

Subject: Socio-Economic Impact Task Group Meeting

Author: Lisa Marshall

Date: 12th June 2014

Location: Gwynedd Council Offices, Dolgellau

Present: Louise Hughes (GC)
Sylvia Stephenson (FFC)
Margaret Jones (GC)
Louise Pennington (NRW)
Cefin Edwards (GC)
Lisa Marshall (GC)

Copy: Fairbourne Project Board

Item No	Action	By who	Date
1	Apologies were received from Arthog Community Council for not attending this meeting.		
2.	LM thanked all for attending and stated that the objectives of today's inaugural meeting should be to identify what the group should be discussing/achieving and also to elect, if appropriate, a chairperson for the group. LM stated that if it was felt there was no-one present who would be an appropriate chairperson, we could defer this task until we identified a suitable candidate. All present agreed with this.		
3.	<p>It was agreed that the group's focus for now should be to investigate, research and present evidence from the community of the impact caused by the publication of the SMP2 and also the misreported facts within the media. This should be presented to the Project Board in order that they can make an informed decision as to how to tackle and proceed with resolving matters or provide support as deemed necessary.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the focus of the group may change as time progresses and that the issues discussed within the group could be far-reaching and also interlinked with issues raised in other Task & Finish Groups.</p>		
4	Re: Raising the profile of Fairbourne and also challenging the misreporting of information by the media. SS stated that she was aware that HW had committed to do this by trying to get an article in the national press. SS asked how this was progressing. LM stated she was aware that HW had liaised with Gwynedd's Communication Team in order to try and get an article in The Guardian		

	<p>newspaper but was unsure how this was progressing. SS stated this would be a positive move, however, it was felt that we should aim to get an article in a variety of media and not just the broadsheet papers.</p> <p>LM committed to speak with HW and Gwynedd Council Communication Team for an update.</p>	LM	11.07.14
5	<p>SS stated that it would be useful to identify any impact on tourism caused by recent media events. Negative impact on tourism in terms of reduced footfall and visitor spend per head within Fairbourne would have an impact on local businesses and seasonal employment opportunities which could have an indirect impact on tourism for the surrounding areas, eg, Barmouth. SS quoted STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) as a model to be used to calculate impact in the area along with information from the Gwynedd Destination Management Plan.</p> <p>LM stated that a colleague from Gwynedd's Economic Development team may be able to provide some support in this area and committed to speak with the team to progress this research.</p>	LM	11.07.14
6	<p>SS stated that she has already received 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>SS stated that FFC had agreed with Huw Williams, that the impact evidence they have gathered would be made available to the Fairbourne Project Management Board at its next meeting. However, they are considering how best to present the information.</p>	SS	27.06.14
7	<p>SS stated that some residents were worried as to how - if the value of their house has decreased – would they be able to afford care costs, if the need arose? (this question relates to Q14 on the recently-issued FAQ). MJ stated all individuals' financial position is individually assessed using CRAG (Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide) regulations. MJ asked that if questions could be submitted in writing, MJ would provide a written comprehensive response, which could be included within our FAQ.</p>		

	<p>All present agreed this would be the best way forward.</p> <p>LM to send MJ copy of the FAQ and MJ to provide a response to Q14.</p> <p>All present to forward, via LM, questions relating to care in order that MJ can provide written responses and they can be added to the FAQ document and circulated accordingly.</p>	<p>LM/ MJ</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>On-going</p>
8	<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). SS stated that she was aware of a few people who had become depressed as a result of the news in the media. LM stated that some support may be available from the voluntary sector to support those in need, but we have to identify whether there is a need in the first instance. LM stated she would ask surgeries in the Barmouth, Dolgellau and Tywyn area whether they had seen a rise in anxiety-related illnesses/'events' in Fairbourne residents in the last 12 months. Any evidence pointing to a rise could then be presented to the Project Board in order to ascertain whether support should be sought for the community. (Please note, we would not be asking for individual patient information).</p> <p>Any such support should be carefully communicated and delivered in order to avoid 'creating a problem where potentially one may not exist' and also greatest care should be exercised in terms of encouraging access to such a service whilst maintaining the dignity of the service user.</p>	LM	11.07.14
9	<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>	LM	27.06.14
10	<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</p>	CE	11.07.14

	and Finish Group.		
11	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.	LP	27.06.14
12	The issue of electing a chairperson was discussed and after some deliberation, it was agreed that CE and LM would jointly either Chair or take minutes. LM stated that if at any point anyone else or a more qualified member of the group wished to become chairperson, they could do so.		
13	Date of next meeting: Friday 11 th July 2014, at Dolgellau offices.		