme was discussed briefly in the meeting. LM advised those present that it would be raised by the Property Value, Insurance and Planning Task and Finish Group and the outcome of such would be fed back into the Socio-Economic Impact Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>This item was discussed in the Property Values, Insurance and Planning Task/Finish group and it has been decided that due to the complexity of the task, it should be run as a separate project and a request for funding will be sent to WG to do so.</p>	LM	Ongoing
10	<p>Friog Corner: SS asked when this would be resolved as it was causing quite a lot of concern within the community. LP stated that she would be presenting a plan and timetable relating to this, at the next Project Board meeting.</p> <p>Highlighted at Project Board that funding was available to complete Phase 2 option appraisal at southern end.</p> <p>PC requested a formal written statement to substantiate that the temporary works would be able to withstand potential winter storms and also a letter to stating that further work would be completed, in line with Louise Pennington's comments at the last Project Board Meeting. No such written confirmation has been received to-date.</p>	NRW	25.09.14
11	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15th October 2014, at Dolgellau offices. <i>Time to be confirmed.</i></p>		