

# Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee room 1

Meeting date: Monday, 16 September  
2024

Meeting time: 14.04 – 15.46

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/14103>

## Hybrid

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### Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Rhys ab Owen MS Luke Fletcher MS Peter Fox MS Rhianon Passmore MS (Temporary Chair)
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) Gruffydd Owen (Legal Adviser) Lara Date (Second Clerk)

### 1 Motion to elect a temporary Chair under Standing Order 17.22

Rhianon Passmore MS was elected as temporary Chair.

### 2 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

Temporary Chair Rhianon Passmore MS welcomed everyone to the meeting.



There were no apologies.

### **3 New Petitions**

#### **3.1 P-06-1425 We ask the Welsh Government to reverse its decision to stop T2 buses calling at Garndolbenmaen**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write back to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales to ask for:

- details of the update provided by Transport for Wales in July;
- the petitioners' proposals to be given full consideration by officials from Transport for Wales and Cyngor Gwynedd; and
- a rationale to be provided for the decision made following that consideration.

#### **3.2 P-06-1429 Install a roundabout, not traffic lights, at fatal Nash Junction, Pembrokeshire**

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the issues have been debated in a previous petition, and raised regularly in the Senedd by local Members. Given the Minister's response, it is unclear how the Committee could make any further progress on the petition therefore Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

In addition to closing the petition Members agreed to forward the concerns of the campaigners to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales and local Senedd constituency Members.

### **3.3 P-06-1431 A Beacon of Hope at Risk: Please Support Bronllys Well-Being Community Hub!**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to Powys Teaching Health Board to ask;

- for confirmation that there is no land available for a hub at this time, and if so when they will next review that situation, and
- to establish what mechanism is best for community groups such as the petitioners to engage with the board and/or its officials.

Members also agreed to write to the relevant Cabinet Secretaries – for Housing and Local Government, and Health and Social Care – to note the need for there to be clearer avenues for local people to pursue, both on issues of community asset transfers and engagement with their Local Health Board.

### **3.4 P-06-1432 Hold a Wales-wide Public Poll to establish the true level of public support for the 20mph limit**

The Committee considered the petition alongside petition P-06-1438 Start a public enquiry into to the reasons, justification and evidence for 20mph and noted that the Welsh Government has taken steps to listen to complaints, and through the new guidance, enable local authorities to make changes in their areas. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

### **3.5 P-06-1438 Start a public enquiry into to the reasons, justification and evidence for 20mph**

The Committee considered the petition alongside petition P-06-1432 Hold a Wales-wide Public Poll to establish the true level of public support for the 20mph limit

and noted the Cabinet Secretary has set out the aims of the project, (save lives and improve safety), and notes that early evidence shows a reduction in collisions and casualties.

In light of the Welsh Government already taking steps to listen to complaints, and through the new guidance, enable local authorities to make changes in their areas Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

### **3.6 P-06-1439 Improve vital late night public transport infrastructure in South and South West Wales**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to:

- write to the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales raising the specific issues in the petitioner's correspondence, and ask for them to be considered alongside responses to public consultation on the Regional Transport Plan which closed on 26 August;
- write back to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales highlighting the wider issues raised by the petitioner; and
- highlight the petition to the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.

### **3.7 P-06-1441 Oak tree at the Gate of the Dead, should be given statutory protection by Cadw, as an ancient tree**

The Committee considered the correspondence and noted the protections already in place for such trees under the planning system. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioners for highlighting the importance of ancient trees. The Committee would write back to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, noting that Welsh Government is currently considering its approach

to further strengthening the protections for ancient woodlands as part of the Programme for Government, and asking to be kept updated on any changes to strengthening protections for such trees in the future.

### **3.8 P-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd**

The consideration of the petition was deferred to a future meeting at the petitioner's request.

### **3.9 P-06-1446 Abolish the name 'Wales' and make 'CYMRU' the only name for our country**

The Committee considered the petition alongside petition P-06-1451 Keep the name 'Wales' and not waste any more taxpayers money on pointless exercises and agreed to write to the Llywydd to ask what consideration had been given to using the mono-lingual name 'Senedd' for the Welsh Parliament.

Members agreed to await a response from the Llywydd before deciding whether to request a debate on the subject.

### **3.10 P-06-1451 Keep the name 'Wales' and not waste any more taxpayers money on pointless exercises**

The Committee considered the petition alongside *petition P-06-1446 Abolish the name 'Wales' and make 'CYMRU' the only name for our country* and agreed to write to the Llywydd to ask what consideration had been given to using the mono-lingual name 'Senedd' for the Welsh Parliament.

Members agreed to await a response from the Llywydd before deciding whether to request a debate on the subject.

### **3.11 P-06-1449 Designate the Tywi Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to ask Natural Resources Wales to make contact with the petitioners to discuss the proposals in greater detail, as offered in the correspondence from the Welsh Government. The Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioners.

### **3.12 P-06-1453 Provide funding and support for the adequate provision of accessible and clean public toilets**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write Pencoed Town Council to ask about their local strategy to keep toilets in public buildings open, with a view to highlighting this as one example of good practice.

Once a response from Pencoed Town Council is received, Members agreed to share it with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and highlight the specific issues raised by the petitioners, including patchy provision across Wales, and the importance of sharing best practice.

### **3.13 P-06-1452 Meat-free Monday in every school in Wales**

Rhys ab Owen MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He is a friend of the petitioner's father.

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the new Cabinet Secretary for Education seeking a response to the questions raised by the petitioner, specifically about which Local Authorities are already offering meat-free days, and the timetable for the review of guidance.

### **3.14 P-06-1454 Calling Welsh Government to provide urgent mental health support for New Dads**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the new Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing asking for an update once the “best practice guide” arising from the ‘Fathers Matter Too’ event has been published. Member also agreed to ask for an update on any progress with developing the strategies on draft mental health and wellbeing and suicide and self-harm prevention.

### **3.15 P-06-1474 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres**

The Committee considered the petition alongside an update from Natural Resources Wales on petition P-05-1447 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing the visitor centre at Ynyslas National Nature Reserve.

Members agreed to write an urgent letter to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to highlight the petition and the correspondence received from the Welsh mountain bike sector ahead of any final decisions being made. Members also agreed to ask for an update on the position, and to copy in the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee for information.

In addition to writing to NRW, Members agreed to write to the Business Committee to request a debate on the petition as soon as possible.

## **4 Updates to previous petitions**

### **4.1 P-05-1447 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing the visitor centre at Ynyslas National Nature Reserve**

The Committee considered an update from Natural Resources Wales alongside petition P-06-1474 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres.

Members agreed to write an urgent letter to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to highlight the petition and the correspondence received from the Welsh mountain bike sector ahead of any final decisions being made. Members also agreed to ask for an update on the position and to copy in the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee for information.

In addition to writing to NRW, Members agreed to write to the Business Committee to request a debate on the petition as soon as possible.

### **4.2 P-06-1344 Moderate quality agricultural land (grade 3b) should be used for food security not solar farms**

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Welsh Government's position on its policy is very clear, and the issue is now a matter for local Members to be made aware of and take forward. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

In addition to closing the petition Members agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to highlight the importance of encouraging the use of public buildings for solar PV arrays and avoiding use of productive agricultural land.

#### **4.3 P-06-1378 We want farm subsidies to be extended to small scale and market gardeners**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open until the final scheme is published in 2025.

#### **4.4 P-06-1389 Introduce a 30mph limit on the trunk road through the villages of Eglwys Fach and Ffwrnais**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales asking for a further update on what priority will now be given to this issue, and the likely timescales, as well as what further engagement is planned with the petitioners.

#### **4.5 P-06-1400 Fair and Adequate Resourcing of General Practice in Wales**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Business Committee to seek an early debate on the petition, to inform and highlight the more detailed work planned to be undertaken by the Health and Social Care Committee.

#### **4.6 P-06-1403 Reconsider cuts to Postgraduate funding and increase Doctoral Loans to match UKRI Stipend**

The Committee considered the petition and noted that whilst the impact on postgraduates is of great concern, it is difficult to see what more can be done by the Committee.

In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner, but in doing so write to the Senedd Committees for Finance; Children Young People and Education; and Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs, to highlight concerns about postgraduate funding cuts in advance of scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2025-26.

#### **4.7 P-06-1404 Increase clarity and rights for people on direct payments or WILG to live independently**

The Committee considered the petition agreed to:

- write back to the Minister for Children and Social Care to highlight the petitioner's response and ask whether Welsh Government has any plans for a Commissioner for Disabled People; and
- forward the latest correspondence to the Health and Social Care Committee for consideration as part of its scrutiny of the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill.

In writing back to the Welsh Government and the Health and Social Care Committee Members noted that the issues raised by the petitioner are very important, and the Welsh Government appears to be taking many of the issues raised in the petition forward via legislation and work with the Disability Rights Taskforce. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition at this stage and thank the petitioner.