

**4 (a) To Receive Special Announcements from the Chairman:
MOTION TO REJECT THE PLANS BY GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL TO
DECOMMISSION FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE**

As part of the monthly May 2022 meeting of the Arthog Community Council held on Wednesday 4th May 2022, the above motion to reject the plans by Gwynedd County Council to decommission Fairbourne will be discussed and voted upon based on the following justifications.

Justifications include:

- The report by Royal Haskoning on which the decision by Gwynedd CC was based has now been contradicted by three other expert reports: Phillips (2017), Buss (2018), and Hall (2021).
- Royal Haskoning failed to collect necessary field data in Fairbourne, relying instead on a computer model of dubious accuracy.
- The work by Royal Haskoning is out of date, as it takes no account of the 2016 flood alleviation scheme which has substantially reduced the flood risk from the estuary and the Afon Henddol.
- Royal Haskoning appear to have lacked expert knowledge of coastal geomorphology, for example: in not appreciating that the shingle storm beach at Fairbourne is a natural structure in equilibrium with marine processes that will be built higher naturally by waves if sea level rises.
- There is a suspicion that the decision by Royal Haskoning was influenced by vested interest, as the company might benefit financially from participating in the decommissioning of Fairbourne.
- There is a suspicion that the decision was further influenced by bias on the part of Gwynedd CC, who appear to see Fairbourne as a village of holiday homes and English incomers. Fairbourne might be treated less favourably than a long established native Welsh community.
- Gwynedd CC have not properly considered the rights of Fairbourne residents and operators of businesses in the village. Apart from the disruption caused, there could be a massive cost in compensation and re-housing residents which may have to be met by Gwynedd taxpayers.
- Gwynedd CC have not properly considered the risk to the railway line if the coastal lowland is allowed to flood daily. Closure of the railway would have serious social and economic effects on communities from Aberdovey to Pwllheli.

If the motion to reject the decommissioning is passed by the Community Council, then the next steps might be:

- To make this decision known to the press and television media.
- To inform the relevant Minister in the Welsh Parliament and request an independent review of the decision to decommission Fairbourne. This should be carried out by persons with the necessary expert knowledge, but with no previous involvement with Fairbourne, Gwynedd CC or Royal Haskoning.