



Report of James Chambers & Roger Button

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 29 June 2020

COVID 19 Restrictions and Visitor Behaviour

All being well, we are emerging from the first wave of the current pandemic and we are all hopeful of a vaccine in the near future.

As lockdown unravels, with holidays abroad complicated by quarantine measures and an absence of local controls, Gower (amongst other rural areas) is a playground for those who just want to get out.

Granted, we have had an exceptionally dry and warm spring (which may or may not be consistent with climate change), but in recent weeks Gower has been victim to significant littering (hedgerows and beaches), indiscriminate parking and public fowling (where car parks are open, but toilet facilities not), by people from outside of the area (therefore in contravention of pandemic travel restrictions) all of which have increased risks (cross infection/contamination and reduced access for emergency responders) to the local communities.

Are there measures, which the group can discuss or recommend, to help limit the potential damage and vandalism of the environment in the AONB and improve the safety of communities within it whilst the pandemic is prevalent?

James Chambers & Roger Button