



gwerth mewn gwahaniaeth
delivering on distinction

Meeting Title:	Tourism & Recreational Forum		
Meeting Objective:	The Morlais Tourism and Recreation Forum is a key part of Morlais and its partners' plans to ensure the sustainable tidal energy project delivers community benefits across the board.		
Location:	Microsoft Teams		
Date:	13/06/2023	Time	15:00
Attendees:			
<p>Morlais: Dafydd Gruffydd (DG)(Chair), Guto Wyn Hughes (GWH), Gerallt Llewelyn Jones (GLJ), Ian Newton (IN);</p> <p>Bangor University: Dr Edward Jones (EJ);</p> <p>Canoe Wales: Alistair Pattullo (AP);</p> <p>Ynys Mon County Council: Michael Thomas (MT);</p> <p>Wild Hospitality: Claudia Howard (CH);</p>			

Summary of Actions:

No.	Item No.	Action	Resp.	Due
1	1	Previous meeting minutes to be corrected as above.	IN	Complete.
2	3	MT to meet up with CH to discuss activities for those visiting Holyhead on cruise ships	MT/CH	By next meeting.

Actions from previous meetings:

No.	Item No.	Action	Resp.	Due
2	3	Send invites to businesses put forward by Will Stewart.	Morlais	Ongoing.
6	6	Morlais to continue to communicate remedial works to ensure sympathetic landscaping of the landfall substation site.	Morlais	GLJ – provided overview in meeting 13/06/23
8	7	Andy Godber to discuss with Ed Jones regarding further Bangor university involvement in data analysis.	EJ / AG	Ongoing.
2	1	Meet with TR to discuss additional footfall counters	GR	Ongoing – Hoping to install 2 additional counters
3	1	Discuss the placement of an information boards at Soldiers Point & the Rifle Range	Morlais	March 2023

1.	Introductions & Actions from previous meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to all attendees. • DG asks for comments and matters arising from previous meeting minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AP identified a few minor details to be corrected in the previous minutes. ○ MT points out that it should state IOACC instead of Ynys Cybi. <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION – Previous meeting minutes to be corrected as above.</p>

2.	Morlais Project Update (GLJ)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All road works have been completed. • The Substations at Parc Cybi and Landfall are nearing completion. • We have now drilled and fitted sleeves to two HDD drills and Stockton should be off site shortly. • Electrical equipment has been ordered, now awaiting delivery before fitting in September 2023. • If all 5 developers are successful in winning their CfD round in September we could have 40MW in the water which will be good for Morlais as the break-even point is between 30 – 40 MW. Developers demand is high and Morlais is hopeful of achieving this but nothing is certain. • • It is unlikely that all will be awarded a subsidy, but it is possible that some will receive support and be allowed to progress. The results for are expected in September 2023. • Morlais are looking for further expansion to build a connection from Parc Cybi to the old Anglesey Aluminium site national grid substation. • To achieve this Morlais will require £14M. It is hope that financial support (£9M) will be provided by the North Wales Growth Deal and an additional £5M will be required from elsewhere (e.g. private equity). • The research buoy has been deployed and is expected to record information for several months. It is anticipated that a great deal can be learnt from the data collected. • Morlais is seeking financial support from Welsh Government to fulfil an expected operational deficit for the first 5 years of operation. • Morlais are continuing to work to ensure that device developers establish a presence in Anglesey to maximise the economic benefits of the project locally. • EJ asks if the developers have made any comment on the freeport and whether that is likely to assist them in establishing here. • The free port status is helping in persuading developers to relocate to Holyhead but GLJ replies that none so far have made any direct comment regarding the freeport as we aren't currently aware of all the benefits associated with this.

3.	Update on data collected in last quarter (where available) (EJ)
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- Morlais are currently using AirDND to monitor AirB&Bs in the area. It does recognise that there are issues with the data but it is agreed that it is still useful to look at the trends regardless.
- According to this data there has been a reduction in the rate of rental growth across the local area. EJ asks group for views and if this is a fair reflection.
 - AP asks what is meant by rate of rental growth.
 - EJ replies that this is the average rent charged for a property.
 - EJ suggests that the trends are normalising after a volatile few years.
 - People are not going on holiday as much due to the cost-of-living crisis.
 - We know that people are going abroad due to international travel returning with the lifting of restrictions introduced during the pandemic.
- EJ also asked the group how they've found the Easter break for tourism, stating he's had mixed views from the businesses he's engaged with.
 - MT replied that it is a mixed picture across all of Wales, including Anglesey. Events and festivals have not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Some business on the Island are doing well while others are really struggling.
 - CH adds the Boathouse in Holyhead was extremely busy throughout Easter, bank holidays are busy, and the last May bank holiday was extremely busy.
 - CH adds that last-minute bookings are a recent trend with the weather seemingly helping that.
- MT also adds that this year has been the busiest yet for cruise ships landing in Holyhead.
 - DG asks if this number of cruise ships coming in is likely to stay the same or increase.
 - MT replies that 60% of tours stay on Anglesey and numbers of tours are likely to increase since the Stena acquisition of the old Orthios site, creating a single point of contact.
 - MT adds that there is increasing demand for walking tours. IOACC are looking to secure funding to train more tour guides.

ACTION- MT to meet up with CM to discuss tour providers.

- GWH one of the counters hasn't been working for a little while but this has been fixed now.

4. Discussion on analysis of collected data against baseline trends

- As discussed above.

5. Discussion on current needs of the industry e.g. opportunities and challenges

- DG asks all attendees if there is anything they would like to highlight here. No suggestions made.

6. Discussion on any mitigations required, as identified by points 4 and 5

- DG asks all attendees are asked for their thoughts and comments. No further comments made.

7.	AOB and date of next meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EJ raises the format and how regular this group meets. Suggesting perhaps twice a year rather than quarterly.• Mixture of suggestions ranging from bi-annual meetings, evening meetings and newsletters.• Date of next meeting September 2023 – date to be confirmed with attendees.• Attendees were happy with the frequency and format of the meetings but suggested the meeting to be held in the evening so that more business owners can participate. The next meeting will be trialled as an evening meeting next time to see impact on attendance.