

FISHGUARD, GOODWICK
and LOWER TOWN
CIVIC SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS DDINESIG
ABERGWAUN
WDIG A'R CWM

NEWSLETTER

January 2006

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held at the Fishguard E-Learning Centre at 7.30pm on 9th November 2005.

1. Chairman's Report

During the year the Executive Committee held 10 meetings and organised 4 public meetings.

Public Meetings

- 12th January: "Cardigan Castle Uncovered". Glen Johnson.
- 9th February: "The Natural History of Skomer Island, Above and Below the Water". John Archer Thompson. *Joint meeting with the Goodwick & District Gardening Club.*
- 9th March: "The Churches of Pembrokeshire". Rob Scourfield. *Joint meeting with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.*
- The April "Parliamentary Candidates Evening" had to be cancelled because it was not possible to find a date that was acceptable to all of the candidates.
- 20th May: "Fishguard Regeneration – Update on the Regeneration Projects". Roger Barrett-Evans, Gerson Davies and Ian Westley.

The Fishguard and North Pembrokeshire Regeneration Plan

At the May public meeting County Council Officers Roger Barrett-Evans, Kefin Wakefield, Gerson Davies and Ian Westley gave presentations about the economic, educational, and transport aspects of the regeneration projects and responded to questions from the audience. Approximately 120 members of the public attended the meeting, and a full report of the meeting was provided in the Society's June newsletter. The Society was represented at the meeting of the Regeneration Plan's Consultative Group that was held in July.

The Young Person's Project

The Society continued to provide its full support for the project and for the activities at POINT. Regular reports on the work of the project and its plans for the future were received throughout the year; including updates on fundraising activities and POINT'S planned move to the Pop Works once the refurbishment has been completed.

Planning

The most significant applications that were considered during this period were: 1) an outline planning application for a supermarket on the site of the Junior School and 2) a detailed application for change of use of the Pop Works to a youth centre (the future home of POINT). After a thorough discussion and examination of the plans, the committee agreed to support both applications.

The Society also received a copy of the conditions included in the approval granted by the County Council to carry out the Skirmisher Extension. Further information regarding the cladding panels, as well as the detailed design and height of the proposed windows has to be submitted and agreed by the Planning Authority before the development commences, to ensure that the details of the development respect the character of the listed building.

Pollution on Goodwick Moor

At the Society's request the Environment Agency carried out another survey of Goodwick Moor and found bacteriological pollution coming from the Dyffryn garden centre area. The agency informed Pembrokeshire County Council of its findings.

Transport

The Society, as a Corporate Member of the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum, has taken a keen interest in plans to set up a new Community Rail Partnership for South West Wales to promote and develop the rail network west of Swansea for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors to the area.

Easter Closure of Town Centre TIC

The Society wrote to Pembrokeshire County Council expressing its concern that the Town Hall Tourist Information Centre had been closed on Sundays during the Easter Holiday period, one of the busiest times in the tourism year. The County Council gave its assurance that in future the TIC will be open on Sundays over the Easter period.

Donations

During the year the Society donated £25 to the Fishguard Arts Society in support of its Spring Arts Festival, £25 to the Last Invasion Tapestry Gallery Project, £25 to the British Legion, £50 to the Fishguard Arts Society and £20 to the Friendship Circle.

Future Programmes

The Committee held a wide-ranging discussion about the future of the Society's talks programmes. A great deal of work has gone into the planning and organisation of these programmes, and yet attendance is now consistently poor. Members reported that other groups are having the same experience. On the other hand, it was noted that when members are contacted to renew their membership many state that, although they do not attend the talks programmes, they wish to continue as members because they support the Society's work. The committee eventually agreed to suspend the talks programme and to concentrate its efforts on other work, in particular to focus on development and planning matters. The Merit Award and the annual outing will continue.

The Executive Committee

In February Gerwyn Evans was co-opted onto the Executive Committee. In July Phil Peters resigned as a member of the committee, and the Society wishes to thank him for his contribution to its work.

In closing, members of the Executive Committee were thanked for their support throughout the year, and Society members as a whole for their continued support.

2. Treasurer's Report

Receipts & Payments Account: Year to 30 September 2005

£		£
2004	Receipts	2005
583.00	Membership subscriptions	397.00
463.00	Fundraising events	0.00
16.10	Bank deposit account interest	24.28
0.46	Bank current account interest	0.47
1,062.56	Total receipts	421.75
	Payments	
120.00	Donations	95.00
454.58	Events	54.30
29.00	Affiliation fees	104.00
70.00	Rent	15.00
131.89	Printing	100.90
71.36	Postage	32.80
185.73	Net receipts (payments)for the year	19.75
1,232.07	Funds last year end	1,417.80
1,417.80	Funds this year end	1,437.55

Statement of Assets and Liabilities: 30 September 2005

1,035.62	HSBC Bank deposit account	1,059.90
38218	HSBC Bank current account	377.65
1,417.80	Total assets	1,437.55

3. 2005 Merit Award

The 2005 Merit Award was won by The Hope and Anchor. The award was accepted by owners Sean and Jenny Roche.

A certificate of commendation was presented to Fishguard and Goodwick Town Council for its project to place gates in front of the Fishguard War Memorial. The award was accepted by Councillor Anne Harries.

4. Election of Officers

The following officers and committee members were elected to serve for the following year:

Tony Care, Chairman
Dominic Colella, Vice-Chairman
Hatti Woakes, Secretary
Bryn Davies, Treasurer
Sylvia Davies, Membership Secretary

Committee members: Jo D'Cruz, Eirian Evans, Gerwyn Evans, Annette Marshall, Huw Morgan, and Wendy Ratcliffe.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The new Executive Committee held its first meeting on 8th December and dealt with the following matters:

Working with Young People

It was agreed that the Society should seek ways of involving young people at Ysgol Bro Gwaun and POINT with the Society.

The Chairman reported that approximately £5,000 had been raised at POINT's fundraising concert at the Fishguard Bay Hotel. A grant of nearly £6,000 has also been received from Lloyds TSB. This will enable POINT to increase its opening hours.

Regeneration Projects

The Chairman provided an update on the Fishguard and North Pembrokeshire Regeneration Plan. The Market will move to the Community Education Centre after Christmas. The Pop Works contract has not yet been awarded and regrettably work on the project will have to start at a later date. There has been no progress with regard to the Marina dispute, but the Harbour Revision Orders are now in place. The project is not expected to commence until 2007. Serious expressions of interest in the supermarket project have been received from developers.

Planning

The Committee examined a planning application for three dwellings on Quay Road in Goodwick and agreed that the Society had no adverse comments to make with regard to the application.

Members of the committee agreed to take it in turns to examine draft consultation documents on Alterations and Extensions to Dwelling Houses and Shopfront Policy and Design Guidance. The Society would then submit its response before the consultation deadline of 30th December.

The committee considered the County Council's response to its query about the erection of a Harbour Masters' Store/Workshop in the Skirmisher Car Park, in Lower Town. They noted that the Planning Department had stated that the project did not require Planning Consent or Building Regulations approval, as it fell within the terms of 'permitted development'. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the County Council asking for an explanation of what is meant by 'permitted development'.

Transport

The Secretary reported on the disappointing launch of the South West Wales Community Rail Partnership, and in particular about the lack of any meaningful consultation with communities, businesses and groups within the Partnership area about the plan for the Partnership that had been drawn up by the Community Rail Officer & the Steering Committee. Pembrokeshire Tourism, the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association & the Forum have

written to the Directors of Transportation of the three participating local authorities (Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Swansea), the Managing Director of Arriva Trains Wales and all of the Assembly Members who represent areas within the Partnership expressing their dissatisfaction. The matter is to be discussed by the Steering Group and a response has been promised.

In the meantime the Forum has written to the Town Council and to groups within the catchment area of Fishguard railway station, providing them with copies of the proposed business plan and asking for their views on the plan vis-à-vis the development of the Fishguard line. All of the information will be forwarded to the CRP Officer and Steering Group. The committee agreed that the inadequate rail service to Fishguard would be difficult to promote and is of very little value to local residents, businesses and visitors. The consideration of enhancements to the service should be included in the plan.

Gerwyn Evans asked when the results of the Fishguard Traffic Consultation were to be published. The Secretary agreed to write to the Director of Transportation asking for this information.

Future Public Meetings

As many members of the Society have stated that they either are not able to, or do not wish to, come out to evening public meetings, the committee discussed the possibility of organising luncheon meetings with speakers. It was agreed that members would be asked how they feel about this suggestion in the next newsletter.

Executive Committee

The Chairman and the Secretary advised the committee that they do not wish to stand for office again in the election of officers that will be held at the next Annual General Meeting.

► STOP PRESS ◀

The Society has written to Pembrokeshire County Council expressing its profound objection to the shop front advertisements on the newly opened USA Fried Chicken Takeaway in Fishguard Square. It was pointed out that the advertisements are not well designed or appropriate to the building and do not enhance the appearance of the building and its surroundings. It was also noted that planning policy states that in conservation areas 'corporate image' designs will be resisted. The Society believes that these garish advertisements are particularly offensive as the building is surrounded by some of the most important historic, listed buildings in the centre of the Fishguard. The letter concluded by asking the Council to take immediate action to require the business concerned to provide more appropriate advertisements.

NOTE TO MEMBERS

*Would you like the Executive Committee
to organise a series of
informal luncheon meetings with speakers?*

*If the idea appeals to you
and you have suggestions about
how such meetings should be organised*

PLEASE CONTACT

**Hatti Woakes, the Society's Secretary, on 01348 874217
or at hatti@woakes.demon.co.uk**

