

CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the email meeting held on 19th December, 2018.

Present:

Councillor A. Parker	Chairman
Mrs. C. Dimond (Vice-Chairman)	Cardiff Flood Action Group
Councillor N. Humphrey	Penarth Town Council
Mrs. N. DeLonghi	Natural Resources Wales
Mr. C. Michael	RSPB
Mr. T. Gifford	Cardiff Harbour Authority
Mr. D. James	Cardiff Harbour Authority

Also present:

Mr. A.M. Ernest	Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association
Mr. A. Michael	Penarth Headland Link Charity
Mr. P. Bussell	Penarth Headland Link Charity
Mrs. K. Bowen	Vale of Glamorgan Council (Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer)

(a) Apologies –

These were received from Councillor J.C. Bird (Vale of Glamorgan Council), Mr. S. Rayner (Canoe Wales), Mr. S. Jones (Quay Marinas Ltd), Commodore D. Cairncross (Cardiff Bay Yacht Club), Mr. J. Maidment and Mr. A. Vye-Parminter (Cardiff Harbour Authority).

(b) Navigational Safety – Cardiff Harbour Authority and Progress Report – Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. Gifford, advised that he had nothing to report in relation to navigational safety, however with regard to a progress update in respect of the Cardiff Harbour Authority referred to the following:

- Environment – 213 tonnes of waste had been processed in October and November which had coincided with the start of the storms. A presentation had been given to the Rotary Club on waste operations and the Cardiff Harbour Authority's aspirations and future plans in regard to combatting / managing plastic pollution.
- Mrs.DeLonghi referred to the amount of debris downstream from the Taff and asked the representatives from the Cardiff Harbour Authority if they could work together to find a solution upstream in order to prevent this happening. Mr.Gifford stated that Cardiff Harbour Authority was also working with local schools and the BBC who had been filming in the area recently about raising

the awareness of plastic pollution to also understand where the debris was actually entering the river. Lucy Owen the newsreader had also taken an avid interest in the matter.

- Mrs. DeLonghi welcomed the initiatives advising that it was important for all organisations to play their part and took the opportunity to encourage all present to ensure that the message was cascaded. Mr. Gifford further advised that a significant clean up exercise had been undertaken which had taken place over two days.
- Barrage: Lock 1 Annual Maintenance – the lock had been drained out and scaffolding access installed on Monday, 19th November, 2018. A lower hinge pin had been removed to be repaired and would be reinstalled in January 2019. In referring to Sluices 2 and 5, he advised that following a recent failure a new roller had been replaced on Sluice 2, that morning, and similar work was due to commence on Sluice 5.
- Korean delegation visit Friday, 7th December, 2018 - Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for the Republic of Korea and the Korean Rural Community Corporation (KRC) had visited the Barrage at 13:00 hours. The purpose of the visit being to learn the operational system and status of Cardiff Bay Barrage and to gather further information on the policy of water management. The tour he informed the Committee had been well received by the delegation.

AGREED – T H A T the progress update report be noted.

(c) Natural Resources Wales Update –

Ms. DeLonghi commented that the National Salmon Byelaws would expire at the end of December with emergency ones being put in place. At the Merthyr Vale Weir Hurricane Callum had affected the weir steps however remedial works had been put in place to address the situation.

Natural Resources Wales was currently consulting on the river basin management plans which were due to close on 22nd December, 2018. Ms DeLonghi agreed to forward the relevant link to all members of the Committee for their information and / or comments as appropriate.

There was an ongoing pollution incident which had been a low level contaminated landfill issue and Cardiff Council was going to do a drainage service shortly. Everyone that needed to be involved was involved and were addressing the matter in their various respective organisations as appropriate.

Mr. Gifford commented on an issue that he had been made aware of on the River Taff at Llandaff North where trees had come down. Ms. DeLonghi requested that the referral be forwarded to her e-mail address and that she would pass the matter on to the relevant officer within Natural Resources Wales.

Following a question from a member regarding dredging operations, Mr. Gifford confirmed that dredging operations were scheduled for the New Year and all mariners would be notified. If any member of the Committee wished to receive

copies of the schedule, they were requested to e-mail Mr. Gifford direct and he would add their names to the mailing list.

AGREED – T H A T the progress update report be noted.

(d) Penarth Headland Link Update –

The Chairman referred to the Penarth Headland Link agenda item which had been placed on all future agendas in order that updates could be provided on progress. He referred to the extract from the minutes of the Cabinet meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Council held on 15th October, 2018 where Cabinet had been informed of the recent procurement of consultancy support for a number of transport schemes within the defined Penarth “Corridor”, advising that the Arup Corridor Transport and Economic Impact Report had considered the project in terms of their:

- strategic context
- case for change
- option feasibility
- transport impact and
- Economic impact.

The Chairman also referred to information he had received from the Director of Environment and Housing which advised that the Penarth Headland Link project was part of the wider project looking to improve Active Travel and public transport in the Penarth area. The project had received funding for the current financial year from Welsh Government of £600k and commissioned work had been arranged with Capita to undertake a WelTAG Stages 1 and 2 Study for the whole project including the Link. Welsh Government had advised that the Council needed to undertake the WelTAG work before any decision could be taken as to whether the Link was the right solution for the transport issues and problems in Penarth. There was also ecology work for the scheme to be undertaken and Arcadis were the consultants for ecology work. A Project Manager had also been commissioned to deliver the WelTAG Stages 1 and 2 and Matthew Fry from Arcadis was pushing the project forward for the Council. The Director also understood that the Penarth Board was happy with the steps that the Council was taking in relation to the matter. A consultation as part of the Stage 1 WelTAG work was due to be undertaken in January 2019 with stakeholders and subsequently the wider public via a drop in session. The dates and arrangements for this would be published in the near future.

The Director had also met with Welsh Government and the Penarth Headland Link Charity (PHLC) where concern had been expressed by the PHLC who had advised that the background research report that had been prepared by Arup for the Council contained flaws. The Director had advised the PHLC that progress now needed to be made that he was comfortable that the Council was following the correct processes for the project and that it was moving the current proposals forward and he was aware of the need to consider the funding bid the Council would need to make from Welsh Government for the next financial year for the scheme as well as other schemes.

Mr. Alun Michael, (representing the Penarth Headland link charity) who was present at the meeting together with Mr. P. Bussell, Secretary of the Penarth Headland Link charity provided the Committee with an overview of the work of their group. Mr. Michael confirmed that he had met with the Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning (Councillor J.C. Bird) regarding the project and concurred that consultation as part of the WeITAG review was due to be undertaken in January 2019.

Mr. Peter Bussell, as Secretary to the Board of Trustees, advised that the Board consisted of a number of people from a number of professional backgrounds who undertook the trusteeship work on a voluntary basis. Mr Michael stated that the current proposals were a far simpler design than the previous proposals had been and the cost had been significantly reduced. The proposals were a chance to ensure the town of Penarth was brought into the forefront as currently there was an “embarrassing gap” in the Welsh footpath. Mr. Michael provided a number of photographs at the meeting for Members information which depicted various types of coastal links around the world, advising that the aim was to provide similar pathways of a size to facilitate cyclists and pedestrians. However, he did not rule out that in the future there could be some types of motorised transport on the link, but the initial proposals were for pedestrians and cyclists.

In referring to the Cabinet report, Mr. Michael advised that in order to release money the WeITAG proposals had to show transport projects, but in addition there would be a number of other benefits that would also result from the proposals, for example economic and environmental benefits. The project had initially proceeded slowly but with the recent appointment of the consultant the pace had increased. The Chairman also confirmed that the Leader of the Vale Council had also spoken positively on the proposals and the work being undertaken. Within the Trustee Board, Mr. Michael advised that a number of volunteers were also providing their services on a pro bono basis as everybody was keen to ensure that the project was a success. A number of the obstacles that had been part of the previous proposals sometime ago had now been addressed by the Trustee Board who had had a number of meetings with land owners etc. and significant progress had been made.

Following a request from a Member of the Committee regarding details of visitor numbers it was noted that Cardiff Council could more than likely provide some footfall information with Mr. Michael being confident that the Penarth Headland Link would increase visitor numbers on a significant scale in the future. He had visited a number of organisations in his capacity as Chairman of the Board and had walked the area on a number of occasions and he had heard many people talking about the need for the link to Penarth, which had fuelled his confidence. He also took the opportunity to thank the Chairman and the Vale of Glamorgan Council for their endorsement and support of the proposals and noted that the MP Ken Skates had also taken a great interest. The Board of Trustees were greatly encouraged by the interest of officials he said. Mr Michael had also met with the Leader of Cardiff Council who to had been highly respectful of the involvement of the individuals on the Charity Board.

In conclusion the Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mr. Michael and Mr. Bussel for attending the meeting, for providing the opportunity for a frank and open discussion and he wished them well for the future.

(e) Any Other Business –

The Penarth Town Council Member advised that the play area on the Barrage had been raised as an issue by Penarth Town Council, with a query as to when this was likely to be refurbished. Mr. Gifford stated that the Addi Zone had recently been refurbished, however the play area had been refurbished sometime previously. With regard to any issues he requested that any concerns be relayed directly to him for investigating. The Member agreed to seek further clarity from Penarth Town Council and advise Mr Gifford accordingly.

(f) Date of Next Meeting –

Following discussion it was suggested by those present that meetings of the Committee revert to four meetings a year at the International White Water centre. However, in view of the number of apologies that had been received it was requested that all Members of the Committee be emailed on the matter for their views prior to the next meeting in March 2019.

Finally, in conclusion, the Chairman took the opportunity to wish all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.