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## Hydro-environmental Research Centre

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To Whom It May Concern

13<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Ref: 'Low Carbon Communities Challenge': Application to Extend Y Morfa Leisure Centre, Kinmel Bay, as a Two-Storey Refuge

Having been associated for nearly three years with my friend Dr Stuart Anderson, the lead contact for the above application, in a healthy cross-fertilisation of ideas and approaches I am delighted to be able to recommend his proposal as being credible.

As a professional hydraulic engineer with a life-time special interest in coastal matters, I would draw the judges' attention particularly to the analysis of online summary responses on the last page of this application, which makes the somewhat disturbing observation of a relatively low level of interest from coastal communities - apparently down by a factor of around three times as against inland interest.

Whether this lack of interest comes from denial, deprivation or a sense of helplessness in the face of the magnitude of the changes to be faced up to now on behalf of future generations, I am convinced that DECC should seriously consider the views of Dr Anderson. Stuart Anderson is well versed in the art of honest persuasion, as well as that of long term disaster recovery, in overcoming some of these barriers and helping turn negatively framed threats into positively thought-out opportunities, so that many more of our coastal communities can start to feel part of the climate change solution rather than of the problem.

If the first step in any journey is the most important then maybe history will say that to build a safe refuge for a coastal infants' school that was flooded one generation ago was indeed that very first step.

I would like meanwhile to congratulate those who have put together this competition, with its novel approaches towards the encouragement of collaboration, and likely benefits in terms of making a career in the engineering profession more exciting to young people.

I look forward to visiting the Secretary of State on 13<sup>th</sup> January with my colleague Professor Richard Burrows from Liverpool, as well as Dr Anderson himself, when doubtless some of these issues will arise in the discussion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger A. Falconer', is written over a light green rectangular background.

Professor Roger A. Falconer FREng  
Halcrow Professor of Water Management  
Director Hydro-environmental Research Centre

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