

## WARD MEMBER CONSULTATION FORM

Directorate	Place
Contact Officer	Arabella Calder, Senior Community Development Officer
Committee	Cabinet
Meeting Date	25/05/2023
Proposal	To inform Cabinet of the outcomes of the three phases of public engagement and consultation on the future development of Penarth Esplanade and to recommend next stages of activity.

As the Local Ward Member I would like to bring to your attention a proposal that relates to a report that will be presented to Cabinet on the above date.

If you have any comments and would like them included under the ward member consultation heading of the report then please submit your comments in the box below.

Thank you for your extensive report. Regrettably I have had little time to assimilate and respond to the many points raised.

Some immediate points do require initial comment:

1. The apparent desire for increased eating facilities on the Esplanade appear to have come from client of the restaurants who were encouraged to comment favourably. The views of Locals and Residents have strong opinions at variance to that desire.
2. Pedestrianisation. This has attracted fierce opposition, with many of those proposing the idea not appreciating the actual practicalities of no vehicles and a very limited bus service. The concept of a Shuttle Service is both impractical, loss making and incapable of meeting occupancy requirements for the (Private Sector) operator.
3. I hear of no appetite for "increased street food" opportunities, If by this visitors mean "Fish & Chips and Junk Food" along the extent of the Esplanade, I for one am against that concept. Barry Island is the preferred resort for such delights for non-Penarthians. Most will agree with me !
4. Infrastructure. I am generally in agreement with the views expressed about the "Planning Issues" and "Decorations" on the Esplanade. I too wish to see the floodlighting restored to the Italian Garden – much missed after more than a decade. As for "Surfacing", that is not a current priority, and any projected spend should be directed elsewhere.
5. The Pier looks in excellent order and does not require any substantial changes at present. The Kymin needs a lot of work to bring it up to a decent standard – concerns are expressed about the current state of the grounds and the buildings' fabrics.
6. Parking. The current system, whilst not ideal, does at least give Disabled,

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Infirm and Elderly visitors the opportunity to park for up to 2 hours in a convenient location. The alternatives of so-called "Active Travel" (i.e. Walking) from either Bridgeman Road, Marine Parade or Cliff Road, are inviting for the active younger person but a major turn-off for the Elderly, who find the gradients just too steep and exhausting for them. As such, they just do not visit the Esplanade, some tell me.

7. In the short time available to me to comment on this report, I would wish to reserve my position until a later date.
8. Thank you.

Anthony M. Ernest

Opposition Spokesman for Environment & Regeneration  
Plymouth Ward of Penarth.

22/5/23

Please return to: Arabella Calder [acalder@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:acalder@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

# WARD MEMBER CONSULTATION FORM

Date: 24/05/2023

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The Esplanade is a popular attraction for many people in both the vale and further afield and enhancements to it would be welcome.

Personally I would welcome seeing a move to a shared space where pedestrians and vehicles can mix safely which would require a very low speed limit with engineering enhancements to provide chicanes to force traffic to slow down. This would have the added benefit of allowing extra planting to further enhance the attractive appearance of The Esplanade.

The Italian Gardens are mentioned and again better lighting and planting would attract more people to this small gem on the seafront.

The Kymin is a knottier problem. The grounds are still an attraction for many though I'm told that a lot of our visitors don't realise it's there. Kymin House is mothballed at present and requires a lot of work and expense to bring it back into productive use. However given its' proximity to the pier and pavilion it seems sensible, to me, to link the two in order to provide wider opportunities to the Pier in their offer

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It's welcome that the Vale of Glamorgan Council now recognise the public support for outdoor seating, but businesses on the Esplanade are being left in limbo.

Recommendation 5 says "that the parking bays currently set aside for trading continue to be used for the same on a month-by-month basis whilst options and potential funding for an appropriate engineering solution for the longer term are considered".

This theme is continued in Recommendation 5 which talks about "the continued temporary use of the Esplanade for street trading".

Those businesses using the parking bays for outdoor seating urgently need long-term certainty and support from the Council, not just a temporary solution. This issue has been going on for quite some time, with those businesses being left in the lurch. Clarity on timescales for when a final decision will be made would be welcome.

Indeed, I and my ward colleague have had informal discussions with senior Council officials just after the local elections in 2022 where these potential long-term solutions were being considered. A year later, this still hasn't happened with the 'month-by-month' approach set to continue.

*Cllr Rhys Thomas*

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