

CORRESPONDENCE FILE 2

General Purposes & Planning

14 October 2021

Fw: Motorhome parking at Pensarn

ATC Deputy Clerk <deputyclerk@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>

Mon 11/10/2021 11:21

To: ATC Deputy Clerk <deputyclerk@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>

From: Info <info@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>

Sent: 10 October 2021 16:36

To: Info <info@abergele-towncouncil.co.uk>

Cc: cllr.alan.hunter@conwy.gov.uk <cllr.alan.hunter@conwy.gov.uk>

Subject: Motorhome parking at Pensarn

From: _____
Date: 9 October 2021 at 20:05:00 BST
Subject: Motorhome parking at Pensarn

The Worshipful Mayor of Abergele, Cllr Alan Hunter
Abergele Town Council
Llanddulas Road
Abergele

The Clerk
Abergele Town Council

Members of the General Planning & Policy committee

Annwyl/Dear Faer/Mayor,

The below named residents support my request, for the Town Council, to consider the control of camper van and motor home parking at the Pensarn beach promenade and slip way access to the seashore.

Camper van tourism is increasing in popularity and endows on the occupants a sense of freedom, fresh air, scenery and enjoyment of our beautiful area, diverse communities, the wonder of Gwrych Castle, and the magnificence of the Welsh language.

Pensarn promenade is well frequented by residents and visitors and, the recent refurbishment of Pensarn Station, is a welcome addition to the visitor experience.

Indeed, we should warmly welcome tourists, for they bring economic benefit to the county and, Conwy CBC together with partners, aim to encourage visitors and substantial sums are invested, on their behalf, in the provision of facilities and attractions.

In seeking to achieve the best visitor experience, there is, nevertheless, a balance between unfettered access and the sustainability of our precious coast line and neighbourhoods, which residents hold dear.

Pensarn, along with its Llanddulas neighbour, has experienced the presence, in varying numbers, of camper vans and motorhomes parking overnight. The Covid restrictions on public freedoms, for the safety of all, may have prompted more holidays at home, staycations.

Residents report, in the early morning, seeing upwards of 18 motorhomes on Pensarn beach. Furthermore, witnessing people waiting for morning access to the public toilets and press reporting, with photographs, of motorhomes and awnings parked on the slipway leading to the beach.

Abergele Viewpoint (Facebook) has posted several comments regarding this matter and, one named resident, a daily commuter from Pensarn Station, has observed increasing daily overnight motorhome parking at this location.

Your esteemed colleague, Councillor Keith Eeles, Llanddulas, has reported the long term presence of motorhomes next to the public toilets at Llanddulas and sought assistance from the county council in applying control measures.

The coastal path connection between Pensarn and Llanddulas is appealing to residents and visitors, also to motorhome owners seeking a cosy and unencumbered free pitch next to the seashore.

Across our wonderful county there are a number of approved sites which cater for motorhomes. The web site 'Pitchup' lists 20 such sites in the county, with a charge of between £25 to £30 per night.

Our concerns can be summarised, as follows:

We consider that a small number of camper van and motor home owners enjoy the advantages of...

1. Avoiding payment at approved pitches.
2. The use of public toilets, ablutions and free water.
3. The unverified disposal of sewage and 'grey water' (cooking fat and detergent dish water) leading to environmental degradation (dying grass and plants, greasy and smelly ground).
4. Prime pitches at no cost...in other words...'free loaders.'
5. Circulation by social media to the 'motorvanning' community of free pitches at Pensarn & Llanddulas.
6. Loss of income to legitimate business catering for motorhomes and camping.

The Lake District, in April 2021, introduced a 'motorhome code of conduct'.

The code stipulates...

'Always choose to park in an approved location, book in advance if you can.

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Leave no trace - Take litter away with you, recycle where you can.

Show the environment some love - Dispose of all grey and black waste at official locations with safe and legal facilities. Disposing of waste inappropriately means harmful chemicals can seep into the lakes and waterways. Some of our public toilets aren't on the main sewerage system and chemicals from portable toilets can damage them.'

We've approached Mr Steven Teale, Manager, ERF Services and requested what steps are being taken by the county council to regulate the overnight parking of motorhomes at Pensarn (and Llanddulas) and, we're informed, there is a process to implement a bye-law to control the parking of motorhomes, but this, according to Mr Teale, is taking time.

We're grateful to Councillors McCoubrey, MacRea and neighbour Cllr Eeles, for their support and help in this matter and, if we may, humbly beseech our Town Clerk and Councillors to support and take forward our earnest considerations and resolve to ask our county council to implement the necessary control measures by the Spring of 2022.

Thank you.

Yn/Yours ddiffuant/sincerely,

Mewn/In cefnogaeth/support:

E
J
R : C

PLUS 2 ADDITIONAL NAMES RECEIVED 11th OCTOBER.
NAMES ON APPLICATION TO CLERK.
Sent from my iPad