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Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/02656/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

11 December 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September regarding Petition P-06-1367 Fund the removal of quarry rocks and the restoration of sand and groynes to Llandudno North Shore.

My Officials have been in contact with officers at Conwy Council in order to establish a factual position about the situation in Llandudno North Shore which I have outlined below.

The groynes that were installed previously have been ineffective in maintaining beach levels on this frontage and were in place between 1938 and 1996.

After public consultation in 1994, a rock groyne was built in 1996 with the ineffective wooden groynes removed to stabilise beach losses.

Two phases of work – in 1996 and 2000 – placed the present day cobble bank on North Shore to protect the stepped revetment. This bank consisting of almost 300,000m³ of cobble provides protection to the promenade and the town.

The material is naturally occurring moraine type rock imported from local quarries and ranging in size from 200mm to 50mm typically. The larger type of material is less mobile than the smaller – it is not acceptable to have smaller stones constantly being thrown up onto the promenade during storm events. The cobble bank is the effective coastal defence for Llandudno and it must be maintained to protect the town from the risk of coastal flooding

After a series of coastal storms in December 2013 and January 2014, a significant amount of this cobble material – estimated at the time to be 30,000m³, was lost off shore resulting in the existing defence capabilities of the cobble bank being depleted. This was in addition to gradual losses which would have taken place in the preceding years.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Conwy imported 30,000m³ (over 60,000t) of cobble in 2014 to reinstate the existing 2000 coastal defence bank. It was the same material, from the same quarry put in to the same design profile. The material was tested independently and was not oversized as it met the grading envelope in the design specified. The 2014 works did not do anything new but only replaced what had been lost from the 2000 scheme due to tidal and storm influences.

There is no evidence that it is detrimental to the tourism economy – see latest STEAM data [STEAM Report CON 2022.pdf \(visitconwy.org.uk\)](#) . Llandudno is thriving from a tourism point of view and there is a sand beach at Llandudno west shore just 0.75m away.

However, a Shared Prosperity application has been made by CCBC to commission a report into the economic value of replacing a portion of the cobble bank with sand

Conwy County Borough Council have previously received funding from the Welsh Government's Coastal Risk Management Programme to prepare an Outline Business Case for Llandudno. The business case considered various options to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion to the town. One of the options considered was the installation of 600m of sandy beach on the north shore. However, unlike the recent scheme at Colwyn Bay, the business case found that importing sand would be significantly more expensive than other engineering options and would provide no additional flood protection benefits to the community.

The business case for Llandudno identified a preferred option based on maintaining and improving the existing defences on the North Shore and West Shore. The Welsh Government have awarded grant funding to the local authority to develop detailed design proposals for a scheme in Llandudno, based on their preferred option.

A sand beach could be put on part of North Shore as long as it was correctly modelled, designed and funded for construction. However, there would be a significant ongoing revenue burden for the council which does not exist currently. Conwy County Borough Council are welcome to pursue alternative sources of funding to install a sandy beach on the North Shore, however this would be outside the scope of the Coastal Risk Management Programme.

Yours sincerely,



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