

**A COMMUNITY APPROACH
TO DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR HIRAEI BAY, BANGOR**

2010 | Grwp Hirael Bae

What we Value

- Open views along the Straits toward Beaumaris
- Views from Garth across the Bay toward the Penrhyn Arms Park with the mountains in the distance
- Football matches
- Walking along the promenade
- Birdlife in the Bay
- Access to the beach
- The changing mood between low and high tide
- The atmosphere and public access to the boatyard
- Skilled jobs for local people in the marine businesses and other port workshops
- Access to the port and Lon Las
- Garth Gardens
- The Pier
- The playground by the pier

What we would like improved

- The landscaping in the public area along beach road
- The pumping station needs upgrading to stop the frequent overflow of sewage into the Bay
- Cycle and walking links from the Pier to the city centre
- Community and visitor interest around the Pier
- More information on the history, heritage and wildlife of the Bay

What opportunities can we see

- A beautiful, sustainable and visionary community building for the Dickies site, that provides the facilities and services needed by the people of Bangor, including our young people
- A promenade that links the Pier to the Port.
- A ferry or amphibious bus link to Beaumaris and Menai Bridge
- Water sports for local young people
- A space for markets and out door events
- Well maintained public parkland
- A slow light rail or tramway linking the Pier, the Port and the city centre

What do we fear

- Being left powerless while what we cherish is changed and lost to visions we don't share
- Environmental damage
- Losing views
- Losing access
- Hiraal Bay becoming another fake Riviera
- Flooding
- Loss of heritage
- More badly paid low skill jobs in care and hospitality
- The endless dispiriting process of sacrificing that which is beautiful for a vision of progress that doesn't work and is so closely associated with climate change and other environmental harm.

A Community Approach is Best for the Economy

Bangor as a university town or as a place to invest has few obvious advantages other than it happens to be in probably the most beautiful setting for a city in the whole of the British Isles. The future of the economy of Bangor and the Menai area is to capitalise on this and make the quality of life available second to none. Land has been allocated in the west of the city for housing. The university has more land than it needs. There are excellent opportunities to build hotels in the centre of the city close to the railway station. Land has been allocated for all the business park space that will be needed for years to come.

The missing element to Bangor's future and success is the creation of beautiful spaces for people and the development of the infrastructure for creative approaches to low carbon living. It is not for the council or big business to take this work forward. It is the work of the people of this place. We must be given the freedom and the resources to resolve our community and cultural differences so that we can imprint on this city the values that we share. When we have done this, and only then, will our young people choose to stay here and businesses that support a positive green vision be attracted to invest here.

If there is a genuine intention to invest in creating a good environment for business, the process of encouraging the community to take a confident leading role should start with the designation of land on the Dickies site for a Sustainable Community Enterprise Centre. It is envisaged that the new centre would reflect the values and aspirations of local people to see Bangor emerge as a leading regional focus for innovation, creativity and environmental sustainability.

Gwynedd Council, the Welsh Assembly Government and their private and public sector partners ask us to trust in their schemes. Just for a change why don't they trust in ours? It's a vision thing – who's got it!