



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 30 November 2020**

### **Port Eynon Report**

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group should note that the following briefing was sent to the relevant Community Councils, Councillor Richard Lewis and other community contacts on Friday 20 November. The briefing provides an update on project work at Port Eynon.

Chris Lindley Gower AONB Team Leader

#### **PORT EYNON BRIEFING NOTE**

Following a Feasibility Study for Port Eynon and Horton in 2018, Swansea Council has considered the issues that the report describes and the subsequent recommendations. In summary, the study found that Port Eynon appears neglected and under-resourced and continues to deteriorate, with the village coming under considerable visitor pressure during the height of the season. Locally, the study found that there is some appetite for a proposed new centre that could solve many of the main issues identified at Port Eynon, notably those relating to the management of the car park, the condition of the toilets, and boat launching procedures on the slipway. A number of connected issues and recommendations are also identified for the village of Horton.

Swansea Council is following up on the study's recommendations, and is considering a range of improvements that are likely to focus on the following areas:

- Car parks – improvements to layout, pay stations and public realm
- Improvements to the Port Eynon seafront road layout and disabled parking/ drop-off point
- Port Eynon beachfront landscaping
- Improved disabled access to Port Eynon beach
- Rationalising RNLI lifeguard facilities on Port Eynon beach
- Interim improvements to toilets & changing facilities
- Electronic /Smart controls for boat launching/slipway access
- Rationalisation of public information and instruction signage
- Clearer demarcation of dog- friendly/-free zones and facilities
- Improving pedestrian access to - and interpretation of - the beach, dunes, Wales Coast Path, villages, built heritage and biodiversity features (e.g. Port Eynon Salthouse)

As a key part of this work, Swansea Council has appointed architects - 'Rural Office for Architecture Ltd' - to develop a Concept Design for a new beach/community centre building in Port Eynon. The commission is supported by a Sustainable Development Fund grant from the Gower AONB Partnership.

Starting next week (from Monday 23 November), there will be people undertaking preliminary survey and assessment work in and around the car park in Port Eynon; the information collected will be used in the design development.

Community engagement and consultation is key to a successful design outcome, and we want to keep stakeholders and the community informed and interested in the proposals. Given the Covid-19 restrictions, we will be using some on-line consultation methods; however, we are also keen to use site visits or small group gatherings to discuss the project and present proposals at key stages. We are planning to start these in early December, and we will be back in touch nearer the time with further details of how these will work.

For further information or queries, please contact:

[cultural.services@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cultural.services@swansea.gov.uk)