

Ward Member Consultation: The Kymin

15th September 2020 - Rhiannon Birch. Leader of Penarth Town Council.

Morning.

As leader of Penarth Town Council, I would like to make the following comments.

I am disappointed that the Vale council and the Town council were unable to come to an agreement about the use of the property , either in full or in part, for the direct benefit of the people of Penarth. I felt that the meeting Town Council representatives and officers had with Vale council officers in August had left the door open for future discussions, but it is clear that the decisions had already been made. I am also surprised that the vale Council feels able to offer a 25 year lease to an outside organisation when this was not offered to the Town Council. Whatever the history, it is obvious that the Town Council would make decisions about the property for the benefit of Penarth residents, rather than a commercial entity.

It is also disappointing that the Town council only found out about future plans for the property through forwarded emails, I would have expected all Vale councillors for Penarth to have been informed as a matter of courtesy, it is a key site in Penarth and is of importance outside the ward.

Whatever the plans for the site, I would like the community of Penarth to be reassured that the right of way currently enjoyed by residents, and access to the part of the grounds outside the proposed boundary , will be retained.

I look forward to your response,

Yours sincerely, Rhiannon Birch. Leader of Penarth Town Council.

19th September – Cllr Neil Thomas

I am disappointed that discussion over the future if this County Treasure has not included the ward councillors until this late stage.

My preferred option would have been to have granted a long term, 25 year lease to Penarth Town Council a couple of years ago which would have enabled application for various grants and loans to improve the estate and building.

For the future I would hope to see the building and grounds kept as a public access building for the benefit of the town.

I would remind you that this property only came under the control of the Vale of Glamorgan due to the vagueries of the numerous changes in local government over the years though it was originally in the ownership of Penarth Urban District Council.

If the property is to be leased separately as suggested then more detailed information is now required to delineate where the divisions will be.

The grounds will be expensive to maintain and the joint access and parking must be resolved.

I would hope that the property as a whole remains accessible to the community of Penarth and our visitors as previously.

Regards

Neil Thomas

15th September – Cllr Ruba Sivagnanam

The future of the Kymin is an extremely important issue for my ward and I feel a week of consultation is not enough for me and Neil to gauge the views of our residents and importantly the PTC. So I would ask for more time for us and you to properly consider views and have a conversation with you as to what if any interest has been shown by third parties including PTC in the Kymin.

Any decision about the Kymin will have a profound effect in my ward ; I am well aware that the building requires a great deal of work however, it is vitally important to me that the Kymin remains an asset for the use of the people of Penarth. Along with the Pier that area of Penarth attracts visitors as well as locals and is a jewel in terms of location and its wildness and I would not wish to see any use of the Kymin which curtails its use for Penarthians.

There is such an interest in the Kymin that it is important that we work together to get all the comms right including consultation!

I look forward to hearing from you Tom. I would be grateful if you could use this email address for the time being as my VOG email is still not working.

Best regards,

Ruba
