



Penmaenmawr Town Council

Cyngor Tref Penmaenmawr

Maer/Mayor: Cllr Kathryn Beard

Clerc y Dre/Swyddog Ariannol
Town Clerk/Financial Officer
Dr. Martin Hanks
BA(Hons), MA, PhD, ILCA.

A55 Upgrade Team
Order Branch
Transport
Welsh Government
Cathays park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Your Ref: qA1420023

6th May 2021

Dear Sirs

Penmaenmawr Town Council accepts that the A55 upgrade project is a necessity for the A55 to become a safer route. However, we do have concerns about the impact that this significant construction project will have on our town, both in the short term and potentially in the long term.

Our short-term objections are centred around the impact the works will have on the flow of traffic into and out of our town. I doubt you will be able to guarantee that the traffic congestion due to the project will be no worse than we currently experience. Whilst it is frustrating to wait on occasion at the roundabout currently the traffic does move. The waiting times are likely to be significantly increased on commencement of the project. This will impact noticeably on resident's journey time to and from work both for car and bus journeys.

Our long-term objections are centred on the impact this project will have on the economic resilience of our town. Penmaenmawr had for a long time, until recently, been in decline as a retail centre or a tourist destination and although it has benefited from regeneration work in the past it has not benefitted from any recent initiatives to improve the town.

That said the Town Council has over the past 10 years been slowly trying to bring about change to the community through its limited funding capacity. For example, we have employed two civic pride wardens to go around the town picking up litter, we fund a local group that provides us with spectacular floral displays which enhance the area. In addition, we have also paid for the repainting of the veranda and the railings which are an integral part of our local heritage and what makes our town unique.

We have also provided funding for the upgrade of our bus shelters and for some heritage lighting to be used in the town which is more in keeping with our conservation area. We are currently upgrading our promenade, having secured £150,000 of European money. This money will be used to repaint the promenade buildings and render the walls as well as a significant planting programme. This will make the area more attractive to both residents and visitors.

Currently, the housing market in Penmaenmawr is buoyant, and whilst we accept this is due in part to the national market, we also know that the improvements to our town over the past decade

undertaken by the Town Council has made Penmaenmawr a more attractive place to live. There is currently a lot of residential construction projects underway. We are concerned that the A55 upgrade project may disrupt this market particularly if people are put off locating here due to the roadworks. It has taken the town a long time to recover from its decline and we do not want this project to push the town into decline again.

The Town Council is concerned that the impact of this project during construction may undo all the work we have been doing over the past decade to improve our town. The project is likely to take nearly two years to complete and during this time people will be put off coming into our town or moving to our town. We need to make sure that this project does not undermine our fragile economic base.

The Town Council would welcome the opportunity to work with the project sponsors to put in place mitigation measures to ensure that the town will survive these works and the impact of the project can be minimised.

We have listed below some measures that could mitigate:

- All tarmac should be 'quiet tarmac' to help reduce noise pollution – this will help with the noise pollution
- Landscaping measures including wildflower planting (including daffodils) should be placed along the entrances, and within the town – this will help soften the impact of the infrastructure. It is the town council's intention to try to get a 'River of Flowers' leading people into our town.
- Improvements to the town entrances – the Town Council would like to discuss options to place more of a statement to the entrances, perhaps two sculptures depicting our heritage.
- Improvements to the Dwygyfylchi beach area, i.e. clearing, extending the grass area and benches/ picnic tables
- Either a financial contribution or work to be done to improve the existing woodwork of the shops in the town centre to ensure the town can remain a vibrant economic base.
- A financial contribution to the upgrade of the prom as we are currently upgrading it and it will be adversely affected by the construction works (i.e. dust, disruption and putting off visitors from visiting)
- A new improved facility sign to replace the existing one
- New signage to harmonise the existing signage into both Dwygyfylchi and Penmaenmawr as it is one community area.
- Two new bus shelters along the link road to be sighted where the road goes round the Shell Garage – these should be covered shelters to protect people from the weather.
- The cycle path to be widened – we understand from discussions that this is part of the project currently and we wish to support that.
- A community orchard would benefit the town, the Town Council have a site in mind and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this.

The Town Council would welcome discussions with the project sponsors to go through our mitigation measures in more detail.

We look forward to your reply.

Martin Hanks
Town Clerk
On behalf of Penmaenmawr Town Council