

## **PLOTTING OUT SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT 'PLOTLAND' - some notes on Refs B2-B7.**

Being involved firsthand in a disaster like Towyn 1990 can give one a curious, yet paradoxically detached, feeling of connection with past and future.

It is as if the doors of perception are either shut tight closed through denial, or opened up far more widely by acceptance, of the enormity of what has just happened.

Thus the very last sentence in my review looking back at the Ice Age origins of the area (Ref B3), also ended up stating that 'last year's flood disaster was a sharp reminder of the sea's terms for development on Morfa Rhuddlan – i.e. renewable lease not permanent freehold, ultimately depending as much or more upon changing patterns of energy consumption as upon changing attitudes to flood defence'.

Two decades later it is hard to add or subtract much from this. So why any argument?

The problem is of political disconnection - even built into the commentary (Ref B4) on 'The Coming Seaside Garden City of Wales' that decks Kinmel Bay out in lurid green as a 'beautiful area of perfectly level land....adjoining but divided from the popular seaside resort of Rhyl'.

And yet the simplicity of the Great Plotlands Romance still lives on here.....

Can we, like TCPA's Colin Ward (Ref B7) really hope for all those private dreams to find a new place in this century's landscape?

Put it another way, if offshore it was something like oil that had been found, to be stored somewhere and used straight away to help pay government taxes aplenty, would the WAO still be arguing for residents to abandon the area? Even before the size of the oil well had been properly studied?

One doubts this - especially if it was in effect an oil-well that like the Biblical widow's cruise refilled itself indefinitely.

If the SRA process is to have any meaning, the area surely needs a deliberate effort to reconnect the towns both with each other and with the sea itself, in the process interrogating patently self-contradictory planning notions...

Like being content only to countenance planning for sea level rises of less than a metre within 90-100 years while ignoring that **ALL**, not just some, of the stops may need to be pulled out to prevent it becoming several metres.

They're silly, those poor people living in Kinmel Bay, aren't they? It just can't be sustainable, can it?

But then what about Dubai, too, when the oil runs out?