

Caerwent Community Council

Chairman's Report August 2015

The Council were presented with plans for the development of tidal lagoons at Swansea, Cardiff and Newport by Jeanette Reis, Development Manager for Tidal Lagoon Power. This described the elements of the tidal lagoon for Swansea, which has been approved and gave an outline of what the lagoons in the Cardiff (much larger) and Newport might include. The UK offers the best opportunities in Europe. Key points were:

- Generate electricity by constructing a sea wall - power generated from the difference in water levels. Primarily energy generation but will provide facilities
- Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon would be the first of its kind in the world
- Will serve 155,000 homes and is relatively small, 9.5 km wall length
- The proposal had attracted considerable community support
- The ultimate plan was to have 6 lagoons in the UK with four of them in Wales with a lifespan of 120 years
- The cost of tidal power was lower than nuclear energy
- The eco and bio-diversity features of the Swansea Bay lagoon as well as the public attractions to be constructed were outlined which included a major water sports facility
- Extensive public consultation had been held
- The elements of the project plan and the planned stages of completion were outlined - four year construction for each lagoon
- Issues relating to sources of material and engineering supplies were explained
- An extensive amount of work had been undertaken with NRW to deal with potential issues
- A significant number of jobs in the construction industry would be created as well as jobs to support the ongoing maintenance of the lagoon

A plan showing the possible area covered by the Cardiff and Newport lagoons was shown and it was noted that the Company was intending to submit a planning application by 2017. As is the case with the Swansea development, the Company would be looking to provide a range of community benefits and would be carrying out wide consultations to identify what benefits were supported and then assessing their feasibility. The approval of the Secretary of State for Energy would be required for the proposals to proceed. A particular focus of the Cardiff and Newport schemes was the possibility of including flood defence provision. The Cardiff lagoon would serve 1 million homes.

Caerwent House

Latest information: MCC are in discussion with a Welsh-based Building Preservation Trust with a view to entering into a Back to Back agreement to enable

completion of the Compulsory Purchase that has been agreed by Welsh Government. They have regular meetings with the Trust to progress this. They have commissioned a Valuation and are meeting the valuer this month to discuss their assessment. In the meantime they are reviewing the works needed for making the shell of the building safe, wind and water-tight and in the first instance have commissioned temporary protection to the roof to prevent the building's condition deteriorating too much further. A bespoke tarpaulin has been manufactured and this work will be completed as soon as they have carried out a further bat survey. They remain committed to rescuing this important and very prominent listed building and is confident that its historic character is capable of repair and reuse.

The Council agreed to support a local resident in their campaign against speeding in our area. Inform that we believe that enforcement is extremely important re this issue. Also make them aware of the Speedwatch Scheme. It was confirmed that various names had been put forward for this scheme to our local PCSO.

A number of local issues recently raised by residents have been passed to the appropriate agencies for their consideration. Issues identified as being the responsibility of MCC have been reported and recorded by the relevant departments and will be actioned as per the County Council procedures.

There were no Planning applications considered at the July meeting

Regards
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