

# Fairbourne Newsletter

## March 2017



Welcome to the March edition of the Fairbourne: Moving Forward newsletter. It's our intention to publish this on a quarterly basis, delivered directly to all homes/homeowners, ensuring you are kept up-to-date on all issues surrounding the project and implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan in Fairbourne.

If you're not already aware, you can also access information about the project in the following ways:

In person, each Friday in the Railway Café from 10.30am to 1pm

- Via our website, [www.fairbourne.info](http://www.fairbourne.info)
- Via our Facebook group: Fairbourne Moving Forward
- Via telephone: 01286 679591
- Via email: [lisamarshall@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:lisamarshall@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Or you can write to us at: YGC, Gwynedd Council, Shirehall Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

### Friog Corner

The project met with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in early January to discuss the future of Friog Corner. We have provided them with the outcome from the drone survey (undertaken at the end of November 2016) which shows that the shingle put in place by NRW, has now moved from this area and is therefore no longer providing any protection.

NRW's Major Projects Team members spoke at length with technical members of the Fairbourne: Moving Forward team to gain a full understanding of the wave climate (the way the waves impact the corner) and they are eagerly awaiting the modelling from the Masterplan Technical Group to see how both sea level rise and groundwater levels, may impact on the future design of the defence.

The NRW project team members stated they were keen to start work on Friog Corner, but current delays are being caused by ensuring the correct design of the defence. Because there are several different wave climates impacting Friog Corner (mainly caused by the direction of wind at high tides), NRW need to ensure that the defence is able to withstand all types of impact in this area.

NRW will provide information about this when available, however, please rest assured that the existing defence does already provide a 1 in 200 year storm level of protection. In the meantime, Natural Resources Wales have a programme of proactive inspection and maintenance to ensure that any weak areas that appear, are managed accordingly.



### Ramp

After speaking with the Maritime unit, we have been informed there is no money this financial year to repair the ramp.

The unit feel that people should still be able to launch their boats and access the beach using the purpose-built slipway at Penrhyn Point.

They feel confident that they will have the money to fund the repairs before the Summer season starts but also need to understand further the impact (positive or negative) that the ramp is having on the coastline of Fairbourne (currently it's acting as a groyne for shingle from Friog Corner). We have informed the Maritime unit that NRW are going to be increasing the defence at Friog Corner but we are waiting to hear what ideas they have.

The unit greatly appreciate the concerns of the residents in Fairbourne, but are unable to do anything currently to rectify the situation. If you have any further concerns please contact Barry Davies directly, his details are:  
Phone: 01758 704066 or email: [barrydavies@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:barrydavies@gwynedd.llyw.cymru).



## Tank Traps

The project met with Cadw in October last year in relation to the tank traps. Cadw currently have no plans to move these although we have suggested that maybe they are moved to the other side of the sea defence in order to preserve them. Cadw said this could be considered but not at the moment. We have recently sent pictures of some of the tank traps that are considered to be dangerous due to their instability and are awaiting their comments. We are keeping NRW involved in all our communications with Cadw.



## Masterplan/Technical Group

The last Technical Meeting took place on Tuesday 21st February and a lot of progress was made. We now have all relevant organisations engaged and they are tasked with producing a model and timeline for their own flood risk (ie, sea level risk, beach activity, groundwater levels, rivers and rainwater) by the end of April 2017. At the next meeting, scheduled for early May, we will be working on how to merge all of this data into one model before we release this to the public. We intend to do this in June 2017.

## Governance Event

This event will be taking place at Fairbourne Golf Club on Wednesday 24th May 2017. It is an all-day event and we are hoping that the Minister, along with other senior members of Gwynedd Council, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, will attend. The event is to raise awareness of the project and Fairbourne at a senior level, ensuring that we attract the right level of attention which will enable key decision-makers to be more informed when allocating budgets and contributing to future legislation in relation to flood management and the effects of flooding and flood policies on communities. This is not a public event, however, we will be inviting two members from FFC, ACC and the community to come along and contribute for the day. This event will inform the membership of our new Project Board as we enter the Masterplan phase of the project.



## Business Event

This was held on Tuesday 7th February in the Railway Café from 6pm to 8pm. It was attended by 8 business owners from the village and was extremely productive. Several suggestions were put forward by business owners as to what the project could do to further support businesses in Fairbourne and these are now being implemented. We also provided an overview of the project's activities and all those who attended said they'd felt the event was very worthwhile and they had all learned something new. The request was made that we hold these events every quarter and this is what we will do from now on (the next business event is being held on Tuesday 9th May 2017, 6-8pm in the Railway Café).



## Community Interest Company

The project has submitted a bid to Welsh Government to establish a Community Interest Company (CIC), in lieu of the Buy to Let Scheme. This would involve obtaining funding to establish a company that would purchase a limited number of houses each year, with a view to putting tenants in those houses and collecting rent from them accordingly, putting this money back into the CIC. This money would then be reinvested in the repair and maintenance of these houses along with tenant management and some of the surplus would be reinvested into the community. Local organisations would be used to fulfil the maintenance regime hence providing an element of business for local trades. Tenants could range from older people requiring sheltered accommodation, through to young families and all would be bound by a 'good tenant agreement' which would ensure that their behaviour was agreeable in addition to ensuring their house (inside and out) was kept in a good condition.

All residents who would like to sell their home to the CIC would need to have a property condition survey carried out, to ascertain whether their home meets the requirements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (a standard which all homes in Wales, used for social housing, must meet) and any modifications which need to be made to bring it up to standard would be undertaken (and paid for) by the CIC.

**It is important to state that the CIC would not be run by the project or Gwynedd Council – it would be run by the board made up from a variety of stakeholders and community members.**

It is our intention to set the company up in the next 12 months (subject to receipt of funding from Welsh Government) and it is hoped, **if sufficient funding can be obtained**, that the CIC will be up and running by April 2018.



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document

We have decided that this document is becoming a very un-economical way of communicating with the community. The English version alone is now 60 pages long and of course, this has to be bilingual. It has become an exceptionally time-consuming task on the part of all our stakeholders and questions that are coming from the community are increasingly complex – the FAQ is not necessarily the right place to be providing the complex response these questions require.

The document is currently up-to-date but we feel that, combined with all other communication mechanisms we have in place now (weekly drop-in sessions, Facebook, website, direct access to the project via phone and email, not forgetting FFC and ACC members in the community who residents can approach) the project budget is better spent on issues such as the Masterplan and events to engage with, eg, businesses, public and other agencies involved with the project.

The FAQ in it's current format will be posted on [www.fairbourne.info](http://www.fairbourne.info) but will not be circulated in hard copy. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the project using one of the methods at the top of this newsletter and a hard copy will be made available to you.

