Petitions Committee

PET(3)-12-09 Paper 2: 22 September 2009

Updates on previous petitions

This paper provides a list of updates received to petitions previously considered by the Committee. Many of these updates have been received as correspondence. Where relevant, copies of correspondence are appended to this paper as PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(i) P-03-088 Rural Bus Services, Taliesin

Petition wording

We the undersigned, are concerned about climate change and are keen to reduce our carbon emissions. Unfortunately the bus services connecting our village (Tre Taliesin) to our local towns Aberystwyth and Machynlleth are infrequent and expensive and make commuting by car virtually obligatory.

We urge the National Assembly to invest more in regular, affordable bus services in rural Wales, as we believe the lack of an integrated public transport system is one of the greatest hindrances to the development of a sustainable society in Wales.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-88.htm

Petition raised by: Ms P C Henderson

Number of signatures: 27

Previously considered by the Committee on: 6 March 2008, 8 May 2008, 25 June 2008.

Update: This petition was last considered on 25 June 2008.

(ii) P-03-098 Abolishing the school name 'Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen'

Petition wording

We understand that the Assembly has found in favour of the Rhondda Cynon-Taf Education Authority's action in changing the name of Ysgol Gyfun Rhydyfelen, and of the methods used to bring about this change.

We find this to be a matter of disappointment and consternation. The decision has far-reaching obligations with respect to the powers and rights of school governing bodies in general. It also, of course, ratifies the Authority's ill founded and unwarranted decision to eliminate a school name which has had such prominence in the history of Welsh education, and in doing so, to flout the opinion consistently expressed by the school's governors, parents, pupils, through the School council, and staff.

We understand that Lord Gwilym Prys Davies has already contacted the members of the Petitions Committee. We wish to support his request for a speedy amendment of the relevant legislation, whereby the right to change the name of a school is returned to governors

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-98.htm

Petition raised by: Mr Emlyn Penny-Jones

Number of signatures: 25

Previously considered by the Committee on: 31 January 2008, 10 April 2008 and 19 May 2009.

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(iii) P-03-099 Multi user pathway at Talybont-on-Usk

Petition wording

We the undersigned ask the National Assembly for Wales to provide a non-motorised multi-user track alongside the A40 between the picnic lay by at Bwlch to the new junction at Talybont-on-Usk, thus creating a safe link between the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons Rights of Way network.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-99.htm

Petition raised by: Lucienne Bennett

Number of signatures: 18

Previously considered by the Committee on: 21 February 2008, 8 May 2008, 31 March 2009, 19 May 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Deputy First Minister and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(iv) P-03-137 Hypothyroidism in Wales

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the non-diagnosis and mismanagement of hypothyroidism in Wales with a view to producing recommendations to rectify this situation.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-137.htm

Petition raised by: Dr Sarah Myhill

Number of signatures: 1433

Previously considered by the Committee on: 16 October 2008, 20 November 2008, 10 February 2009, 5 May 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: Updates from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the petitioner have been received, and are attached as part of PET(3)-12-09 Paper 2A.

(v) P-03-157 Coleg Ffederal Cymraeg

Petition Wording

We call upon the Assembly Government to keep its 'One Wales' agreement promise of establishing a Welsh-language Federal College. A Federal College must include the following elements:

Statutory status and an independent constitution

An independent charter and terms of reference that includes responsibility for all Welsh-language higher education in Wales

An independent funding stream - at least £20 million in the first instance

An independent register of students, that will ensure that students register with the Federal College and with their geographic college, leading to a feeling of belonging and ownership of it

Anything less than a full combination of the above will break the promise. We call upon the Government to reconsider its plans if the above are not part of them.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-157.htm

Petition raised by: Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg

Number of signatures: 977

Previously considered by the Committee on: 9 July 2008, 2 October 2008, 6 November 2008 and 13 January 2009

Update: The Committee wrote to the petitioner following the meeting on 13 January 2009. To date, no response has been received.

(vi) P-03-170 MENCAP Cymru

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Assembly Commission and the Welsh Assembly Government to take a lead in employing more people with a learning disability, and to encourage other public sector employers, such as the NHS and Local Authorities, to employ more people with a learning disability

Only 1 in 10 people with a learning disability who want to work are in any form of paid employment. This is unfair.

Link to petition: http://assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-170.htm

Petition raised by: MENCAP Cymru

Number of signatures: 134

Previously considered by the Committee on: 13 January 2009, 10 February 2009, 19 May 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: An update has been received from the petitioners, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(vii) P-03-172 Restore the Swansea-Cork Ferry

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to encourage, in every way possible, the early restoration of the Swansea/Cork Ferry. We believe it will have tangible economic and social benefits to both economies.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-172.htm

Petition raised by: John Hosford

Number of signatures: This petition was raised by John Hosford and collected 29 signatures. In excess of 1,500 signatures and statements of support have been collected on the petitioner's website calling for the restoration of this ferry route.

Previously considered by the Committee on: 16 October 2008, 4 December 2008, 27 January 2009, 31 March 2009, 5 May 2009 and 19 June 2009

Update: Updates from the Deputy First Minister have been received, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(viii) P-03-179 Post 19 Students with Additional Learning Needs

Petition wording

We the undersigned request that the National Assembly for Wales address the issues that are facing 19+ students who have complex physical and learning disabilities. For students who do not wish to attend residential, there is no appropriate College in Wales for them to attend that can meet their complex needs.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-179.htm

Petition raised by: Julie Prosser

Number of signatures:10

Previously considered by the Committee on: 06 November 2008, 13 January 2009, 10 February 2009 and 19 May 2009.

Update: The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills laid a <u>written response</u> to the <u>Enterprise and Learning</u> <u>Committee's report on this petition</u> on 17 June 2009. She has accepted the Enterprise and Learning Committee's recommendations in principle. A Plenary debate on the report was held on <u>24 June 2009</u>.

(ix) P-03-203 Further education for young people with complex impairments

Petition wording

Scope Cymru calls upon the Welsh Assembly Government to provide co-located further education provision for young people with complex impairments on the campuses of existing mainstream further education colleges across multiple sites in Wales.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-203.htm

Petition raised by: Scope Cymru

Number of signatures: 1

Previously considered by the Committee on: 31 March 2009 and 19 May 2009

Update: The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills laid a <u>written response</u> to the <u>Enterprise and Learning</u> <u>Committee's report on this petition</u> on 17 June 2009. She has accepted the Enterprise and Learning Committee's recommendations in principle. A Plenary debate on the report was held on <u>24 June 2009</u>.

(x) P-03-181 Pernicious Anaemia

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to recognise that the diagnosis and treatment of Pernicious Anaemia does not take into account the individual needs of patients and that the patient experience of managing the condition is often affected detrimentally because of this. We, the undersigned, demand that the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of Pernicious Anaemia be centred on the needs of the individual in order that the dignity and rights of sufferers of the disease be protected.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-181.htm

Petition raised by: The Pernicious Anaemia Society

Number of signatures: 20

Previously considered by the Committee on: 19 May 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: An update has been received from the petitioner, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xi) P-03-182 European Funding

Petition wording

Through this petition, we the undersigned call upon the National Assembly Enterprise and Learning Committee to launch an investigation into the economic use of the European funding received by Wales since 2000 and into the proposed mechanisms for delivery of the Convergence funds in 2007-14.

In particular we are concerned with conflicting strategies, such as the ability of both WAG and Local Authorities to act as both Judge and Jury, whilst at the same time competing with the private sector for these scarce resources.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-182.htm

Petition raised by: T Wyn Price

Number of signatures: 39 directors of business in West Wales.

Previously considered by the Committee on: 20 November 2008 and 13 January 2009.

Update: The Deputy First Minister laid a <u>written response</u> to the <u>Enterprise and Learning Committee's report on this petition</u> on 24 June 2009. A Plenary debate on the report was held on <u>1 July 2009</u>.

(xii) P-03-183 Improving rail services in Aberystwyth

Petition wording

We, the students of Coleg Ceredigion ask the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to improve the rail service in Aberystwyth.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/dogfennau-busnes-deisebau/p-03-183.htm

Petition raised by: Pupils of Coleg Ceredigion

Number of signatures: 10

Previously considered by the Committee on: 20 November 2008, 13 January 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: Updates have been received from the Deputy First Minister and Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xiii) P-03-188 Special Care Baby Unit

Petition wording

We the undersigned are protesting against the downgrading of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital SCBU from a level 3 intensive care unit to a level 2 High dependency unit.

Whilst we understand the need to ensure that staffing levels are adequate and that staff are appropriately qualified in order to ensure patient safety we deplore the lack of investment that has led to this situation.

We are therefore seeking assurances that the downgrade will only be temporary and will be for as short a period as possible, and that the Royal Glamorgan SCBU will be reinstated to a full Level 3 Intensive Care Unit.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-188.htm

Petition raised by: Zoe Walters

Number of signatures: 22

Previously considered by the Committee on: 20 November 2008, 13 January 2009, 10 February 2009, 5 May 2009 and 9 June 2009.

Update: An update from the Minister for Health and Social Services has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xiv) P-03-197 Save The Vulcan

Petition wording

Built in 1853, The Vulcan Hotel in Adam Street is one of Cardiff's oldest pubs. It is scheduled for demolition in June 2009 to make way for a multi-storey car park and flats. Please help make the developers incorporate The Vulcan into their designs and stop this

unnecessary vandalism of Cardiff culture and history.

There is talk of moving the pub to St Fagan's Museum but The Vulcan doesn't belong in a museum; it belongs where it has been for 155 years - the heart of Cardiff.

We, the undersigned, believe that The Vulcan Hotel is worth more to Cardiff standing than demolished, and worth more where it stands than in a museum. We urge the developers to respect Cardiff's culture and history and preserve this historic building on its present site

We also urge Cardiff Council and the Welsh Assembly Government to use all their power to ensure that The Vulcan remains where it is at the heart of Cardiff.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-197.htm

Petition raised by: Rachel Thomas

Number of signatures: 5,000

Previously considered by the Committee on: 02 March 2009, 17 March 2009, 5 May 2009, 19 May 2009, 9 June 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: Updates have been received from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing and the Welsh Local Government Association, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xv) P-03-200 The Glamorganshire Canal

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to support the creation of a Glamorganshire Canal historical trail from Merthyr to Cardiff Bay, indicating the major locations en route and other historical sites in proximity to the Canal e.g. Hamadryad Hospital Ship, as a means of encouraging interest in the regional history, tourism and providing an interesting and challenging walking and cycling trail.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-200.htm

Petition raised by: John Williams

Number of signatures: 14

Previously considered by the Committee on: 19 May 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xvi) P-03-202 Education Maintenance Allowance

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to recognise young people over 16 years are considered to be adult by their parents and so their parents' income should not be taken into account when assessing eligibility for Education Maintenance Allowance. They should base it on an individual's income.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-202.htm

Petition raised by: Catrin Anne Davies

Number of signatures: 272

Previously considered by the Committee on: 17 March 2009, 31 March 2009, 5 May 2009 and 23 June 2009

Update: The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills laid a <u>written response</u> to the <u>Enterprise and Learning</u> <u>Committee's report on this petition</u> on 9 July 2009. She has accepted the Enterprise and Learning committee's recommendations in principle.

(xvii) P-03-206 Free swimming all year round

Petition wording

The Youth club of Ammanford Junior Gateway would like to ask if you would sign our petition which will be submitted to the Welsh Assembly and the local council.

For free all year round swimming Facilities for children and young people.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-206.htm

Petition raised by: Ammanford Gateway Club

Number of signatures: 562

Previously considered by the Committee on: 05 May 2009 and 19 May 2009

Update: Updates have been received from the Audit Committee, the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for

Heritage, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xviii) P-03-207 Support for the unemployed in Monmouth

Petition wording

We, the undersigned urge the Welsh Assembly Government to investigate how to provide support and effective information to people in Wales, who are looking for employment, training or trying to initiate a business enterprise, locally.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-207.htm

Petition raised by: Monmouth Town Council Community Affairs Committee

Number of signatures: 286

Previously considered by the Committee on: 31 March 2009, 19 May 2009, 23 June 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: Updates have been received from the Deputy Minister for Skills and Job Centre Plus, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(ixx) P-03-209 Abolish top-up fees in Wales

Petition wording

Cymru X calls upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to abolish tuition fees for Welsh domiciled students studying at Welsh higher education institutions.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-209.htm

Petition raised by: Cymru X **Number of signatures:** 30

Previously considered by the Committee on: 9 June 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xx) P-03-212 Traffic Relief for St Asaph

Petition wording

I agree that St Asaph needs a North/South relief road.

Link to petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-212.htm

Petition raised by: St Asaph Town Council

Number of signatures: 5000+

Previously considered by the Committee on: 5 May 2009 and 23 June 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Deputy First Minister and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xxi) P-03-213 Abandon the Badger Cull (Secret World Wildlife Rescue petition)

Petition wording

We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to abandon its proposed cull of badgers as part of its Bovine TB Eradication programme. This is in the light of overwhelming evidence of sound science which has been peer reviewed from the Independent Scientific Group. This quite clearly states 'that badger culling can make no meaningful contribution to cattle TB'

Join our campaign - stop the cull!

 $\textbf{Link to the petition:} \ \underline{\text{http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-213.htm}$

Petition raised by: Secret World Wildlife Rescue

Number of signatures: 14098

Previously considered by the Committee on: 5 May 2009 and 23 June 2009.

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Rural Affairs, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A. In addition, a new petition has been received on the same issue from the RSPCA and is summarised below:

(xxii) P-03-235 Abandon the Badger Cull (RSPCA petition)

Petition wording

Please sign the petition today and voice your protest against the Welsh Assembly Government's decision to cull badgers in Wales part of a strategy to tackle bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in Cattle.

The RSPCA is shocked by the decision to cull badgers but welcomes the plans to increase cattle testing and biosecurity.

The Independent Scientific Group (ISG) supervised a badger culling trial in England, which took 10 years, cost £34 million, and the lives of nearly 11000 badgers. The research found that culling badgers alters the social behaviour of remaining badgers which, in turn, increases the risk of the disease spreading to other badgers and to cattle. Only by wiping out badgers over very extensive areas might this increased risk of disease be avoided. The ISG concluded that culling badgers on such a scale was not a feasible control option, because of logistical, economic, legal, environmental and welfare concerns.

Petition raised by: RSPCA

Number of signatures: 304

(xxiii) P-03-217 National Library of Wales - Saturday Opening

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to ensure that sufficient funds are provided to the National Library of Wales, to enable the NLW to reverse its decision to close on Saturdays from the 1st of April 2009. The only day of the week which the working, enthusiastic, amateur researcher can visit the library.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-217.htm

Petition raised by: Nicholas Davey

Number of signatures: 93

Previously considered by the Committee on: 9 June 2009

Update: Updates have been received from the Minister for Heritage and the National Library of Wales, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xxiv) P-03-220 Lower the speed limit on the A40 near Abergavenny

Petition wording

Petition to the Welsh Assembly:

In order for pedestrians to be able to walk in safety, we feel it is imperative that the 40 mph speed limit on the A40 between the Hardwick round-a-bout and Plas Derwen Way be lowered to at least 30 mph.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-220.htm

Petition raised by: Councillor Maureen Powell

Number of signatures: 220

Previously considered by the Committee on: 19 May 2009 and 7 July 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Deputy First Minister, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xxv) P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment

Petition wording

We the Cynon Valley 50 plus Older People's Forum wish to present a petition for improved Chiropody Service (footcare) to be available on the NHS especially for Older People who are housebound in the RCT area:

Please sign our petition

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-221.htm

Petition raised by: Cynon Valley 50 plus Older People's Forum

Number of signatures: 49

Previously considered by the Committee on: 9 June 2009

Update: Updates have been received from Cwm Taf NHS Trust, the Minister for Health and Social Services and the petitioner, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xxvi) P-03-224 Stepping Stones Nursery

Petition wording

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly for Wales to intervene to halt the closure of the Stepping Stones Nursery on the Ebbw Vale campus of Coleg Gwent.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-224.htm

Petition raised by: Brian Walters

Number of signatures: 20 (in addition, the petitioner collected 1000+ signatures for an associated petition)

Previously considered by the Committee on: 9 June 2009

Update: Updates have been received from the Deputy Minister for Regeneration and the Deputy Minister for Skills, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xxvii) P-03-226 Sands - The stillbirth and neonatal death charity

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to:

- 1. Take note of the new Saving Babies' Lives Report 2009, published by Sands in support of its Why 17? Campaign
- 2. Develop a strategy for reducing levels of stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Wales
- 3. Fund further research to improve understanding of why stillbirths and neonatal deaths happen
- 4. Develop gold standard antenatal care provision in all NHS Trusts in Wales
- 5. Work with Sands to improve public awareness of these issues

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-226.htm

Petition raised by: Sands - The stillbirth and neonatal death charity

Number of signatures: 816

Previously considered by the Committee on: 7 July 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xxviii) P-03-231 Proximity of wind turbines to residential dwellings

Petition wording

We ask the Assembly to review the current position on the proximity of wind turbines to homes, which is now 500m. (see para. 3.4, Annex D of TAN8).

We would ask that the minimum distance be 2KMs as in Scotland.

Besides problems of noise, there have been many accidents and the closeness to homes affects the visual amenity of residents.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-231.htm

Petition raised by: Glyncorrwg Action Group

Number of signatures: 171

Previously considered by the Committee on: 7 July 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, and is attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

(xxix) P-03-232 Ffynnone and Cilgwyn Woods

Petition wording

Cyngor Cymuned Manordeifi Community Council calls upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to commission an independent inquiry into the funding of Calon yn Tyfu / Growing Hearts Ltd. by Forestry Commission Wales for the purchase of the Ffynnone and Cilgwyn woodland in North Pembrokeshire under the publicly funded Cydcoed Scheme.

Link to the petition: http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-232.htm

Petition raised by: Cyngor Cymuned Manordeifi Community Council

Number of signatures: 329

Previously considered by the Committee on: 7 July 2009

Update: Updates have been received from the Auditor General Wales, Calon yn Tyfu Cyf., Forestry Commission Wales and the Minister for Rural Affairs, and are attached as part of PET(3) 12-09 Paper 2A.

Committee Service

September 2009