

The Tree Sculpture.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that my views feed into the council's discussion on this important issue this evening. Basically, I would like to reiterate what I have said previously. I don't have any particular concerns about a new sculpture being sited in, or near, the village. In fact, a well crafted and attractive sculpture of a tree could be rather nice - so long as it was not too large and imposing! However, I do have some concerns about the proposal as it stands. These are summarised below:

- **There seem to be no practical or 'public benefit' justifications for siting the sculpture on the beach.** The beach is a largely natural environment. Where there are man-made structures on the beach they are there for practical reasons; reasons that are of general public benefit. There is no reason why *Tree* could not be sited elsewhere. The beach is an important wildlife habitat - and one that has already suffered significant disruption in recent years.
- **Economic benefits / tourism.** It seems highly unlikely that anticipated economic / tourism benefits would be entirely negated by siting *Tree* somewhere less contentious. It would probably need to be a rather smaller and less imposing sculpture, but a scaled down version of *Tree* could surely be sited somewhere along the sea wall, perhaps just beyond the golf club. I suspect the project would enjoy much stronger support if the artist were willing to consider such a compromise.
- **Accessibility as a consideration.** From a tourism perspective, there could be distinct advantages to siting the sculpture somewhere other than on the beach itself - somewhere more accessible!
- **Safety issues.** A number of people have expressed concerns about the possibility that children might climb up this sculpture. When the tide is out this would be impossible, but when the tide is in I suspect that children would be attracted to it and this may well lead to accidents.
- **Rubbish and debris.** Although Rob has tried to address this particular problem in his design I think it is still problematic. Even with the tree's branches bent away from the prevailing wind, it seems inevitable to me that it would attract and trap seaweed and rubbish swept in with the tides.

This proposal is causing a lot of concern in the village and, as far as I can see, there is very little support for it in its current form. Several people have expressed concerns about the proposed siting of a large permanent sculpture on the beach. There is a strong sense that the beach should not be directly impacted by this public art project. If the tree was a temporary installation then perhaps there would be less contentious. As things stand, however, I think it is important that the community council does not offer formal support for it in the face of such strong local opposition. So, in summary, I think Rob might be encouraged to adjust his concept / plans a little. This could be a good project but as it stands it is both impractical and too contentious.

Clr N Salmon.

stumps visible

Engineering, damages and costs

It is not understood from the information provided what the effect of torsion may be on the proposed development, how would it fare from non-prevailing wave or winds acting on branches and the base, potentially rotating and shearing the tree from its base. Has this been considered by the design?

The metal railings put on the Borth outfall and the shipping buoy on the reef have both been torn away during strong sea conditions demonstrating that damage and repairs may be incurred. Have wind and wave loadings been included in the calculations?

It is not clear who will be responsible, or pay for, any maintenance or repairs for visual or safety reasons should they occur, nor who is responsible for its removal at the end of its life.

Objection to application A170264 in its current inter tidal location.

Clr Julie Hulse.

Chair Borth Community Council.

<p>Review (GCR) site (SN630912) nationally important for materials and geological landscape features.</p>	
<p>LANDMAP Outstanding Visual & Sensory CRDGNVS466 Including the landscape qualities; Attractive, Tranquil, Exposed, Remote, Wild.</p>	<p>Key qualities recommended to be conserved include tranquility, wildness and openness. The nature of this proposed metal structure in this location would reduce visual tranquility and the quality of the natural environment in contributing to wildness and openness. There is concern that the structure may collect debris that would be a detractor in an otherwise attractive landscape.</p>
<p>LANDMAP Outstanding Historic Landscape CRDGNHL035 Recognised as a largely natural landscape in good condition and of Outstanding rarity, a unique landscape type in Ceredigion.</p>	<p>The Outstanding Integrity is due to little modern development/intrusion to hinder the visibility of the overall landscape and its patterns, this proposed development in this location would be an intrusion to this largely natural landscape. The Outstanding potential for landscape interpretation and recreation of this landscape is recognised however and this proposal could contribute to this very well in a different location.</p>
<p>LANDMAP Outstanding Landscape Habitat CRDGNLH002 Dyfi SSSI and Special Area Conservation (SAC): Pen llyn ar Samau covering Borth waters</p>	<p>Implications for the SAC and SSSI would need to be considered.</p>
<p>LANDMAP Moderate Cultural Landscape CRDGNCL005</p>	<p>This development may contribute to enhancing cultural associations. This may be the case even if it was in the terrestrial environment.</p>
<p>Marine Character Area MCA 15 CARDIGAN BAY (NORTH) & ESTUARIES Recognised as an area of exceptional interest and nationally important scenic beauty</p>	<p>Recognised that the landscape and seascape has attracted people for centuries, significant for leisure activities and that the mainstay of the local economy is coastal and marine tourism. This development may contribute to visitor numbers in a very positive way and this would be very much welcomed. However, this may also be the case if it was located off the beach with a carefully constructed setting that would be accessible to many, visually acceptable and could contribute to a sense of place in Borth and potentially a sense of arrival in the built environment that would link to the history of the natural environment.</p>
<p>Publication 'Borth Coastal Defence Scheme: Phase 1, Borth, Ceredigion. Archaeological Watching Brief (2012). Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Report No. 2012/13, Event Project No. 102640' Identifies that the northern end of Borth beach, towards Ynyslas has extensive remains of a submerged forest, with a fairly dense layout of tree</p>	<p>The proposed development would be in the very location that has significant remains of peat deposits from an archaeological, palaeo-environmental and geological aspect.</p>

Planning application A170264

This is a well prepared and presented application. The breadth of consultations that the applicant has approached is very good, although their comments are not known.

The flyer associated with this application for social media depicts a very different development to the one in the planning application, the design and scale submitted to planning is quite different. Some people have not been aware that it is 9 metres high (in comparison to a 5.5 metre groyne marker) and there seems to be diverse understanding on how long it will remain.

The following comments review this application in the context of specific planning policies and relevant information to aid decision making.

Policy, Plan or Report**Relevance to A170264**

Ceredigion County Council Local Development Plan Policy DM18. Proposals for development within Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) will be assessed in relation to scale and nature of development and their ability to be accommodated without significant damage to, and where possible the enhancement of, the valued visual, historic, geological, ecological and cultural characteristics of the SLA.

At 9 metres the scale could not be accommodated in this location without significant damage to the visual amenity to the high quality and sensitivity of the landscape resource and the highly sensitive receptors of this location by people using the beach and the Wales Coast Path.

Ceredigion Heritage Coast Borth to Clarach.
A stretch of the finest undeveloped coast in Wales

A key aim is containing development on the coast, particularly relevant will be to conserve an undeveloped foreshore whilst still encouraging access and enjoyment. Whilst a key aim of this development proposal is to encourage more enjoyment, siting the development in this location may be at the expense of other valued attributes associated with a lack of development.

Ceredigion County Council Supplementary Planning Guidance: Special Landscape Areas SLA 1: Dyfi Estuary and Valley
Dynamic landscape reflecting its tidal nature. Sense of wilderness, low horizon open skies. Recommendations include: Ensure open, wild character is maintained through careful control of development. Control pressures for increased tourism and recreational developments

This application proposes to introduce an element that would be discordant to the landscape and seascape character of the Special Landscape Area SLA1. Its current positioning would sharply interrupt views and break up the sense of openness and wilderness. This development would go against the policy recommendations of maintaining the characteristics of SLA1 in this location.

Planning Policy Wales (Ed. 9 2016) Section 5.3.13 LANDMAP in landscape decision making
LANDMAP Outstanding Geological Landscape CRDGNGL003 Nationally important for the extensive Holocene submerged forest c.200m wide around low water mark.
Ynyslas and Borth Geological Conservation

Principal management recommendation includes no significant loss of SSSI features and to ensure that features of geological significance are not lost/damaged due to development. This proposed development is in an area that features the nationally valued embedded forest, peat deposits and individual tree stumps and trunks.