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| <p>Subject: Working Group Meeting</p> <p>Author: Steffan Williams</p> <p>Date: 23.08.16</p> <p>Location: Dolgellau Offices</p> | <p>Present: Roger Pritchard (FFC) Sylvia Stephenson (FFC) Brian Wooley (FFC) Julia Wilson (FFC) Julie Turnpenney (FFC) Bob Turnpenney (FFC) Phil Parker (ACC) Louise Pennington (NRW) Charlotte Beattie (JBA) Lisa Marshall (YGC) Steffan Williams (YGC)</p> |
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| Item No | Action | By who? | Date |
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| 1 | Welcome and Apologies: Apologies from Reuben Woodford (NRW) and Mark Wiles (ACC). Introduction of new team members - Elgan Jones and Steffan Williams. | | |
| 2 | Review of minutes from last meeting: | | |
| 2a | Council tax reduction for Fairbourne residents will not be possible as this will set a precedent across Gwynedd and possibly other councils. | | |
| 2b | SS notified the group of a recent property for sale in the village at a "significantly reduced" price. It was reported that house sales seemed to be on the move, although all at greatly reduced prices. | | |
| 2c | LM to chase up the apparent deteriorating maintenance of the village. Weeds were sprayed but have grown back again quickly and bins are constantly overflowing. | SW | Next Meeting |
| 3 | Funding: | | |
| 3a | LM had a meeting in Cardiff with WG regarding potential funding. Funding for the management of the FMF must now come via Gwynedd Council but WG will consider individual special initiatives into 17/18 financial year. | | |
| 3b | A discussion was had on the understanding of funding of additional resources acquired by the Council in EJ and SW. | | |
| 3c | An agreement was reached that the Masterplan funding requires long-term certainty (5 years?) and approval from Government Minister. The group asked 'what if no further | LM | Next meeting |

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| 3d | <p>funding was received for the Masterplan?' LM to pursue this with WG.</p> <p>Other funding sources are being investigated to reduce reliance on WG funding.</p> | SW | Next meeting |
| 4 | <p>Additional Resource:</p> <p>LM explained the roles of EJ and SW within the project. Please feel free to make contact with them as necessary.</p> | | |
| 5 | <p>Frequently Asked Questions:</p> | EJ /SW | Next meeting |
| 5a | <p>The document will be updated by the end of September with a view to this being distributed by December. In addition, the version on the website will be amended to be easier to use.</p> | | |
| 5b | <p>Previous meetings had agreed that future distribution of the FAQ would be via local shops/meeting points, as opposed to sending copies to every house/homeowner, however it was agreed at a meeting between Huw Williams and the FFC board that individual copies would continue to be sent to every house/homeowner.</p> | | |
| 5c | <p>The one-to-one meeting between a homeowner, LM and Greg Guthrie of Royal Haskoning and the subsequent cost to the project, was discussed. The group agreed that no further individual requests would be agreed and all future requests from residents/homeowners should be directed to FFC or ACC, in the first instance.</p> | | |
| 6 | <p>Annual Report:</p> | | |
| 6a | <p>LM stated she had received no feedback from community-based groups in relation to the draft version she had sent out. This has now been approved by the board and is currently in translation.</p> | | |
| 6b | <p>Frustrations were raised by FFC and ACC about the costs arising from translation when the majority of the village are English speakers. LM stated that although these issues had been raised previously, the Gwynedd Council Welsh Language Policy meant that all documents produced by Gwynedd have to be bilingual, with Welsh first. LM stated that that any issues from the community should be addressed with Councillor John Wynn Jones. SS suggested that the document should be formatted in order to cut translation and printing costs.</p> | | |
| 6c | <p>Discussions took place about the appropriateness of printing the</p> | | |

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| 6d | <p>report in the form of glossy brochures considering the cost of doing so. LM explained that there was a need for brochures to show professionalism amongst stakeholders. It was agreed that Fairbourne residents wouldn't receive brochures but simple A4 copies, in bilingual back-to-back format with a statement therein relating to the need to save costs hence the format of the report.</p> <p>RP requested the reports be posted to individual households with the cost effective bi-lingual formatting.</p> | | |
| 7 7a | <p>Masterplan Progress:</p> <p>LM explained the relevant technical aspects of the Masterplan, which would take the form of the Technical Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater modelling. A scoping report had been produced and modelling (investigation into how the groundwater behaves) would commence after the next set of readings had been taken from the boreholes (31.08.16). BW raised concern over why this was necessary and explained a scenario in his back garden which he felt explained how water behaved hence, why did we need to incur such costs. LM, PP and LP explained the need for such modelling in relation to sea level rises and continuing heavy storms and this was accepted. • Fluvial and surface water risk and flood risk from the estuary. This has been investigated reasonably recently by NRW and this information is currently being reviewed. • Coastal change. This is being looked at currently by Prof. Mike Phillips from Swansea University. The project will be catching-up with his progress shortly. • Coastal Overtopping. Again, NRW have already done some work on this and it will be reviewed as part of the process. <p>The above aspects and consultants will now form a Technical group to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) When will we need to start defending? b) What's involved with 'holding the line'? c) What investment will be required? d) Is it still 40 years (from 2014)? e) Will additional adaptation be required? f) How much will this cost? | | |

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| 7b | LM suggested drop in sessions where residents suggest solutions to own issues. SS community residents don't have sufficient understanding for this to go forward. RP explained that a back to basics approach was needed where all details back to the SMP is explained. Uncertainties and questions must be addressed in any further community engagement events to show progress. | | |
| 7c | SS suggested to delay the drafting of the plan in order to be able to secure proper funding and identical appropriate legislation – emphasising importance of the learning project. PP emphasised the importance and need for a timeframe whether the end-goal is “40 or 100 years from now”. | | |
| 7d | Concerns were raised over the lack of proper emergency evacuation plans in the event of overtopping of sea defences. What would happen if Fairbourne flooded tomorrow? | | |
| 7e | Agreement that careful management of implementation of the masterplan was essential so not to alarm the residents and to avoid negative press similar to that of the Week In Week Out programme and its repercussions. LM stated that although she agreed with this in principle, she did not want to be offering false hope nor deluding people that everything was going to be 'ok'. It is a constant challenge to manage expectation of the community and she felt she needed to continue to be honest with people. | | |
| 8 | Buy to Let and Community Interest Group: | | |
| 8a | Agreement to change the term Buy to Let to Property Investment. | | |
| 8b | The group discussed the option of establishing a Community Interest Company. Research into its feasibility through the formation of a separate workgroup. The workgroup should include representatives of all levels of governance and communicate with other CIC's across UK. SS stated the charitable status of the CIC would be key to attract sources of alternative funding. The group discussed the need for an initial workshop where CIC's from around the country could be invited to speak and share their experiences. LM agreed a separate workgroup was now necessary for this and would organise according. | SW | Next meeting |
| 8c | Short debate was had on the concerns associated with housing vulnerable individuals in high risk flooding areas. Concerns also | | |

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| | with housing of “unwanted undesirables” in the community. RP suggested the scheme should consider all people in society. | | |
| 9 | Communication (Drop-in Sessions and Newsletters): | | |
| 9a | Drop-in sessions will resume at the Railway Café every Friday 10.30am – 1pm from 16 th of September. | | |
| 9b | FMF is to produce its own newsletter to avoid confusion with the FFC newsletter. It will be published quarterly and following special events. The cost-effective translation formatting will again be used. | | |
| 10 | Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management for Wales: | | |
| 10a | PP raised issues with the report especially regarding prioritising investment. LP replied that it was up to WG to answer queries regarding the report not NRW. | | |
| 10b | PP to send a summary to SW for distribution with minutes. | | |
| 11 | Wellbeing of Future Generations Act: | | |
| 11a | SS stated that Governmental interest in Fairbourne could be attracted through this act. Political engagement between the community and government could be achieved to raise issues. | | |
| 11b | Further discussion about the act could be discussed in the work group as suggested in 8. | | |
| 11c | Ascertain if FMF can have a seat at the future Public Service Board for the area. | | |
| 12 | Update on Friog Corner: | | |
| 12a | LP explained the proposed phase 1 works to be carried out for 5 days on Friog Corner between the 5 th and 17 th of September. 1000 tonnes of sediment will be moved from the centre region of the beach back into Friog Corner. RP raised concerns over the beach ramp which was damaged during storms over the previous weekend and possible effect on the works being carried out. LP will investigate. | | |
| 12b | LP also revealed reed cutting on the Henddol to avoid blockages will commence in the autumn. | | |
| 12c | SS proposed that NRW press on with implementing phase two of the Friog Corner works sooner. LP replied that NRW are confident that phase 1 works would be sufficient protection | | |

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| | <p>along with the maintenance carried out following the damaged caused in January 2014. SS stated that despite NRW paying a substantial sum of money to a consultant to advise and provide options for Friog Corner, it would seem that none of these options would be taken up.</p> | | |
| 13 | <p>Update from Learning Project Group (JBA):</p> <p>The report is nearing completion. 3 further bulletins will be published before Christmas on the WG website.</p> <p>The community will have the opportunity to give feedback prior to the publishing of bulletins.</p> | | |
| 14 | <p>Feedback from all regarding ideas for Community Resilience Project:</p> <p>SS suggested that a proportion of the funds earmarked for the Community Resilience Project be used to invest in the Community Interest Group.</p> | | |
| 15 | <p>Noticeboards:</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> | | |
| 16 | <p>Dates of Forthcoming Working Groups:</p> <p>Tuesday 27th September 2016, 10.30am in Dolgellau Tuesday 25th October 2016, 10.30am in Dolgellau</p> | | |