



Julie James MS,
Minister for Climate Change,
Welsh Government,
Via email

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Re: Llandudno North Shore – CRMP funding

Dear Minister, Julie,

I am writing to express my disappointment that The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management branch (FCERM), who I am aware are responsible for managing the Coastal Risk Management Programme (CRMP), appear to have rejected Conwy County Borough Council's (C.C.B.C.) preferred coastal defence improvement programme that would see the replacement of quarry stones from Llandudno's North Shore beach with sand.

From reviewing the public report pack published by C.C.B.C. it has been reported that FCERM have claimed that this option, most supported by residents, visitors and local businesses, "does not appear to provide any additional flood risk management benefits". Llandudno is the Queen of Welsh Resorts, and it remains a travesty and tragedy that our once beautiful beach has been totally devastated by the placement of thousands of tonnes of quarry stones. It remains the case that due to these stones the majority of North Shore remains practically inaccessible to young children, the elderly and the disabled.

It is clear that Llandudno requires additional flood defences to protect it and its residents from the effects of climate change, however, I can see no reason for why a new flood defence programme could not also restore Llandudno's North Shore beach. Only a few miles down the coast, Colwyn Bay and Rhos-on-Sea are both seeing significant amounts of sand being pumped onto their respective beaches for the purpose of improving coastal flooding defences, yet the Welsh Government seem unwilling to carry out a similar scheme in Llandudno.

As I have outlined numerous times in the Siambr, the local tourism and hospitality sector in Aberconwy, especially in Llandudno, is the backbone of our economy, providing thousands of jobs and drawing in significant investment. The return of sand to North Shore would provide a huge boost to this industry, positively impacting the economy right across the region as well as providing much needed coastal defence improvements.

However, once again, it appears that the Welsh Government is not willing to listen to the people of Aberconwy, their elected officials, and the Local Authority's recommendation.

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Given that sand is being used for coastal defence purposes in both Rhos-on-Sea and Colwyn Bay, I would be grateful if you would provide me with an explanation and supporting evidence as to why the FCERM deemed a similar project in Llandudno as not appearing to “provide any additional flood risk management benefits”. This situation has led to the reasonable position that the community is now questioning the apparent inconsistency in approach taken by the Welsh Government.

I would be grateful to receive your comments on this matter and if you could to meet with me on Llandudno’s North Shore Beach so to discuss the situation further and so you can, yourself see the continued impact the quarry stones have on this beautiful sea front.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS