

At a **SPECIAL MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 27th March 2013 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, J. May, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, Miss R. Siddall, D. Simmons and P. J. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

96. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I. W. Armstrong (DCC commitment), B. Blakeley (indisposed), Mrs J. Butterfield MBE (DCC commitment) and W. N. Tasker (DCC commitment).

97. PROPOSED CABLESKI ATTRACTION AT MARINE LAKE

Further to Minute No.166 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6th March 2013, the Deputy Mayor welcomed Mrs Carol Evans, Denbighshire County Council's Rhyl Going Forward Principal Officer, and the Applicant Mr Luke Knightly to the meeting and invited them to address Members on the proposed attraction.

Mrs Evans advised that:

- the steel bar and cable clamp would be built into concrete plates that would rest on the bed of the lake with no permanent fixing needed.
- the system is designed to be portable and that installation and removal could be achieved in two days.
- an Independent Environmental Statement had been commissioned which demonstrated "negligible impact" to wildlife.
- a number of responses had been sought from interested groups and statutory consultees including a public consultation and Denbighshire Countryside Services.
- the lake itself is primarily an area set aside for leisure.
- power boats using the lake have considerably more potential to affect the environment through noise, fuel spillage and damage to the lake walls.
- the facility would allow four riders per hour which would result in a maximum of four more car parking spaces used.

- approximately 8% of the lake would be utilised by the cableski system which would be buoyed off safely to ensure existing clubs can continue their activities with no impact on their current timetable.
- some remedial costs to repair the walls around the lake were circa £30,000 which would be contributed to via income generated from the attraction.
- thanks to strong links between recreation and tourism this project would provide an opportunity to develop an under used asset in Rhyl which has a designated leisure use which can benefit both residents and visitors to the County.
- the area has the potential to become a hub of outdoor activity with the Marsh Tracks cycle facility, the BMX Centre and Rhyl Harbour all adjacent to it, which will bring people from far wide to boost the town's revenue.
- the proposal complies with local and national planning policies.

Mrs Evans urged Members to base their decision on the merits of the application in planning terms as there was no significant detriment either to existing users nor to the environment.

In response to Members' questions Mrs Evans and Mr Knightly stated that:

- the system would take a figure of 8 shape supported by two 'A' Frames that would lift the user up rather than pull them forward in the water which was ideal for beginners, and that the user would be controlled from a central point at all times which could be stopped at any time.
- the facility would be 30m from the bank and would be station side because that's where the power supply was. It was not financially viable to extend the supply to the other side of the lake.
- the Covenant dictating no construction did not apply to this area of the lake.
- it was a necessity for there to be a safety boat on the lake at all times.
- if planning permission was granted they hoped to be up and running by Whitsun (mid May 2013).

At the conclusion of the item, the Deputy Mayor thanked Mrs Evans and Mr Knightly for their time.

98. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further items of business the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting of Council closed.

Deputy Mayor:

Date: