



Cabinet Report September 2014. Appendix A

Rhose Point Byelaws Consultation Report

August 2015

Background

The Vale of Glamorgan acquired a portion of open space at Rhose Point in 2011 and has been responsible for managing the area since this time.

Since the Council took responsibility for this area there have been frequent incidents of unauthorised swimming, camping, fishing and the consumption of alcohol along with a range of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour connected with these activities.

In 2013 the Council ran a public consultation to determine if there was support for the introduction of byelaws to this area. The results of this consultation confirmed that there had been regular occurrences of antisocial behaviour at the open space at Rhose Point which had had a negative impact on residents. The three most common causes were fishing, swimming and camping. There was strong support for the introduction of byelaws to regulate and control these activities in the area.

Since the consultation took place the Welsh Government has passed new legislation which allows local authorities to enact byelaws. This new legislation required public consultation and to publish a notice of byelaws to begin the process of introducing byelaws to the area.

Methodology

The consultation period opened on 20th May 2015 and closed on 7th August 2015.

The consultation was targeted at residents of Rhose Point and a number of other identified key stakeholders. However, it was open to all Vale residents and was widely promoted through the Council's communication channels.

Each of the 512 residential properties at Rhose Point received a consultation pack at the beginning of the consultation period which contained a letter explaining the Council's intentions, a notice of byelaws, a consultation response form and a freepost envelope.

All of this information and an online survey were made available on the Council's website and promoted through the local press and social media. The notice of byelaws was also published on a notice board at the open space at Rhose Point.

In addition to local residents a number of other key stakeholders were identified. The following groups were contacted and asked for their views on the proposed byelaws.

- South Wales Police
- Safer Vale Partnership
- Dwr Cymru
- Natural Resources Wales

- Glamorgan Wildlife Trust
- Play Wales
- Fields in Trust
- Swan Rescue South Wales
- Glamorgan Anglers Club
- The Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers
- Barry Model Boat Club

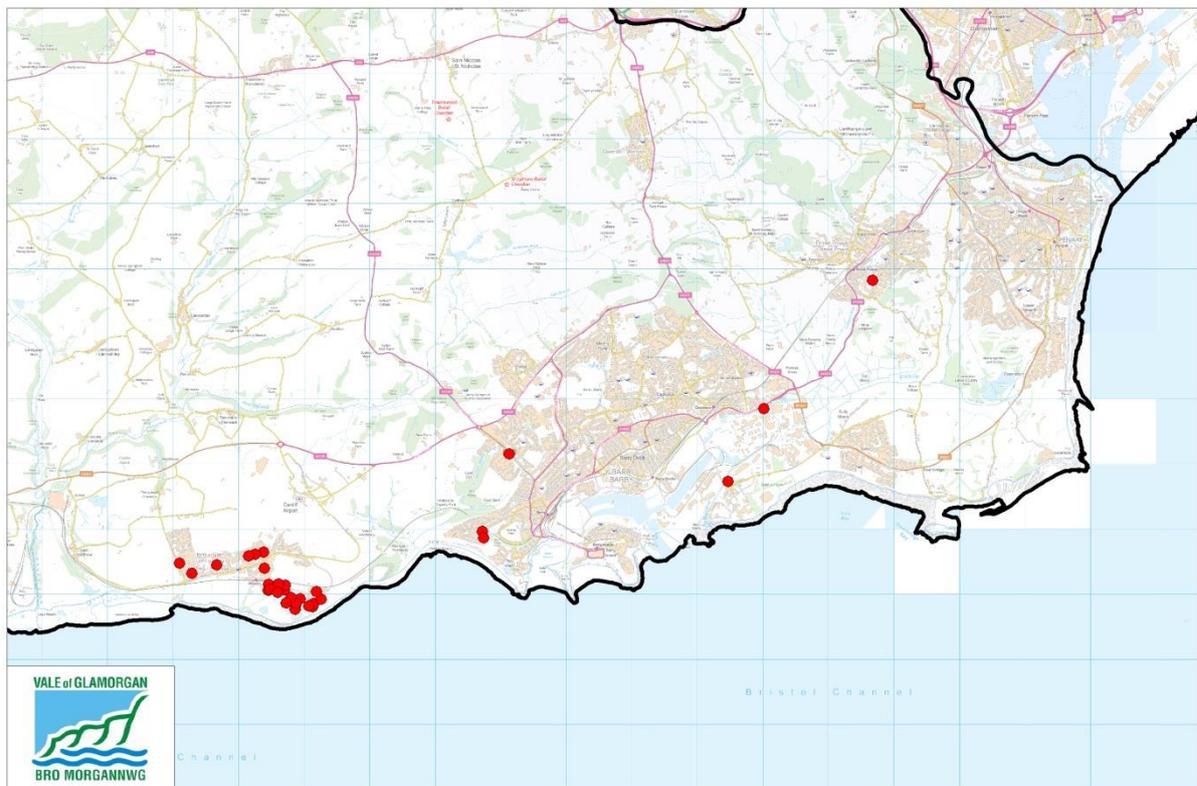
Results

There were 199 responses to the consultation. This can be broken down to 195 survey responses and 4 email responses.

This is a dramatic increase on the number of responses to the previous consultation, 85 responses were received in 2013, and shows a response rate of 38%.

Profile of respondents

182 (91%) of respondents were local residents. 1% were members of an organisation and 2% chose other. Other respondents include Swan Rescue South Wales, other residents of the Vale who walk or use the area recreationally and Glamorgan Anglers Club. 177 respondents provided their post code which allows us to map where they live in relation to the site.



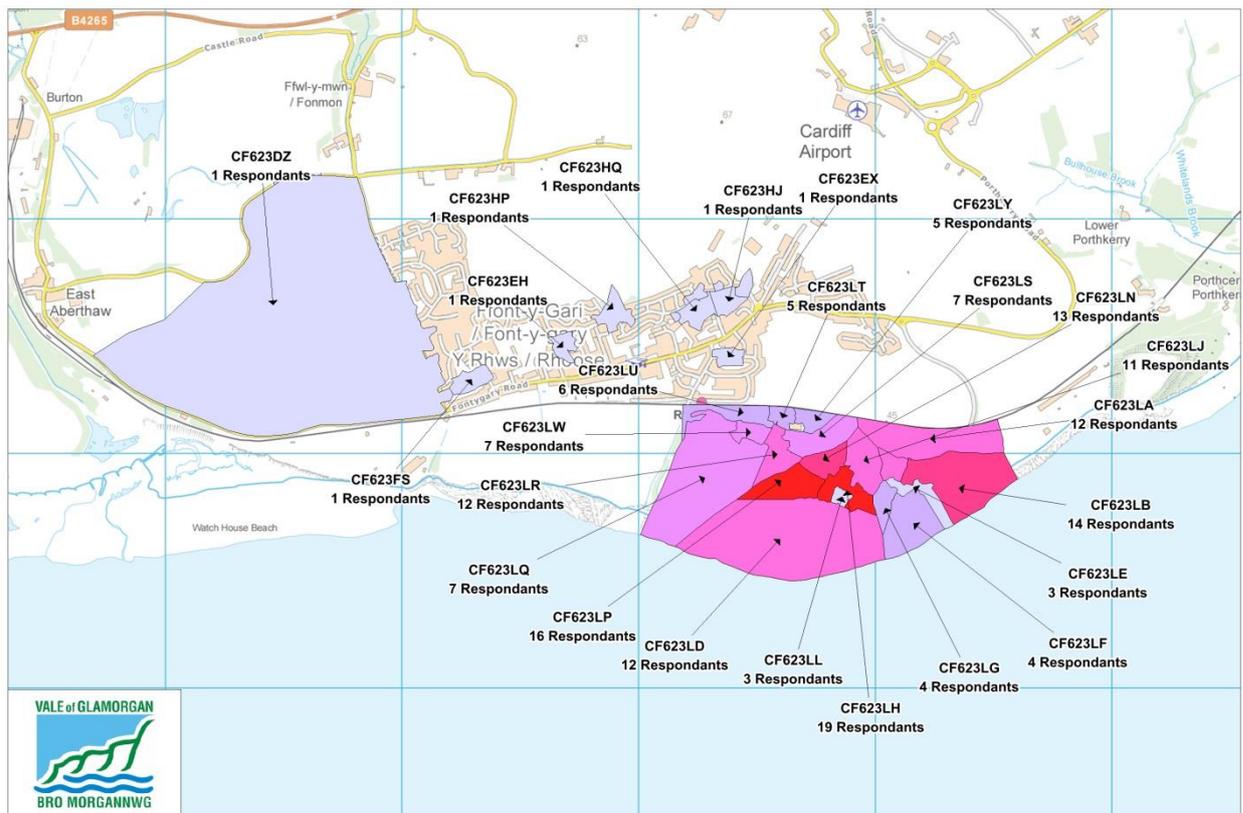
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Rhoose Point Respondent Postcodes

As the map shows the majority of respondents are concentrated in the Rhoose area. This is as would be expected considering both the issue under consideration and the survey methodology.

The responses received from residents living in other areas of the Vale demonstrate that the exercise did reach Vale residents other than those living closest to the open space.

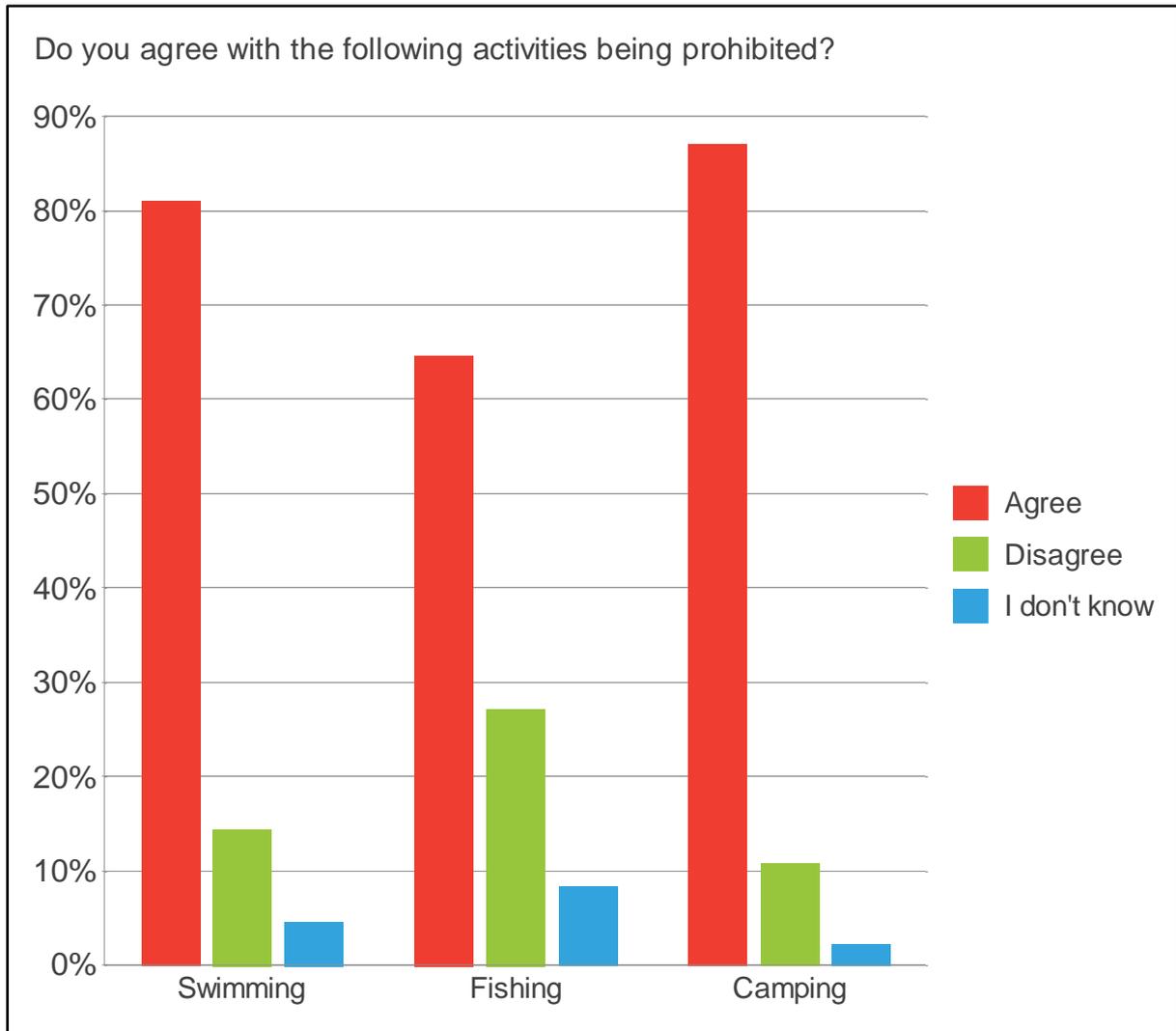
The map below shows how many respondents there were from each of the post code areas in Rhoose. The lighter shades represent fewer respondents, the darker shades represent a higher response rate.



Rhoose Point Respondent Postcodes

Prohibited activities

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the following activities being prohibited; swimming, camping and fishing. The vast majority of respondents agreed with swimming and camping being prohibited, 81% and 87% respectively. Only 65% of respondents agreed with fishing being prohibited. The chart below shows how these responses compare.



The next question asked if there were any additional activities that respondents felt should be prohibited. 157 respondents answered this question, of those 60% said 'yes' there are additional activities that they would expect to see prohibited.

Respondents were then asked to suggest other activities that they thought ought to be prohibited. The majority of respondents mentioned car parking issues, alcohol consumption, dog fouling, cliff diving or 'tombstoning and fires and barbecues. See examples below.

'Consumption of alcohol, diving, making fires and the inconsiderate/ and dangerous parking on Bryn Y Gloyn.'

'Drinking needs to be clamped down on. Parking on pavements also needs to be looked at.'

'Jumping into the lagoons from the cliff tops (risk of death or injury). Leaving dog faeces on the ground /hanging in bags (health risk).'

Finally respondents were given the opportunity to share any other views they had on the proposed byelaws. 83 respondents took the opportunity to make further comments in addition to the four emails that were received. The majority of respondents were expressing concerns however some were grateful that the Council was seeking a solution to the antisocial behaviour problems experienced in this area. See examples below.

These proposed byelaws will only improve the area for residents, visitors & environment.

How will the byelaws be enforced?

You should not discourage people from sport & exercise such as swimming or fishing but look to regulate the activities so the area can be enjoyed by all responsibly & safely.

The only problem I have seen is a lot of litter around the western fishing pond harmful to wildlife & pets and unsightly. There are no litter bins or benches adjacent.

Need good signage and policing of the byelaws – perhaps the swimming/fishing could be limited to certain hours/times of the year rather than a complete ban.

We should be able to apply for a permit for these activities maybe charge a small fee (£2-£5) in getting the permit full details of the person could be obtained.

I hope that this will not deny access to sea anglers.

Glamorgan Anglers Club would like to formally request that the Council re consider their intention to ban Angling on this site and seek an alternative control measure for this site.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the majority of respondents agree that the proposed byelaws should be enacted. Although concerns were raised over banning fishing all together and suggestions to use a licence or permit system were made, the majority of respondents felt that the activity should be banned. Reasons such as littering and endangering wildlife were given in support of banning this activity.