

Date • Dyddiad
3 April 2012

Your ref • Eich cyfeirnod
P-04-363

My ref • Fy nghyfeirnod
SPJ/PEW

Telephone • Ffôn
01437 775894

Ask for • Gofynnwch am
Dr S P Jones

Email • Ebost
Steven_jones@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

BRYN PARRY-JONES, M.A. (Oxon)
Chief Executive

Prif Weithredwr

Dr STEVEN JONES, B.A.(Hons), D.M.S., M.B.A., Ph.D., M.C.I.M.
Director of Development

Cyfarwyddwr Datblygu

Pembrokeshire County Council,
County Hall, HAVERFORDWEST,
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP

Cyngor Sir Penfro,
Neuadd y Sir, HWLFFORDD,
Sir Benfro, SA61 1TP

DX 98295 HAVERFORDWEST
Telephone 01437 764551

DX 98295 HWLFFORDD
Ffôn 01437 764551



Mr William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly of Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

Mr Powell

Petition: Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard

I refer to your letter of the 7 March addressed to Mr David Popplewell, Development Manager (Area Teams). Mr Popplewell has forwarded the letter to me for reply.

The County Council has a track record of investing in infrastructure and improvements in Fishguard over the last decade. These have included a new leisure centre and outdoor-all-weather pitch, refurbishment of the Town Hall to include a library, Tourist Information Centre and gallery, an up-grade to the Marine Walk (coastal path) and, more recently, a new Junior School.

Following the closure (in 2002) of the Dewhirst Clothing factory the County Council worked in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government, former WDA, and range of other agencies and organisations to develop a Strategic Plan for Fishguard and North Pembrokeshire.

The Strategic Plan envisioned an integrated approach to regeneration that would address the impact of a sudden and significant increase in unemployment and enable the town to develop as a 'hub' in the north of the county; a status that was subsequently confirmed in the Wales Spatial Plan.

A number of the key components of the Strategic Plan are still to be delivered. First, and foremost, is a Marina development and, encouragingly, the County Council will shortly consider a planning application for a development at Fishguard harbour. Secondly, a town centre supermarket (to reduce the level of leakage) and associated access and car parking. Whilst an offer from supermarket developer was accepted in 2007, the development has stalled due, in part, to site assembly issues.

The other key element in the Plan was a new link road that would facilitate a gyratory town centre network and enable improvements to the safety of pedestrians and hopefully the viability and vitality of the town centre.

As the road would form part of the Trunk Road network there has been lengthy negotiations with the Welsh Government over this element of the Strategic Plan. Indeed, at the last meeting of the County Council (22 March 2012) Members were advised that the Welsh Government will not be funding any improvements to the trunk road in Fishguard for the foreseeable future.

The County Council remains committed to the Fishguard Strategy and recognises that, alongside other towns in Pembrokeshire, the retail offer has suffered as a result of the in-combination effects of the recession, out-of-town developments and growth of internet shopping.

The County Council notes (and contributed to) the recent Enterprise and Business Committee study on 'Regeneration of town centres' and trusts the Welsh Government's response will recognise the critical role of hub settlements in both its response and its current Review of Regeneration Policy.

Yours sincerely



Dr S P Jones
Director of Development