NEVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held in Nevern Village Hall with PCNPA Estate Manager Gary Meopham on Wednesday 24th May 2023.

Concerns Nevern Community Councillors and the general public have, as discussed with Mr. Meopham

Traeth Mawr is a unique beach which is suitable for vehicles as the sand is not, and never will be soft and golden. This is not because of the fall of traffic in the summer months, this sand is grey and hard all year round.

The parking in the car parks is totally inadequate for the very few weeks of the year that holiday makers go to Traeth Mawr. It is not ecologically or environmentally sound to enlarge the car parks. It is also not environmentally acceptable to allow cars to drive down to the Traeth Car Park, go round and round looking for a parking space (and as Mr Meopham suggested) go back up the single-track road to somewhere else. Whilst sitting on the beach the cars are not emitting fumes unlike looking and looking for a parking space when there isn’t one.

To close the beach to everyone, bar the emergency vehicles, (which probably wouldn’t be able to get to the Traeth as there would possibly be traffic jams due to cars leaving) is against the Equality Act 2010/ Disability Discrimination Act. To provide more disabled parking spaces and one disabled wheel chair is inadequate. There are approximately 1000 blue badge holders in Pembrokeshire all of whom are entitled to support, this is without the blue badge holders that come here for their holidays. Many of these come to Traeth Mawr because of the accessibility of parking on the beach. If just ten of these people arrived on the Traeth, which is not unheard of and failed to be allowed to park somewhere appropriate or adequate in the car park, we as councillors and human beings with morality and conscience are obliged to accommodate them. The National Parks Officers should think the same.

The Care Act 2014 aims to ensure the wellbeing of people in need of care and support. Well-being or quality of life refers to what is intrinsically valuable relative to someone. For public health purposes, physical well-being is viewed as critical. It is our duty as responsible and caring adults to give the elderly, infirm, or persons suffering mental health issues and others the quality of life they deserve. Many of these people can not walk far, and to sit in or besides their car whilst sitting on the Traeth fulfils this sense of belonging, involvement, self -worth and serenity. To watch the activities on the beach from their seats brings back childhood memories for some, takes the boredom out of their day for many.

There should be a Government Consultation and an Impact Risk Assessment done.

A suggestion was made to put more stanchions up a third of the way up the sand as a compromise.

There has to be access for people with big boats that are not able to launch with a trolley. Traeth Mawr is ideal for this and is a tourist attraction.

There has never been an accident on the beach involving vehicles. Traeth Mawr is one of the safest beaches in Pembrokeshire.

PCNPA is a Public Body and should act as such, enhancing Pembrokeshire and making it accessible for all. Pembrokeshire is a tourist hot spot and people should be made to feel welcome and not ‘locked out’.

PCNPA reasons for closing the beach – The view is in 2023 is not an appropriate use and not practiced in many other places. The environment and visual impact are not enhanced by cars. These are not adequate reasons to close the Traeth in the eyes of the councillors.

**Action Points and Observations for Gary Meophan, as discussed with Nevern Community Councillors on Wednesday 24th May 2023.**

Nevern Community Councillors (NCC) were pleased that PCNP has purchased the strip of land at Traeth Mawr (TM) which should give clear ownership and easier management of the beach and parking area at Newport Beach.

NCC are extremely concerned that PCNP have decided to ban all vehicles from TM, the reason being stated as “*in 2023 is not appropriate to have vehicles parking on the beach in a* *National Park*”. This reason is not logical or well-founded. PCNP should give acceptable reasons, with evidence, to justify this statement.

TM vehicle ban has been done without public consultation; PCNP should arrange proper public consultation to discuss this issue.

PCNP should give consideration to disabled visitors who will be discriminated by TM beach vehicle ban. TM should be accessible to BLUE BADGE holders.

PCNP Traeth Mawr beach parking ban has been introduced without alternative plans for the inevitable traffic chaos that is forecasted during busy summer holiday times. This is bad decision by PCNP. NCC has informed GM that a local land-owner is willing to discuss an alternative parking area in a field close to TM. If beach car ban is enforced, PCNP should investigate alternative parking areas as a matter of URGENCY.

PCNP actions are detrimental to boat owners wishing to launch from TM. Alternative local slipways are already chaotic.

PCNP have the wrong wording on their notice board, it is NOT Newport Beach, it is Traeth Mawr and as such should be rectified immediately.