

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:
Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date:
27 March 2012

Meeting time:
09:00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

Abigail Phillips
Committee Clerk
029 2089 8421
Petition@wales.gov.uk

Agenda

- 1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions (09.00)**
- 2. Discussion of Evidence Received on P-04-335 The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team (09.00 – 09.10) (Page 1)**
- 3. New petitions (09.10 – 09.15)**
 - P-04-371 Reduced fares on public transport for all children up to the age of eighteen (Page 2)**
 - P-04-382 Student fares on public transport (Page 3)**
 - P-04-378 Extend the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Pages 4 – 18)**
 - P-04-379 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (Page 19)**
 - P-04-380 Bring back our bus! Petition against the removal of scheduled bus services from east Lampeter, Cwmann & Pencarreg (Page 20)**
 - P-04-381 Restoration for North Wales Hospital (Page 21)**
 - P-04-383 Against NVZ Designation for Llangorse Lake (Pages 22 – 30)**
- 4. Updates to previous petitions (09.15 – 09.25)**

P-04-354 Public statement of support for Bradley Manning (Pages 31 – 32)

Housing, Regeneration & Heritage

P-04-322 A call to revise Cadw's hold upon churches in Wales (Pages 33 – 36)

P-04-356 A Call to Review the Issues Set Out in the 2007 Report on Football in Wales (Pages 37 – 39)

Education & Skills

P-03-124 Cysgliad (Pages 40 – 43)

Health & Social Services

P-04-348 Recycling Targets for Health Boards (Pages 44 – 49)

P-04-359 Problems With The NHS For The Deaf (Pages 50 – 55)

P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre (Pages 56 – 59)

Equality

P-04-353 Anti-hate crime campaign in Wales (Pages 60 – 64)

5. P-04-341 Waste and Incineration – Oral Evidence Session (09.25 – 09.50) (Pages 65 – 69)

Rob Hepworth, Chair, Stop Newport & Monmouthshire Incinerator Campaign (SNIC)
Haydn Cullen Jones, Vice Chair, Stop Newport & Monmouthshire Incinerator Campaign (SNIC)

Tim Maddison, Spokesperson, South Wales Without Incineration (SWWIN)

6. P-04-341 Waste and Incineration – Oral Evidence Session (09.50 – 10.15) (Pages 70 – 76)

Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration & Sustainable Development, WLGA

Rob Quick, Senior Reporting Officer, Prosiect Gwyrdd

Mike Williams, Director, Prosiect Gwyrdd

7. P-04-341 Waste and Incineration – Oral Evidence Session (10.15 – 10.40) (Pages 77 – 87)

Matthew Farrow, Director of Policy, Environmental Services Association

Julie Barratt, Director, Chartered Institute for Environmental Health

8. P-04-341 Waste and Incineration – Oral Evidence Session (10.40 – 11.00) (Pages 88 – 92)

John Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Jasper Roberts, Deputy Director Waste and Resource Efficiency Division

Dr Andy Rees, Head of Waste Strategy Branch

9. Papers to Note

P-03-136 Parking in Heath and Birchgrove (Page 93)

P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision (Pages 94 - 95)

P-04-358 Re-instate Home Support for children with ASD and their families in the Caerphilly County Borough (Page 96)

Agenda Item 2

P-04-335 The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to support the establishment of a Welsh international cricket team.

Petition raised by: Matthew Richard Bumford

Date petition first considered by Committee: 11 October 2011

Number of signatures: 187

Supporting information:

Whereas Scotland and Ireland gained associate membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and went on to compete in World Cups, Wales has failed to do so. In fact, no Welsh player has played international cricket for over five years as a result of being affiliated to the England Cricket Board. Recently the England and Wales cricket team played several "home" games in the capital of Wales, although no Welsh players were present. It would be unacceptable in other sports, like rugby, for a team comprised entirely of non-Welsh people, playing under a non-Welsh flag, with the badge of another country on their chest, to ostensibly play a "home" game in the Welsh capital. This would simply not be acceptable for other sports and should not be so for cricket. The current arrangements do not foster the game of cricket in Wales and are to its detriment because there is a lack of opportunity for Welsh cricketers to play at the highest level. At present Wales is completely unrepresented in international cricket and this must change with the establishment of an Welsh international cricket team.

P-04-371 Reduced fares on public transport for all children up to the age of eighteen

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to require reduced fares for public transport passengers aged under eighteen years.

Petition raised by: Simon Williams-Jones

Date petition first considered by Committee: 13 March 2012

Number of signatures: 26

Agenda Item 3.2

P-04-382 Student Fares on Public Transport

Petition wording:

We call on the Welsh Government to secure reduced fares on public transport for those in full-time education.

Petition raised by: A-level students

Date petition first considered by Committee: 27 March 2012

Number of signatures: 93

P-04-378 Extend of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the Gower Society's proposal for the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to be extended is expedited, given that the request has been with the CCW for consideration since 2005 and the fact that, as of December 2011, the CCW is no longer considering such proposals due to the potential establishment of a new Single Environment Body for Wales.

Petition raised by: The Gower Society

Date petition first considered by Committee: 13 March 2012

Number of signatures: 1 (from an organisation)

Supporting information: On 1 March 2005, The Gower Society (one of the oldest and largest local amenity groups in Wales) wrote to the Countryside Council for Wales requesting it to consider extending the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to areas in the north east of the Gower peninsula, parts of the Loughor Estuary and Loughor Conservation Area, and much of the upland area of Mawr.

The response of the Chief Executive of CCW (29.03.05) was that CCW was working with Denbighshire County Council "to work up a process that will inform any decisions on whether a tract of land should be put forward as a proposal for AONB designation. It is intended that the resultant process will be entirely transferable to any other areas in Wales." He went on to say: "It is likely that this pilot will be completed by March 2006".

A series of correspondence has followed this initial exchange and several meetings have taken place at National Assembly offices between representatives of The Gower Society and CCW, arranged by - and usually in the presence of - Edwina Hart, Assembly Member for Gower.

Two meetings were held with Ms Jane Davidson when she was Minister with responsibility for the environment, and on 18.07.11, representatives of The Gower Society met Mr John Griffiths, Minister for (inter alia) the Environment.

At each of these three meetings the proposed AONB extension was discussed.

The City and County of Swansea's policy is to support such an extension and Mawr Community Council (the area most largely affected by the proposal) has expressed its full support.

After the Clwyddian Range and Dee Valley designation Order was confirmed by the Minister on 22.11.11, we wrote to CCW again, urging them now to move forward with our 2005 proposal for the Gower AONB. The Chief Executive's reply noted the Welsh Government's approval of the case for establishing a Single Environment Body for Wales. "Given these momentous changes", he continued "we will be focussing our efforts in the next 18 months in working... to ensure a smooth transition from CCW to the SEB". Therefore "We are not in a position to consider any further proposal for boundary changes or new designations".

By then, it will have been over eight years since our proposal was first put to CCW. In our view, this length of delay is unreasonable, and we call upon the National Assembly for Wales to expedite this process.



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Urgent to whom it may concern 14-3-12

**Re:- Application to Extend the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural
Beauty – Gower AONB**

I write in my capacity as being the long serving Borough & City & County Councillor for the Mawr area of northern Swansea, frequently referred to as **"Gower of the hills"**.

I have served this area continuously at Council levels for twenty seven years with a love of the local landscape and its flora and fauna and its traditional hill farms and local Welsh speakers who have preserved the language here with local culture and annual village Eisteddfodau. Part of this long service has involved twenty seven years as a Planning Committee member knowing how fragile the environment can be. I am also a retired science teacher (who previously worked in the coal and steel industries).

For about seven years we have been asking for the Gower AONB to be extended into Gower of the hills. As a Councillor I know this needs to be considered very carefully and cautiously by appropriate Government and its Agencies. As a long serving Councillor I know how long public decisions have to be made via mazes of policies and audits and scrutiny.

Despite realising the need for caution, it is not acceptable that Government and its Agencies have taken seven years without making a decision in this matter. I ask those of you responsible to make a decision soon and in doing so please accept my full support for "Gower of the Hills" to become part of an extended Gower AONB as soon as possible. Seven years is enough. This area needs protection and an AONB would afford it a lot in terms of a tourist economy to protect the livelihood of hill farmers and to preserve our landscape and fauna and flora.

Yours respectfully,

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
IOAN RICHARD**

BRON-Y-MYNYDD, 23 HEOL-Y-MYNYDD, CRAIGCEFNPARC, SWANSEA, SA6 5RH
BRON-Y-MYNYDD, 23 HEOL-Y-MYNYDD, CRAIGCEFNPARC, ABERTAWE, SA6 5RH

☎ (01792) 843861 ☒ (01792) 636921
✉ ioan.richard@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk

CYNGOR CYMUNED **MAWR** COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1 Lewis Terrace, Abergarwed, Neath, SA11 4TL
01639-711489
robert.king423@btinternet.com

Mr M. Ridge
The Gower Society

The Orchard
Perriswood
Penarth
Swansea
SA3 2LN

28.1.2012

Extension of Gower AONB

Dear Mr Ridge,

Mawr Community Council resolved at its recent meeting to offer its thanks to you and the Gower society for the work and effort put into the application to extend Mynydd-y-Gwair into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is rightfully enjoyed by the Gower area.

Its regrettable that the CCW decided not to see fit to make a recommendation in favour of the hilly northern part of the Gower, which does, of course, include the wonderful scenic Mynydd-y-Gwair, which is still the subject of the continuous threat of industrialisation.

Again, many thanks for your substantial efforts.

Yours faithfully,

Robert King
Clerk to the Council
28.1.2012

Save Our Common Mountain Environment

Mr. Iwan Morgan
Petty
Swansea
SA1 1NL

16th March 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

Save Our Common Mountain Environment (SOCME) is a group of dedicated volunteers, inspired by the great natural beauty of Mynydd y Gwair (the Gower of the North) to campaign for its protection and conservation. We wish to express our sincere support for The Gower Society's petition to you, seeking an extension to the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to include the Gower of the North.

It is concerning to note that more than seven years have elapsed since formal demands for this extension were first made, especially in view of some of the legislative changes currently under consideration in Wales, which could have profound implications for how our natural environment is managed in future. We are grateful that many bodies, including the Welsh Assembly, have recognised the value of the precious peat habitat within the proposed extension, but there are many other reasons besides the scarce nature of the habitat of the Gower of the North for viewing it as suitable for AONB classification. The habitat supports an amazing array of biodiversity, including breeding skylarks, and provides a valuable feeding ground for a number of other protected species. It has important historical features, including not only prehistoric features, but also Penlle'r Castell, documented from 1287, which sits at the highest altitude point of Swansea. The views from Mynydd y Gwair are breathtaking, and are accessible to all, the majority of the area being common land, with a number of important recreational routes across the common, including both the Gower Way and St Illtyd's Way. It is of value to the local community and visitors alike, and presents an important economic resource for farming and tourism. Conserving it, and recognising its value as an AONB, can only enhance the benefits it offers to us, and to future generations.

Yours faithfully
Glyn Morgan
Chairman
Save Our Common Mountain Environment



The Chief Executive
Countryside Council for Wales
Plas Penrhos
Ffordd Penrhos
Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 2LQ

01 March 2005

Dear Sir,

Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

As you are aware, it is almost fifty years since the designation of part of Gower as the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the United Kingdom.

The Gower Society, which pre-dates that designation by almost a decade, feels that the time is now appropriate to re-consider the boundaries of the area originally designated for inclusion. Since 1956, pressures on the countryside have increased considerably and will, no doubt, continue to do so in the future. Ideas of what landscapes are worthy of and would benefit from AONB status have also developed over this period.

I enclose a map which indicates the additional areas that we think should be considered for AONB status. Area 1 extends the current boundary to include more of the northeast of peninsular Gower. This links with Area 2, which includes the Loughor Conservation Area, while Area 3 covers much of Upland Gower, using the M4 as the southern boundary.

These additions, if accepted, would have the effect of linking Gower Anglicana with Gower Wallicana Subboscus and Gower Wallicana Supraboscus, all within the seigniority

of Gower. It is the Gower Society's view that these areas are worthy of AONB designation.

The Gower Society requests the Countryside Council for Wales to begin the processes necessary to move towards an order designating these areas as extensions of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm Ridge
Chairman

Enc: Map of proposed areas

*Cc: CCW Swansea
Chief Executive Swansea City and County
County Councillor Hague, Cabinet Member for Environment
Mr Martin Caton MP
Mrs Edwina Hart AM*



CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

GADEIRYDD/CHAIRMAN: JOHN LLOYD JONES OBE • PRIF WEITHREDWR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE: ROGER THOMAS

Anfonwch eich ateb at/Please reply to: Roger Thomas, Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive
Cyfeiriad Isod/Address Below
Llinell Union/Direct Dial: (01248) 385568; Ffacs/Fax: (01248) 385506
Ebst/Email: n.sanpher@ccw.gov.uk

Mr Malcolm Ridge
Chairman
The Gower Society
The Orchard
Perriswood
Penmaen
SWANSEA
SA3 2HN

29 March 2005

Dear Mr Ridge

GOWER AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Further to my earlier response to your letter dated 1 March, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) staff have now given thorough consideration to The Gower Society's proposals regarding extensions to Gower AONB.

As you may be aware the legal procedure for designating an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is both lengthy and resource-intensive. The AONB designation is now seen as not merely a measure to prevent unsuitable development from taking place but as a positive mechanism to enhance our finest countryside, contributing to social and economic well-being. Although CCW is the designating authority we would need support from the Welsh Assembly Government, and evidence of community support and backing from both the lead local authority, in this case Swansea City and County Council, and any others affected.

There are currently a number of other areas of Wales which are being put forward as potential AONBs. CCW needs to consider these proposals from a strategic, national perspective, and ensure that we approach each case in an objective way. Therefore we can try to ensure that resources are efficiently targeted and the landscape is managed in the most appropriate and sustainable way.

CCW is presently working with Denbighshire County Council to work up a process that will inform any decisions on whether a tract of land should be put forward as a proposal for AONB designation. It is intended that the resultant process will be entirely transferable to any other area in Wales.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

CORFF NODDEDIG / SPONSORED BODY

Gofalu am natur Cymru - ar y tir ac yn y môr
Caring for our natural heritage - on land and in the sea

Prif Swyddfa/Headquarters

MAFS-Y-FFYNNON, PENRHOSGARNEDD, BANGOR, GWYNEDD LL57 2DW FFÔN/TEL: 01248 385500 FFACS/FAX: 01248 355782

The first stage of the process, piloted with Denbighshire CC, is the presentation of a convincing case, supported with compelling evidence that the landscape is truly outstanding in a national context. This stage is likely to utilise, amongst other things, the results of the local *LANDMAP* evaluation. The following stages will concentrate on an assessment of whether the AONB designation is an appropriate tool for managing those pressures that are impacting on the area. In particular those pressures impacting on the qualities that make the area special and are recognised as nationally important. It is likely that this pilot will be complete by March 2006.

Therefore once CCW has completed the pilot exercise with Denbighshire, we will then be in a position to transfer this methodology to other areas and subsequently advise the Assembly Government on any priorities for future designation or whether there are other mechanisms that provide viable solutions to managing these landscapes. Your proposal has been given careful consideration and will be retained on file to inform future discussions.

Yours sincerely

A.W. Sanphel

R. **Roger Thomas**
Chief Executive



*The Orchard, Perriswood, Penmaen, Swansea SA3 2HN
Y Berllan, Coed Peris, Penmaen, Abertawe, SA3 2HN*

Tel / Ffôn: 01792 371665 Fax / Ffacs: 01792 371503 e-mail / e-bost: ridge@gower40.fsnet.co.uk

Mr Roger Thomas,
Chief Executive,
Countryside Council for Wales,
Maes-Y-Ffynnon,
Penrhosgarnedd,
Bangor,
Gwynedd
LL57 2DW

28.04.05

Dear Mr Thomas,

Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Thank you for your letter of 29 March in response to ours of 1 March.

We were disappointed to learn that a consideration of the proposed extension of the Gower AONB is not likely to begin until March 2006, but we recognise the sense in establishing appropriate processes for such consideration that will be transferable across Wales.

We also accept that the AONB designation should be '*a positive mechanism to enhance our finest countryside*', but would contend that '*merely*' (your word) preventing '*unsuitable development*' is, in fact, an essential and integral part of this process.

The CRoW Act, for example, talks of the need both to 'protect' and 'enhance' AONBs, and the Hobhouse Report was quite clear in its position when it stated that it is '*urgent to ensure that some at least of the areas of beautiful and wild country in England and Wales are specially protected... and that their aesthetic and educational values are recognised by Statute and carry due weight in the inevitable competition with more utilitarian, and sometimes more powerful claims to the use and development of land. Fine country... is daily endangered by the accelerated processes of modern building and industrial development.*'

In our view, it is not possible to have '*a mechanism to enhance our finest countryside*' without, at the same, having measures '*to prevent unsuitable development from taking place*'. Indeed, unless unsuitable development were prevented, there would be little finest countryside to enhance.

While our case for the extension of the Gower AONB might be made more urgent by the possible threat of unsuitable development, it is based on a recognition of the high landscape value of the area.

After writing to you on 1 March, we received a number of letters of support. These were unsolicited and, indeed, unexpected, since at that time very few people had been told of The Gower Society's decision to approach you. I enclose these letters for your file, together with a set of photographs that were sent to us as an illustration of the landscape value of Upland Gower (please note that copyright for these is held by Diana Fritsche Photography).

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Ridge
Chairman

Enc. 42 letters of support
13 photographs



THE GOWER SOCIETY

Reg. Charity No. 258372

*The Orchard, Perriswood, Penmaen, Swansea SA3 2HN
Y Berllan, Coed Peris, Penmaen, Abertawe, SA3 2HN*

Tel / Ffôn: 01792 371665

e-mail / e-bost: ridgegower@btinternet.com

The Chief Executive
Countryside Council for Wales
Plas Penrhos
Ffordd Penrhos
Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 2LQ

22 November 2011

Dear Mr Thomas,

We understand from this evening's BBC Wales television news that the proposed extension to the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has now been approved.

In view of our previous correspondence and meetings, I now urge you to move forward with The Gower Society's proposal, put to you in my letter of 1st March 2005, for an extension to the Gower AONB.

I refer you to:

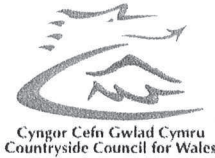
- my letter of 01.03.05
- your reply of 15.03.05
- your reply of 29.03.05
- my letter of 28.04.05
- the reply of 18.05.05 from Mrs Carole Rothwell, Protected Landscapes Officer
- my letter of 18.03.06
- your reply of 31.03.06
- Mr Robert Hart's (Mrs Edwina Hart's Office) email of 04.08.08
- your reply of 09.09.08
- Mrs Edwina Hart's response to Mrs Jane Davidson of 30.09.08
- various meetings with yourself and your officers at WAG
- two meetings with Mrs Jane Davidson, Minister for (*inter alia*) the Environment
- our meeting of 18.07.11 with Mr John Griffiths, Minister for (*inter alia*) the Environment

I look forward to your prompt and positive response.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Ridge Chairman, The Gower Society

cc Mr John Griffiths, AM, Mrs Edwina Hart AM, Mr Martin Caton MP, Cllr John Hague, Cllr Ioan Griffiths, Mr R Beale (Gower AONB Team Leader)



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

CADEIRYDD/CHAIRMAN: MORGAN PARRY • PRIF WEITHREDWR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE: ROGER THOMAS

Anfonwch eich ateb at/Please reply to: Roger Thomas, Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive
Cyfeiriad Isod/Address Below
Llinell Union/Direct Line: 01248 387146; Ffacs/Fax: 01248 385506
Ebost/Email: n.sanpher@ccw.gov.uk

by e-mail:- ridgegower@btinternet.com

Mr M Ridge
Chairman, The Gower Society
The Orchard
Perriswood
Penmaen
Swansea
SA3 2HN

5 December 2011

Dear Mr Ridge

EXTENSION OF GOWER AONB

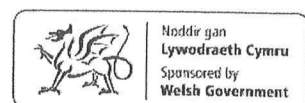
Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2011. We are delighted that, on 22 November, Minister John Griffiths announced the confirmation of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Designation Order.

As you are aware from our previous correspondence, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) had undertaken more than seven years' work establishing and assessing the evidence base before my Council agreed to proceed to the Public and Statutory Consultation phases of the process. It was only following this detailed evaluation and scrutiny that CCW decided to submit the formal Designation Order in March for the Welsh Government's consideration.

Since the Order was confirmed, you may be aware that the Welsh Government (WG) has also announced a further significant decision affecting the environmental framework in Wales. On 29 November, WG Cabinet approved the business case for establishing a Single Environment Body comprised of CCW, Environment Agency Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and possibly some functions presently undertaken within government.

This Single Environment Body (SEB) is being established in order to deliver the Welsh Government's vision for the natural environment, 'A Living Wales'. This is an integrated ecosystem approach to managing a sustainable, diverse and productive environment.

Given these momentous changes, we will be focussing our efforts for protected landscapes over the next 18 months in working with our National Parks and AONB partners to ensure a



Gofalu am natur Cymru - ar y tir ac yn y môr • Caring for our natural heritage - on land and in the sea

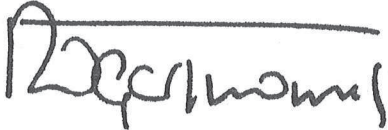
Prif Swyddfa/Headquarters
MAES-Y-FFYNNON, PENRHOSGARNEDD, BANGOR LL57 2DW; FFÔN/TEL: 01248 385500; FFACS/FAX: 01248 355782

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk>

smooth transition from CCW to the SEB. Inevitably there will also be a focus on establishing the new Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. Therefore, given the disappearance of CCW and the legal nature of designation work, we are not currently in a position to consider any further proposals for boundary changes or new designations.

I understand that this will be a disappointing response for you and the Gower Society, but hope that you will appreciate the context within which we are now working.

Yours sincerely



Roger Thomas
Chief Executive

cc: Mr John Griffiths AM (ps.minister.for.esd@wales.gsi.gov.uk)
Mrs Edwina Hart AM (Rosemary.Jones@Wales.gov.uk)
Mr Martin Caton MP (martin.caton.mp@parliament.uk)
Cllr John Hague (john.hague@swansea.gov.uk)
Cllr Ioan Richard (ioan.richard@swansea.gov.uk)
Mr Mike Scott, Gower Assistant AONB Officer (Mike.Scott2@swansea.gov.uk)

Agenda Item 3.4

P-04-379 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

Petition wording:

We ask the National Assembly to designate the 24th April in Wales as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

Petition raised by: Eilian Williams

Date petition first considered by Committee: 27 March 2012

Number of signatures: 262

P-04-380 Bring Back our Bus! Petition against the Removal of Scheduled Bus Services from East Lampeter, Cwmann and Pencarreg

Petition wording:

We request the urgent implementation of a properly scheduled & timetabled bus service in these affected areas & would urge those governmental agencies concerned, to commit to this on our behalf, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Supporting information:

On February 27th 2012, Arriva began operating as a solely commercial enterprise, ending their subsidies from local County Council & Welsh Assembly and running their operations on an 'express service' as opposed to the previous 'hail & ride' one, which is essential in these very rural areas..

The company rerouted the former X40 service, bypassing east Lampeter, Cwmann & Pencarreg., thereby denying access to essential services like G.P. Dentist, Post Offices & shops, curtailing the ability of people, to exercise their freedom of movement, insofar as access to the above services is concerned.

The removal of regularly scheduled bus services has also had an extremely detrimental effect on the ability of all sectors of our communities to go about their normal daily lives. The evident disregard for peoples' safety cannot be emphasised enough because people are now trying to walk unpaved & unlit roads, populated by fast traffic & juggernauts. .

Carmarthenshire & Ceredigion County Councils are trying to extend the implemented 'Bycabus' scheme, a predominantly pre-booked service, which has proven limited availability and which is currently operating in an economically unsustainable and environmentally inefficient way.

As it is Welsh Assembly and local County Councils who agreed to implement these transport changes, they are responsible under their duty of care to

the people in Wales, especially the elderly and otherwise vulnerable, who are currently having their independence taken away from them and who are in danger of becoming increasingly isolated. Lack of an adequate bus service will also affect the economic, social & welfare aspects of peoples' lives.

Petition raised by: Sharon McNamara

Date petition first considered by Committee: 27 March 2012

Number of signatures: 505 (479 on paper and 26 on website)

Agenda Item 3.6

P-04-381 Restoration for North Wales Hospital

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to assess the architectural heritage of the North Wales Hospital and to ensure that the bat roosts located there are protected. We would like this truly unique building to be preserved and restored for the nation.

Supporting information:

The North Wales Hospital is a fine example of a Victorian asylum designed by architect Thomas Full James, opening in 1848 and closed 1995. Encompassing a 160 years of history, the threat is imminent, the former North Wales Hospital should impart its sad story with aim of preservation and retention of the site, to preserve the historical context for future generations in this 126 acre site. During the period after disposal, it has had a succession of owners some of whom involved in letting the buildings fall in dereliction, asset stripping and demolishing listed buildings contrary Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Bat roosts have been disturbed contrary to The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The disposal and re-development of this Victorian hospital and associated buildings, once described by the Welsh historic environment agency Cadw as the finest purpose-built hospital in Wales, has been beset with problems for more than 15 years. The local authority could be placed at significant financial risk if they were to acquire the site while the condition of the buildings continue to deteriorate unless they have agreed a viable mix of new uses and have a developer partner to deliver the scheme. It is worth examining the history to date of the disposal process as it highlights a number of really useful lessons of wider applicability.'

Petition raised by: Paul Sharrock, restoration4nwh

Date petition first considered by Committee: 27 March 2012

Number of signatures: 29

P-04-383 Against NVZ Designation for Llangorse Lake

Petition wording:

'We call on the Welsh Assembly Government to overturn the proposed Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designation on the basin of Llangorse Lake, which is likely to affect approximately 25 farm businesses.

Petition raised by: Kaye Davies

Date petition first considered by Committee: 27 March 2012

Number of signatures: 43



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Griffiths AM
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

15th March 2012

Ref: RW/OT/NVZ/15032012

Dear *John,*

I believe the farming community within the Llangorse Lake catchment area has been let down by the lack of consultation for the proposed implementation of a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ).

Those I have spoken to have expressed their disappointment at having to find out about the proposals via a third party and at a far later date (1st February) some two months after the consultation period had begun.

I am also aware that this appears to be a far wider issue than agricultural inputs altering the nitrate levels within the area, for example the two sewage works in Llangorse and Bwlch, or the 70 plus properties with their own septic tanks. Imposing sensitive farming practices will penalise the farming community the most, and I ask on their behalf for you to consider these impacts more thoroughly in order to achieve a fair conclusion for all parties in this case.

Please find attached the letter of concern from my constituents.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Roger'.

Roger Williams MP

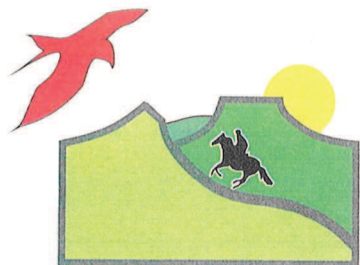
Member of Parliament for Brecon and Radnorshire

Pen-y-Bryn Farms

Gilfach Farm, Llangorse, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7UH

Tel: 01874 658584 or 658272 | Fax: 01874 658280

Email: enquiry@activityuk.com | Web: www.activityuk.com



Water Policy Branch,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ
15TH March 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

NVZ designation within the Llangorse Lake catchment area

We the undersigned are a group of farmers farming within the designated area of the proposed NVZ.

As a group and individually we are appalled to discover that we have had no prior notification of the proposals of an NVZ designation and facility to make representations. Had we not been informed from an outside source we would not have been in a position to make representations on our thoughts and worries within the short timescale.

We have met on many occasions in the short time allowed for consultations and have submitted the attached points of concern which need to be addressed prior to future discussions with our group as to how best implement future management controls.

Please find enclosed attachments:

1. Points of Concern
2. NFU Letter
3. FUW Letter
4. Local County Councillor

Correspondence to be directly sent:

1. CLA Letter
2. MP and AM Letter
3. Community Council Letter

CC:

CCW and Environment Agency

Yours Sincerely,

The Undersigned



Wales
Cymru

Awards:
Business Excellence Awards 2006
Worldwide Small Business Awards 2005
Welsh Tourism Awards 2005



Points of concern to be addressed before further consultation with farmers on the implication of a NVZ on land in the catchment area of Llangorse Lake

1. Landowners were not given prior warning for the consultation document and not supplied with a copy, when they are the most important people affected. This contravenes our legal rights under the Human Justices Act.
2. The relevant authority must first look to what originally caused the problem in the lake and make them responsible for the damage done. Also address the current position where the Bwlch sewage works is constantly overflowing due to problems pumping over the cutting. Compounding this issue there is over 70 properties with their own septic tanks and soak aways emptying into a clay basin. After this has been achieved then come back to the farmers and with their cooperation look at how the quality of the lake can be further improved. In the 30-year time span there was no control of the nutrients entering the lake from the two sewage works at Llangorse and Bwlch. This allowed further damage when the motor boats churned up this powerful cocktail and aided by the prevailing wind washed it into and onto the north east shore and over a period of time destroyed the then present reed beds. This has not been rectified and has resulted in damaging the ecological status of the lake.
3. CCW arranged for sections of the eastern side of the lake to be fenced off to allow them to re-establish the reed beds that were extensive prior to the construction of the sewage plant in the early 1950's. They have not made any effort to undertake this work having put the farmers to great expense.
4. There is little reference to the extensive damage done up to the time the sewage was diverted to Talgarth. This damage had long lasting implications with over 30 years of effluent entering the lake from Llangorse and Bwlch, much of the time untreated.
5. Numbers of stock are grossly inaccurate. The number of cattle in 1993/7 was just under 600 and sheep just under 4,000. This has changed to date with cattle remaining the same and sheep reducing to fewer than 3,000. This reflects badly in the figures and graphs submitted in the consultation document.
6. Change by farmers, has been made due to costs and efficiency and no reference or allowances has been made to accommodate these e.g. N levels reduced, due to high pricing, along with nutrient management plans in place for most farms around the lake. The reports are out dated and do not reflect the present as most of the farmers in the catchment area have spent large amounts of money building and installing modern systems to greatly reduce the environmental impact on their own land and eventual run off into the lake.
7. The report is not damning. Since this report has been conducted several improvements have been made on numerous farms that have not been taken into account.

8. To impose restriction on farmers on the use of certain buildings built prior to 1991 is unacceptable unless the rebuild is completely financed by government or the authority imposing these restrictions. Much of the land in the catchment area is about to complete ten years in Tir Gofal and are signed up for Glastir as from 2012 with more entering the scheme 2013/14. To comply with their current entry agreement they would be compelled to replace their slurry systems etc. This would not be cost effective and the only answer would be to withdraw from the Glastir scheme prior to any payments been made.
9. Farmers are the best custodians of the countryside and are more aware of the preservation of the countryside than the bodies of bureaucrats who impose their personal interpretation on out of date research. Unfortunately the Llangorse Lake Advisory Group is not of like mind and do not have an overall policy as to present and future management of the lake.
10. Before imposing more restrictions on the already vulnerable agricultural community in this area the authorities need to get their own house in order and do an in depth study of the amount of effluent created from private sewage disposal from private properties on the south east section of the catchment area. This from CCW studies is being shown to have the highest level of nutrients entering the lake. Most of the other catchment area is already disposed of into the existing mains sewage system. This area of land is not intensively farmed due to the land soil structure, white clay-underlying layer. However this is an area that has the largest number of dwellings with septic tanks emptying into this impenetrable clay base, so all effluent freely entering the lake via the river completely untreated.
11. Compulsory intervention never works; negotiation and mutual need to improve will win hearts and ultimately improve the lake for our future generation to enjoy. It is only there as it was prior to the advent of the sewage problem due to the way our forefathers farmed and moulded the countryside around the lake. Bureaucrats think they are an express train but farmers look to the future in a completely different way and continue to mould the countryside in a fashion that will meet future needs and preserve the fabric of the countryside to meet this need.
12. The suggestion that it may be necessary to purchase some of the land adjoining the lake, this may be acceptable if agreement could be reached, however there is a greater issue, the devaluing of the land forming the catchment area a total of approximately 7,000 acres. This could lead to a claim of at least £45,000,000 from the affected landowners along with annual claims for loss of income.
13. It is the belief of all the land owners that over and above the current improvements made that with cooperation and careful management and monitoring further improvements can be achieved without damaging or curtailing the present level of farming undertaken by farmers of this exceptional area. We are not only farmers but are conservationists as well and seriously want to protect and enhance the environment we have the privilege of farming and living in. without detriment to the lake.

NFU CYMRU

Tŷ Amaeth – Agriculture House, Royal Welsh
Showground
Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3TU
Telephone: 01982 554200 Fax: 01982 554201
Website: www.nfu-cymru.org.uk



Director: Mary James

Ein cyf/Our ref:

Eich cyf/Your ref:

E-mail:

Dyddiad/Date: 13 March 2012

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed NVZ Llangors Lake catchment

NFU Cymru has met with farmers in the proposed NVZ designation in the Llangors Lake area and a number of concerns have been raised, as outlined in their letter of correspondence enclosed.

We have particular concern regarding the proposal to repeal the exemption for slurry, silage and fuel stores on farms that were built or were committed to being built before 1 March 1991 under SSAFO regulations. NFU Cymru has written to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development regarding this issue. There are a large number of these structures on Welsh farms which were soundly built that pose no pollution threat. A significant proportion of these structures will have many years of useful life left in them. We would strongly contend that there is no good reason or evidence to suggest that in these circumstances farmers should be forced into the huge cost of having to build new structures by 2015.

NFU Cymru will also raise other issues regarding the burden of bureaucracy and the impact of this designation, in our direct response to the NVZ consultation which is currently open.

The group of farmers in the Llangors area are hugely concerned regarding the proposed designation. NFU Cymru notes that the reason for the notification is eutrophication in the lake. Nitrate levels in the lake are very low and we would question the implication in the proposed designation that nitrates from agriculture are a significant contributor to eutrophication. This is after all a nitrates directive. We would suggest that those farmers in the catchment appeal against its' inclusion on this basis.

NFU Cymru fully understands these concerns which have been raised by these farmers in the area and we support their representations made.

Yours sincerely,

Stella Owen
Farm Policy Advisor NFU Cymru



FARMERS' UNION OF WALES
UNDEB AMAETHWYR CYMRU
BRECON & RADNOR BRANCH • CANGEN BRYCHEINIOG A MAESYFED

County Office/Swyddfa Sirol: 8 Ship Street, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9AF.
Tel/Ffôn: (01874) 622779. Fax/Ffacs: (01874) 610374.
E-mail/E-bost: brecon-fuw@btinternet.com

Reference/Cyfeirnod:

Date/Dyddiad:

12th March 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Farmers Union of Wales fully supports the farmers of the Llangorse area in opposing any NVZ Designation for the area. We agree with their points of concern and have raised similar concerns regarding the inclusion of Llangorse as a potential NVZ and numerous other concerns in our own consultation response.

Yours sincerely,

Aled Jones

Melanie Davies
County Councillor
Llangorse Ward

Castle House
Llangorse
Brecon
LD3 7UD

14th March 2012

Response to the consultation on the review of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in Wales with reference to Llangorse Lake

I have been part of a family business that operates on Llangorse Lake all my life, I am a member of the Llangorse Lake Advisory Group and am the County Councillor for the Llangorse Ward.

Please note my following comments as part of your consultation regarding the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designation proposals, as outlined in 'Nutrient Modelling and Nutrient budget for Llangors Lake Report 831 April 2008'.

I am very concerned about the whole process and how it bypasses the local farming community directly affected in the proposed Zone. I do not understand the rational of not fully engaging at the report and consultation stages, the result is that it leaves affected landowners disengaged and only able to give any challenge after the area has been designated through an appeals process. I am amazed that this is seen as good practice, where is the open and transparent democratic accountability, even within Local Planning Authorities those directly affected are consulted before, as part of a rounded report.

The farming community should have been integral to the report, I am informed that the stock numbers are inaccurate; how then, can the assumptions based on their numbers be given any weight? And why was this information not qualified by asking those who knew eg, the farmers?

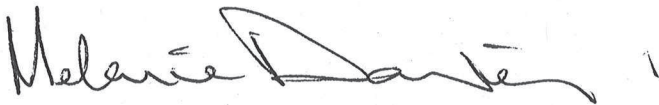
I understand that nutrient management plans are in place already and are common practice and that if the Zone is imposed it will just increase the bureaucracy that local businesses are expected to comply with, resulting in little or no results on the ground, except to devalue the effected land and burden owners with more red tape. I also have a real concern that this will have huge cost implications on individuals with regards to infrastructure and that no audit has been carried out to assess the current suitability of existing buildings, silage, slurry and oil fuel provision. It could undermine some farming practices to the point were some individuals could be driven out of the industry altogether.

I do not understand why the reports recommendations target the Nitrates which are recorded as entering the lake from the North area and does not tackle the issue of the greater in-flow and Nitrate load (50-56%) entering the Lake from the Llynfi inlet (site No 6 in report). Is the Bwlch Sewage Pump Station spilling effluent into the lakes flood zone so it feeds in as sub-surface water?

What is being done to ensure that all the septic tanks in the north eastern area and out towards Bwlch are not polluting the Lake, what about soak-aways in old properties?

The Lake water quality has improved greatly over the last two decades and its status and how this status is arrived at is regularly debated at LLAG. Unfortunately part of the report, the recommendations are drawn from, was drawn up in a very dry spell and samples could only be taken from two inputs into the lake which means the wrong conclusions could be drawn. It is on this basis and those already mentioned above that I would suggest a management agreement should be drawn up between the interested parties and monitoring should be continued to ensure a fair, transparent and equitable way forward any other system at the present point in time is pre emptive and unsound and while it may have no detrimental effect on the Lake it would have a disproportionate one on the local inhabitants.

I strongly support the conservation of the Lake and the surrounding area, I also believe that voluntary agreements and working groups foster better mutual understanding, respect and working practices than heavy handed legislation. The best placed people to support this work are the farmers themselves who have long term invested interests in the environment by the very fact that they live and work in the area from generation to generation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melanie Davies
County Councillor

Agenda Item 4.1

P-04-354 Public statement of support for Bradley Manning

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to issue a public statement of support for Welsh/US citizen Bradley Manning.

Petition raised by: Rev Christopher Trefor Davies

Date petition first considered by Committee: 10 January 2012

Number of signatures: 90

Darren Millar AM / AC

Shadow Minister for Health
Gweinidog yr Wrthblaid dros Iechyd

Welsh Conservative Member for Clwyd West
Aelod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig dros Orllewin Clwyd

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



William Powell
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

23 February 2012

Dear William,

Re: Petition - Public statement of support for Bradley Manning

Thank you for your letter notifying me of the above petition.

I will circulate the letter with the members of the Cross Party Group on Faith at our next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Millar AM

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA
Tel/Ffôn: 029 20 898731
e-mail/ebost: darren.millar@wales.gov.uk



55 Market Street, Abergele, LL22 7AF
55 Stryd Y Farchnad, Abergele, LL22 7AF
Tel/ Ffôn: 01745 839117
Web/Gwe: www.darrenmillaram.com

Agenda Item 4.2

P-04-322 A call to revise Cadw's hold upon churches in Wales

Petition wording

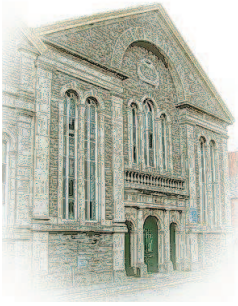
We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the inflexible way in which Cadw enforces its regulations upon active, vibrant congregations using listed buildings across Wales, thereby keeping them in a state of architectural inertia, unable to take advantage of modern developments in building materials and making it difficult for churches to make changes necessary for them to serve the coming generation and the local community.

Link to petition: <http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=1015>

Petition raised by: Graham John

Number of signatures: 147

Update: Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage.



Ebenezer Baptist Church



William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA.

Your ref: P-04-322
13th February 2012

Dear Sir,

I am replying to your request in October 2011 for suggestions as to what further help the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage could offer to address the issues I have raised. I have been requesting advice in light of the Minister's letter and apologise for the delay.

I am encouraged that the Minister accepts in his letter that churches should not be "preserved without any changes so they are not relevant to modern day worship". (para 2). Also significant is his statement that CADW and the Local Authority Conservation Principles have built into them the need "to be pragmatic in appreciating the needs of present day congregations in worship." (para 7).

I continue to have several concerns and these are listed towards the end of this letter. However to answer the committee's request directly there are two ways the Minister could consider, if he really believes there is any substance to the complaint of this petition.

1st In my initial petition and its supporting document I suggested a two tier system which would relax some of the regulations if CADW were dealing with a charity where the building was in constant use. The Minister did not address the merits of this suggestion.

2nd I notice the Minister is keen on the idea of a "Task Force" working group to look at the long term future of chapels in Wales, and is "in the process of meeting with several

different church and chapel denominations in Wales"¹ He is correct in stating that "the places of worship mentioned in the Petition are generally independent churches". May I therefore suggest that the remit of this Task Force is expanded to gather details from churches which are independent, such as those members registered with AECW (Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales) which represents about 100 active, growing churches in North and South Wales. This would put him into contact with our church, and many others that would be eager to present their views. I can provide further details if the Minister wishes to pursue this.

Response to the letter from Minister Huw Lewis AM

1. It seems that the Minister is protecting CADW by explaining the part played by the Local planning authority in his letter paras 5, 6 and 7. Nevertheless in my experience of over thirty years' ministry, churches have relatively few problems with the local planning authorities but persistently when CADW gets involved.
2. May I illustrate frustrations with CADW using details from Ebenezer, my current church? I believe they are typical. We have been attempting to introduce changes and improvements which would allow the free movement of disabled people into and around the premises, to fulfil the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act to make "*reasonable adjustments*" to the features of our premises. I have been Ebenezer's minister for six years and CADW was involved then. So large are the delays that one of the necessary quotations became invalid as the building firm went out of business. I was saddened when one elderly member recently said she honestly expected to be dead by the time any plans are enacted. CADW have just requested for the third time a further breakdown on figures relating to permission for new windows.
3. These are the kind of delays that make many churches question whether what is claimed on paper actually occurs in practice.

¹ Reported in the South Wales Evening Post in an article by Mike Hedges Swansea East AM "Chapels have a special place in our History" Fri Feb 10th 2012.

4. Can the Minister cite actual instances where the needs of present day congregations have been taken into account to the satisfaction of the congregation, when considering modernizing features to assist their mission to the local community?

5. Finally, the Minister quotes the grants we at Ebenezer have received from CADW. Yet despite CADW's "generosity" we are found setting forth a petition questioning CADW's practice. This conveys the measure of our discontent with CADW's behaviour. If there was an overall benefit from their involvement we would not be leading a petition of this nature. Nor would it be supported by over 100 signatures from all parts of Wales.

Yours sincerely

Rev Graham John
Lead Petitioner.

Agenda Item 4.3

P-04-356 A Call to Review the Issues Set Out in the 2007 Report on Football in Wales

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to review the issues set out in the 2007 Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee report 'Football in Wales - a review'

In March 2011 the people of Wales overwhelmingly voted for more powers to be devolved to Wales. One of these areas was sport and recreation. We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to use these powers that they did not have in 2007 and review the original report. The FAW needs to be accountable to the people of Wales and provide value for money to the people of Wales. We want the Welsh Government to work with the FAW and FIFA to ensure that this happens.

Petition raised by: Stuart Evans

Date petition first considered by Committee: 10 January 2012

Number of signatures: 96

Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a
Llywodraeth Leol

Communities, Equality and Local Government
Committee

William Powell, AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

16 February 2012

Dear William

Petition: Anti-hate-crime campaign in Wales
Petition: A call to review the issues set out in the 2007 report on football in Wales
Petitions: Save Gwent Theatre; Spectacle Theatre; Save Theatr Powys & Mid Powys Youth Theatre
P-04-317 Hijinx Funding for the Arts

Thank you for your letter of 12 January, in which you notified me of your Committee's consideration of a number of petitions.

Petition: Anti-hate-crime campaign in Wales

You will be aware that the Committee has recently conducted an inquiry on disability-related harassment. The Committee's report was published at the end of 2011 and we have given a commitment in that report to keep the issue under review during this Assembly.

Petition: A call to review the issues set out in the 2007 report on football in Wales

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh
Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol / Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgorau / Committee Service
Ffôn / Tel : 029 2089 8429
Ebost / Email : Communities.Equality&LocalGov@wales.gov.uk

The Committee has recently agreed to undertake an inquiry into football in Wales. It is intended that the inquiry will take place next term. While the purpose of the inquiry is not to directly follow up on the issues raised in the 2007 Assembly report, I am sure that the Committee will address any relevant issues raised with us by consultees.

**Petitions: Save Gwent Theatre; Spectacle Theatre; Save Theatr Powys & Mid Powys Youth Theatre
P-04-317 Hijinx Funding for the Arts**

The Committee has agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to consider the issue of participation in the arts. While the terms of reference for the Group's inquiry does not directly relate to the petitions above, we hope that the organisations named above will be able to participate in our inquiry and raise any concerns they may have in relation to the effects of funding cuts on participation in the arts in Wales.

I have asked the Clerk of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee to ensure that the lead petitioners are included in the relevant consultation process for the inquiries mentioned above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ann Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

P-03-124 Cysgliad

Petition wording

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to request that the Welsh Assembly Government makes available, for free download, the Windows version of the Cysgliad Welsh dictionary/thesaurus.

Petition raised by: Alun Evans

First considered by Committee: June 2008

Number of signatures: 11



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

Title: Welsh Language Strategy 2012-17

Date: 29 February 2012

By: Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Education and Skills

The Programme for Government 2011-16 emphasised this Government's support for the Welsh language and included a commitment to publish a new Welsh Language Strategy to meet the Government aim of "strengthening the use of Welsh in everyday life".

I am pleased to announce the publication of a new five-year Welsh Language Strategy: *A living language: a language for living*. It will replace *Iaith Pawb: National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales* (2003) as the Welsh Ministers' strategy for promoting and facilitating the use of Welsh. Adopting a Welsh language strategy is a requirement placed on Welsh Ministers by section 78 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. It will come into effect on 1 April 2012 and run until 31 March 2017.

I am keen to maintain and develop a political consensus that exists around measures to develop and strengthen the language. The new strategy builds on the consultation draft published by the One Wales Government. The final version was developed with the assistance of a Ministerial Advisory Group comprising a wide range of key stakeholders. I am grateful for the group's valuable input to the work of developing the strategy and for the comments and suggestions received during the consultation on the draft.

The strategy builds on *Iaith Pawb* whilst also reflecting important legislative, policy and structural changes since 2003. These include changes as a result of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 which will see the establishment of the Welsh Language Commissioner's office in April 2012, the abolition of the Welsh Language Board and the consequential transfer of the majority of its activities to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh into the Welsh Government. The publication of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy in 2010 provided an added imperative to update the Government's strategy for promoting the use of Welsh more widely.

Six strategic aims have been identified for the strategy. The consultation on the draft, and discussions with my Advisory Group, showed there was wide-ranging support for action in these areas. The evidence review which was conducted to support the development of the final strategy also provided evidence that the six aims are both appropriate and necessary. The six aims are:

1. to encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within **families**.
2. to increase the provision of Welsh medium activities for **children and young people** and to increase their awareness of the value of the language;
3. to strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the **community**;
4. to increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the **workplace**;
5. to improve **Welsh language services** to citizens; and
6. to strengthen the **infrastructure** for the language, including digital technology.

In addition, the strategy emphasises the importance of the Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy as an essential component – alongside encouraging the use of the language in families – in producing the Welsh speakers of the future.

The strategy is geared towards providing opportunities for people to use their Welsh language skills, whether acquired in the home or through the education system, in all aspects of everyday life.

There is a particular emphasis on the need to develop greater opportunities for children and young people to participate in Welsh-medium activities outside the education system, and to do more to promote the value of using their Welsh language skills both economically and culturally. This links in with the greater emphasis on the workplace as an important domain in which the use of Welsh can be nurtured, where confidence in language skills can be built and where the value of the language can be demonstrated. This is closely related to the aim of improving Welsh language services to citizens.

The strategy also demonstrates how the new legislative framework established by the Measure will have an important role to play. Whilst the Welsh Language Commissioner will act independently of Government and set her own priorities, the Commissioner's work in developing Welsh language standards, to impose duties on a wide range of organisations, will complement the activities that the Government will undertake in implementing this Strategy. Welsh language standards, in turn, will help share the responsibility for promoting the use of Welsh amongst a wider range of organisations.

A key aspect underpinning the strategy is the need to develop the infrastructure for the language, and in particular to take advantage of the opportunities that new technology can provide to promote its use. The need for new developments in technology and digital content to be available in Welsh is crucial if the language is to be seen as a modern and living language, particularly amongst young people. I have, therefore, established a group to explore how we can provide support for the development of more opportunities for people to use Welsh in this context. The Welsh language is an important and defining characteristic of Wales, and it belongs to all the people of Wales – Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers alike. In implementing this strategy, I want to invite new voices to help us with the challenging task of increasing the use of Welsh. I look forward to working with a wide range of organisations and individuals, including the statutory Welsh Language Partnership Council which I will be establishing shortly.

Finally, I fully recognise that language planning is a long-term process. The purpose of this five-year strategy is to move confidently towards our long-term aim of seeing the Welsh language thriving in Wales. I look forward to discussing these matters with Members in the Plenary debate on Tuesday 13th March.

The strategy can be downloaded from the Welsh Government's website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/welshlanguage/publications/wlstrategy2012/?lang=en>

P-04-348 Recycling Targets for Health Boards

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to recommend to the Minister for Health that she introduce legally binding recycling targets for Health Boards in Wales at a similar level to that imposed on Local Authorities.

Supporting Information

A recent Freedom of Information request indicated that the Maelor Hospital in Wreccsam disposed of 1200 tonnes of waste last year (which does not include electrical units WEEE). Only 3% of that waste is recycled and 55% goes into landfill including all food waste. This lack of commitment to recycling is unacceptable and with several local facilities available it is also inexcusable. The total cost of removing waste from the Maelor annually is in the region of £350,000 and if this reflected across Wales then the cost is probably in the region of £5 million.

Petition raised by: Cllr Arfon Jones

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: 29

08/02/2012 e-bost / e-mail

Gohebiaeth gan y deisebydd mewn ymateb i lythyr Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda

Mae hwn yn gam i'r cyfeiriad cywir ond dim ond un Bwrdd allan o saith yw hwn, a dyna pam mae angen i'r Llywodraeth ddangos arweiniad i'r chwech arall drwy ddeddfwriaeth.

Correspondence from the petitioner in response to Hywel Dda Health Board letter

This is a step in the right direction but this is one out of seven Boards, this is why the Government needs to show leadership to the other six by legislating.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board

Our Ref AG/JP/jm-law

Direct Line 01495 765072

10 February 2012

Ms Abigail Phillips
Clerk of Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Phillips

Re: P-04-348 Recycling Targets for Health Boards

In response to the letter from William Powell, Chair, Petitions Committee, asking for comments on the above, I am pleased to be able to take this opportunity to update you on the significant progress Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB) has made over the last few years in the area of Healthcare Waste Management. ABHB has now become one of the leading NHS organisations across both Wales and the United Kingdom in this field.

Back in 2007 the former Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust embarked on an ambitious plan to review how waste was segregated and managed across the organisation. The main drivers for this review were the Department of Health Guidance HTM 07/01 and the targets set within the Healthcare Waste Strategy for Wales.

At an early stage it was quite clear that many of our staff had a real passion for recycling and for adopting greener practices within the workplace. This was mirrored by a drive within the organisation to become more sustainable and to fulfil our commitment to the environment in relation to our Environmental Management System certification to ISO 14001.

During 2007 the former Trust implemented an integrated recycling system at two pilot sites, Caerphilly District Miners Hospital and County Hospital in Pontypool. The system involved all clean dry recyclables being collected in a clear bag for sorting at a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). This approach offers the best solution to recycle as much material as possible while working within the limited space constraints at ward level for additional bins. This approach also reinforces the 'at work at home' ethos whereby items which can be processed through the kerbside collection scheme are very similar to the material which can be processed through the recycling stream introduced at the Hospital.

Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan
Bloc A
Ty Mamhilad
Ystad Parc Mamhilad
Pontypwl
Tor-faen NP4 0YP
Ffon: 01495 765061



Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board
Block A
Mamhilad House
Mamhilad Park Estate
Pontypool
Torfaen NP4 0YP
Tel: 01495 765061

The recycling programme was enthusiastically received by all staff and has helped to raise the profile of sustainability and environmental awareness across the Health Board. During 2008 and 2009 the new waste segregation system was introduced at Nevill Hall Hospital and the Royal Gwent Hospital, the first major acute hospitals in Wales to fully adopt the Department of Health guidance and to introduce integrated recycling across all wards and departments.

Since then the Health Board has introduced integrated recycling facilities in every ward and department at all main hospitals sites, the only Health Board in Wales with this facility.

In excess of fifty tonnes of recyclable material such as plastic, metals and cardboard are diverted from landfill into the mixed recycling stream per month. This equates to a recycling rate of around 40% in relation to total general waste arisings and compares favourably with the 12.5% NHS Wales average. We also recycle fifteen tonnes of paper waste per month which is shredded and reprocessed into new paper products. Our approach within the Health Board is to consider recyclable material as a valuable resource to divert away from landfill wherever possible.

The next steps for us as an organisation, include the exploration of options to segregate recyclates from smaller community sites such as the Health Centres and Clinics, considering the viability of a zero to landfill approach and evaluating the options available to compost food waste from our larger hospital sites.

Zero to landfill is a new and innovative approach, which means that we would recycle as much material as possible and then whatever non recyclable waste is left over would be processed through a waste to energy plant to generate electricity. Although currently within it's infancy in Wales, we are in discussions to be at the forefront of this technology which will move the organisation one step up the waste hierarchy and away from the large scale use of landfill sites for non recyclable waste.

The waste management practices of the Health Board have been the subject of two Best Practice Case Studies and many presentations have been given at both local and national level. ABHB is held up as an exemplar organisation in the area of Healthcare Waste and Environmental Management, being one of only two Health Boards in Wales with full Environmental Management System ISO 14001 certification.

As a Health Board we are committed to play our part in moving the sustainable development agenda forward within Wales and would support the introduction of recycling targets at a similar level to that imposed on Local Authorities to encourage Health Boards to embrace recycling and engage with the green agenda.

Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan
Bloc A
Ty Mamhilad
Ystad Parc Mamhilad
Pontypwl
Tor-faen NP4 0YP
Ffon: 01495 765061

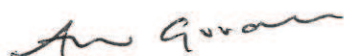


Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board
Block A
Mamhilad House
Mamhilad Park Estate
Pontypool
Torfaen NP4 0YP
Tel: 01495 765061

We would be happy to share best practice with NHS colleagues across Wales and share our experiences, with the view to advancing the uptake of more sustainable waste management practices and to increase recycling rates across the NHS in Wales.

We are also very keen to sustain our commitment to recycling and would welcome any support and investment the Welsh Government could provide to enable us to further progress the developments outlined above.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Goodall
Chief Executive

Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan
Bloc A
Ty Mamhilad
Ystad Parc Mamhilad
Pontypwl
Tor-faen NP4 0YP
Ffon: 01495 765061



Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board
Block A
Mamhilad House
Mamhilad Park Estate
Pontypool
Torfaen NP4 0YP
Tel: 01495 765061

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-348
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05873/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

6th March 2012

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of 21 February following the petition regarding recycling targets for Health Boards.

The Welsh Government's National Waste Strategy: Towards Zero Waste sets out a long term framework for resource efficiency and waste management between now and 2050. A suite of implementation plans will be produced, setting out targets and actions for specific sectors. This includes a sector plan for the public sector which will encourage all public sector bodies in Wales to meet a recycling target of 70% by 2025. NHS Wales have already started to feed into the development of this sector plan. The sector plan for the public sector is currently in development and will be consulted on, later in 2012. My officials are engaging with Waste policy colleagues to hopefully influence what is eventually produced

Healthcare waste that can go to landfill is classified under the European Waste Catalogue as (EWC) 18-01-04 Offensive/Hygiene Waste. This is waste where collection and disposal is not subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection and could include dressings, plaster casts, linen, disposal clothing or diapers. I can confirm that approximately 1,247 tonnes of Offensive/Hygiene waste went into landfill in 2010/11. The waste is non-clinical, non-infectious and non-hazardous. The proportion of hazardous healthcare waste going to landfill is zero.

Officials are unclear what you mean by bio-medical waste. If this refers to traditional clinical waste again the proportion sent to landfill is zero.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

P-04-359 Problems with the NHS For The Deaf

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide a better service for the hearing impaired (H.I.) in the NHS.

Petition raised by: Lisa Catherine Winnett

Date petition first considered by Committee: 10 January 2012

Number of signatures: 68

Supporting Information:

If a deaf person wished to contact their GP surgery to book an appointment, they are unable to do so, as Doctors surgery's don't have a mobile phone text service (Most H.I. don't use text phone, they use mobile phone). When they receive a letter from the Health Board asking them to telephone to book and appointment with a specialist, they are unable to as there are no facilities for them. When attending a hospital appointment, there is no loop system service for them, so that they can hear and answer questions. They say that they can arrange a translator. We have tried accessing this service to no avail. When in hospitals and Doctors' surgeries, H.I. people cannot hear when called, as there are no viewing boards for them to read that they can now go into the Doctors room. Staff 99.99% of the time never speak to the H.I. patient, they always speak to the translator. Lack of Deaf awareness is a problem. As sign language is an H.I. person's 1st language, English is a foreign language, and a H.I. persons English is very layman's. By implementing these changes, it would help with NHS targets, for example lower consultation times, correct diagnosis, saving repeated consultation time. It would help the H.I. with their independence, give them privacy when talking to a Doctor or Nurse. Banks and Post Offices have these services, so why doesn't the NHS have them.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-359
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05349/12

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

2nd

February 2012

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 12 January regarding the petition on the difficulties encountered by the deaf and hard of hearing when accessing NHS services.

I appreciate NHS service providers need to address the needs of people with sensory impairment when they access healthcare. A Steering and Reference Group was set up, and specifically asked to make recommendations on delivering a sustainable improvement in the experiences of patients with sensory loss, when they come into contact with the NHS in Wales. The group comprised representatives from NHS Wales (including the NHS Centre for Equality and Human Rights), the Welsh Government, Health Inspectorate Wales and Community Health Councils, user groups and voluntary sector organisations.

A final report with recommendations was presented to me at the latter end of last year. It is an important piece of work and addresses some of the issues raised in the petition. On 9 January, I had the pleasure of launching the 'Accessible Healthcare for People with Sensory Loss in Wales' final report at the head office of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust's in Cwmbran.

The final report and the recommendations can be viewed on the RNIB Cymru website and can be accessed here:

http://www.rnib.org.uk/ABOUTUS/CONTACTDETAILS/CYMRU/Pages/cymru_publications.aspx#H2Heading1

The next step is for a delivery plan to be drawn up. My officials are working with those involved in the delivery to take this work forward, which should be available in the Spring.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

PETS(4)-06-12 : Tuesday 27 March 2012

P-04-359 Problems with the NHS For The Deaf - Paper 2

Consultation Response

1. Have you or someone you know experienced problems such as those described in the petition? If so, perhaps you could provide us with an outline of what happened.

Deaf / deaf and hearing impaired population are not one homogenous group. Deaf people may have English as their first language, you cannot automatically assume because they are deaf or hearing impaired British sign language is their first or preferred language. Many deaf people become deaf later in life or are brought up orally from birth prefer to communicate via English. Little d deaf people (orally deaf) still experience the same difficulties in hearing appointments / hearing on the phone to book appointments etc as pre-lingually Deaf people and still need the NHS to provide communication support such as lip speaker, or a t-loop in waiting room, ward and consulting room as well as a British sign language interpreter option. You cannot mistake translators for interpreters there is a difference. British sign language interpreters are not translators or signers as they are sometimes called.

Personally I have very nearly missed my hospital appointments at hospitals in Ystrad Mynach, Cardiff and Barry due to communication problems, i.e. I cannot hear my name being called even though I alert the reception on arrival that I am deaf. I keep reminding the staff there that I am deaf and can't hear my name; they forget to pass it on. My last hospital it was sheer luck my name was the one that had been called out I missed it and approached a doctor stating that did he know I was deaf and I also asked a nurse whether my name had been called out he pointed to a name on the file, he just called out and low and behold it was mine. I cannot relax in the waiting room being on constant alert for trying and struggling to hear my turn adds extra stress to an already stressful time. Also the consulting room / receptions in these hospitals very have a loop system in place and sometimes the layout of the waiting room is awful, acoustics is poor, the lighting is dark which makes lip reading even at the best of times incredibly difficult. I'd prefer to have the option of having a British sign language interpreter with me at appointments but such information is rarely offered / mentioned by nhs staff.

Another issue is the layout of the consultation room, I very often have to rearrange the seating so I am able to be close enough to the Dr to be able to try and lip read, and I do ask to look at the computer / my notes to try and gauge and second guess what the Dr is actually saying and what information he wants from me. Conversing with the doctor is a struggle if a mistake has been made I wouldn't know immediately therefore my treatment / diagnosis could be wrong which could detriment my health as I'd only pick up on it if I receive a follow up letter which is rare. I am lucky as I am confident to ask for clarification before answering the Drs questions in the consultation.

Other patients may feel intimidated by their Dr and avoid asking for clarification instead they may only nod and gauge information / mood from body language without fully understanding the information conveyed. It is possible that some deaf people leave the consultation room none the wiser as to when they went in. Occasionally I am one of them despite my best efforts to understand the content on the consultation and after I had sought clarification.

I would like to see viewing boards in all waiting rooms throughout the NHS, hospitals / GP surgeries as it would take away some of the anxiety of waiting to be called without having to be on the alert the whole time trying to remember which patients were here before and who arrived afterwards hoping you are called in order. While waiting to be verbally called as a deaf person I cannot relax for one moment.

2. What are the barriers to providing facilities such as mobile text services, loop systems, viewing boards and translators in the NHS?

British sign language interpreters are not translators so I am assuming by translators you mean interpreters in this question.

The biggest barrier is cost. My dentist still provides text reminders, however my GP has stopped this service due to the expense. I found the text reminder very useful. It would be good if Hospitals, GPs and dental surgeries had such a system in place not only for reminders but for booking appointments too.

After cost I'd say knowledge and lack of information are barriers because some NHS staff do not know what a t loop system is let alone how to switch one. Booking interpreters is often a mystery too even when you explain having an interpreter is necessary, reception staff sometimes start to panic as they don't know how to go about booking an interpreter, who to contact, the need to book in advance and not the day before the appointment, if appointment is cancelled at the last minute the nhs may still have to pay a cancellation fee, financial implications of cancellations is not always known about when Deaf people, who have an bsl interpreter, appointments are cancelled.

3. In your view, would the provision of these facilities solve the problems outlined in the petition or should something else be done?

Viewing boards of patient names would be good. You would have to make sure viewing boards are for names of patients only and not only for adverts to stop drinking and driving etc which are something I have viewed in an English GP surgery in the past.

More could be done from managerial level to patient facing staff level to aid understanding of the barriers faced by D / deaf, hearing impaired patients. Provision of disability equality and deaf equality training which delivered by appropriate qualified disabled people and is regularly refreshed is essential for health professional to gain some understand of their Deaf/deaf/hearing impaired patients.

Knowledge of etiquette of working with a British sign language when consulting with a Deaf patient is essential. Drs may think that interpreters are an invasion of D/deaf patients' privacy without them understanding that interpreters are qualified professionals who abide by confidentiality code of ethics. Drs very often talk to the interpreter and not to the deaf patient and may ask interpreters information about the deaf person thus assuming that the interpreters knows everything about the deaf person when in practice they could have only just met in the waiting room minutes before the appointment and are strangers. Again this links to some Drs views that interpreters must be deaf patients friends and do not fathom that interpreting is actually a professional job.

P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call on the Welsh Government to consider if proposals for day care for the vulnerable elderly, to be moved from a purpose built, thirty year old Day Centre, to an unsuitable basement in an old building, previously used as the Town Hall Aberystwyth, are compliant with statutory requirements, and any relevant guidance. The County Council are planning to demolish the Centre as part of a development to build a car park, a supermarket and a retail outlet.

Petition raised by: Pamela Ellis

Date petition first considered by Committee: 28 February 2012

Number of signatures: 10 (An associated petition collected approximately 6,000 signatures)

Supporting information: The present Day Centre is a purpose built facility, about thirty years old. It is in a convenient situation in the town centre, with easy access, a large drop off point and is near a road safety crossing. It is light and sunny, and can accommodate about 90 clients of mixed dependency, in several spacious rooms. The envisaged centre is not quite half the size and will only be able to cater for 32 clients in one main room. At present those carers of disabled clients or those caring for victims of a stroke, can have access to respite care on 2 or 3 days of the week. We feel the move will discriminate against this group as already fewer people are being assessed and referred by Social Services for this respite care. The council have admitted there will be rationing. Because of difficulties of access to the basement area, an outdoor, steep ramp with a 180 degree turning point half way down has been built. We feel strongly that carers or mobile chair users will have huge problems, particularly in stormy or icy weather. The ceilings in the basement are low; there is a large pillar in the centre of the room making it difficult to move wheelchairs or trolleys, natural light levels are low as it is partially below ground and several doors have to be navigated to access toilets. The old centre has a superb new kitchen providing good meals, the weekly luncheon club, a valuable socially inclusive option, has been closed already. In future, meals will be prepared elsewhere and brought in. There will only be one area available for meals and all other activities; thus space will be extremely limited. The local WVS presently provides drinks and snacks; that will no longer exist. The present centre has a large bathroom with a hoist, also laundry facilities, which were invaluable. The new centre will have a shower built into a toilet for assisted bathing, which opens directly onto a communal area. As this is the only disabled

toilet, it will be difficult for a disabled client to access a toilet if another client is having a shower. If the only new facility will only be able to cater for 32 clients, these will almost certainly have to be those needing respite cares, so those older citizens who value the opportunity to enjoy time at the centre to socialise, take part in activities, have a bath and enjoy a good meal will not be able to do so. The present centre has a very pleasant garden with seats, ample parking, a bay for dropping off people and is completely accessible to all. The present centre is made available in the evenings to groups of elderly, for example the Arthritis Care group fear that they will not be able to cope with the rain, in the dark, for their evening meetings. The new centre is on a dangerous main road turning, with heavy traffic use. Former users of the basement when it was the Town Hall have complained that it is too hot in the summer and cold and damp in the winter. The heating system has been improved, but the present sash windows are not being replaced and there will be no air-conditioning installed. Whilst the County Council have made efforts to meet our concerns, we strongly believe that the proposed new centre is absolutely unsuitable and is vastly inferior in the present centre. We would add that the Council have admitted that they did not carry out a proper consultation. Hence the formation of this pressure group.

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref GT/05187/12

William Powell AM
William.powell@wales.gov.uk

13th March 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your correspondence date the 27 February regarding the Petition you have received about the closure of the Park Avenue Day Centre in Aberystwyth. As such I have sought advice from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales. The powers and functions of the Inspectorate enable them to review local authority social services at a local and national level, to inform the public whether services are up to standard, to promote improvement of services and to help safeguard the interest of vulnerable people who use services and their carers.

From your correspondence I can clearly see that the day centre is a much used facility in the community and importantly a valued service for older people. The Petitioners are concerned that the proposed alternative premises is going to impact negatively on access for all and will change the way the service has traditionally functioned. I note that the Petitioners have also raised issues about the consultation process. The decision on how Ceredigion County Council provides its services is an issue for that authority and is a matter that neither the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales nor myself as the Deputy Minister can become involved with or intervene in.

However the Care and Social Services Inspectorate will note your views as part of their role in assessing the range and quality of services provided by the council's social services department. In this respect I am aware that the council is looking at a new model of service provision for the future. It is important that the council know your concerns directly and I therefore suggest that you forward your concerns to Mr Parry Davies, Director of Social Services for Ceredigion County Council.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

*Yours sincerely,
Gwenda.*

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services

P-04-353 Anti-hate crime campaign in Wales

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to condemn the rise in learning disability hate-crime and to urge the Welsh Government to create policies which challenge the negative perception of the value of people with a learning disability in Wales today.

Petition raised by: Wayne Crocker

Date petition first considered by Committee: 10 January 2012

Number of signatures: 653

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

30 January 2012

Dear William,

I am writing in response to the 653 signatures received to the Petitions Committee on learning disability hate crime in Wales.

I fully recognise and support the petition. Incidents of hate crime are shocking and unacceptable. There has been emerging evidence available in terms of disability related harassment and hate crime from MENCAPs Living in Fear report and the recent Equality and Human Rights Inquiry. This highlights the need to take forward work throughout Wales and I am committed for the Welsh Government to take a strong lead in this area.

I am shortly going to outline the future direction in Wales within my response to the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committees recommendations for the Welsh Government to take forward. This will highlight the future direction, including the need to tackle negative cultural views and to ensure that a joined up partnership approach can drive forward actions in the future.

I want Wales to take the lead to ensure that we live in a society where hate crime is not tolerated, so that people feel free to live within safe and vibrant communities.

Yours sincerely

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Jane.Hutt@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

CC
Minister for Education and Skills
Minister for Local Government and Communities

Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a
Llywodraeth Leol

Communities, Equality and Local Government
Committee

William Powell, AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

16 February 2012

Dear William

Petition: Anti-hate-crime campaign in Wales
Petition: A call to review the issues set out in the 2007 report on football in Wales
Petitions: Save Gwent Theatre; Spectacle Theatre; Save Theatr Powys & Mid Powys Youth Theatre
P-04-317 Hijinx Funding for the Arts

Thank you for your letter of 12 January, in which you notified me of your Committee's consideration of a number of petitions.

Petition: Anti-hate-crime campaign in Wales

You will be aware that the Committee has recently conducted an inquiry on disability-related harassment. The Committee's report was published at the end of 2011 and we have given a commitment in that report to keep the issue under review during this Assembly.

Petition: A call to review the issues set out in the 2007 report on football in Wales

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh
Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol / Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgorau / Committee Service
Ffôn / Tel : 029 2089 8429
Ebost / Email : Communities.Equality&LocalGov@wales.gov.uk

The Committee has recently agreed to undertake an inquiry into football in Wales. It is intended that the inquiry will take place next term. While the purpose of the inquiry is not to directly follow up on the issues raised in the 2007 Assembly report, I am sure that the Committee will address any relevant issues raised with us by consultees.

**Petitions: Save Gwent Theatre; Spectacle Theatre; Save Theatr Powys & Mid Powys Youth Theatre
P-04-317 Hijinx Funding for the Arts**

The Committee has agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to consider the issue of participation in the arts. While the terms of reference for the Group's inquiry does not directly relate to the petitions above, we hope that the organisations named above will be able to participate in our inquiry and raise any concerns they may have in relation to the effects of funding cuts on participation in the arts in Wales.

I have asked the Clerk of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee to ensure that the lead petitioners are included in the relevant consultation process for the inquiries mentioned above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

Agenda Item 5

P-04-341 Waste and Incineration

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to review

1. Prosiect Gwyrdd, which is against WAG policy of localised facilities, and allow our councils to choose their own waste technology and waste management procurement;
2. The flawed Wales waste survey that only gave people a 2 choice option on waste disposal;
3. By 2020, make it illegal to burn recyclable waste which would promote councils to recycle.

Petition raised by: Terry Evans

Petition first considered by Committee: 15 November 2011

Number of signatures: 21 (an associated petition collected another 13,286 signatures)

Please follow the link to access full consultation response:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=2294>

Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee - P-04-341 Waste and Incineration

To : Abigail Phillips, Clerk to the Petitions Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE STOP NEWPORT INCINERATOR CAMPAIGN (SNIC), MARCH 2012

Submitted by Robert Hepworth, Chair SNIC, Leuktra Lodge, Bishton, Newport, Gwent NP18 2DZ
rghepworth@gmail.com

Carbon Footprint & Health : Debunking the Myths

Carbon Footprint

It is repeatedly claimed that because incinerators burn waste instead of oil, gas or coal, and produce energy, they are somehow part of the solution to climate change. This myth is coupled with a statement most people would accept – that landfill (or at least landfilling organic waste) has to be reduced or eliminated because methane contributes more to global warming than other emissions of greenhouse gas, including CO₂.

However incinerators will exacerbate and not reduce carbon emissions. Incinerators burn a mixture of fossil-fuel derived materials (e.g. plastics) and biological materials. A waste to electricity incinerator actually releases more fossil-fuel derived CO₂ per unit energy produced than a gas-fired power station. They do not produce energy efficiently and neither of the incinerators proposed for SE Wales has a credible market for heat. Using data from DECC, SNIC estimate that In 2018 waste incinerators will produce about 850 gCO₂ per kWh of fossil carbon compared with 350 gCO₂ /kWh fossil carbon from the UK 'Average Mix' in a power station. These figures are likely to be closer to the actual outputs to be used for reporting Wales "Waste Sector" emissions under the European 20:20:20 Climate Action Plan. **There is no room within the agreed Wales Waste Sector limit (with 3% p.a. cut to 2020) for high-CO₂ emissions from incinerators.**

Incinerators have been compared against other waste disposal options using the latest modelling technology. The most recent study¹ published by economists at DEFRA in June 2011 reached the conclusion that “**MBT (mechanical biological treatment)-landfill provides the best [greenhouse gas] emissions performance in terms of the treatment/disposal of residual waste. It essentially involves land filling somewhat stabilised wastes with some material recovery. The magnitude of the environmental impact depends on the extent to which the waste is stabilised.**”

¹ *The Economics of Waste and Waste Policy*, Waste Economics Team, DEFRA June 2011

This conclusion is confirmed by the league table in *Greenhouse Gas Balances of Waste Management Scenarios*², in **which incinerator options occupy 4 of the bottom 5 places above landfill while all the top 10 places are taken by MBT and gasification disposal methods.** Defra and GLA's use of this comprehensive report illustrate that it is widely accepted as the definitive assessment of the relative performance of different types of waste disposal process in relation to greenhouse gas emissions, and hence contribution to climate change. Note Eunomia's conclusions **that "Scenarios incorporating MBT (AD with maturation) perform most consistently well both under our central assumptions and in each form of sensitivity analysis.....Under our central assumptions and the five forms of sensitivity analysis... incineration with CHP reaches a high of only 15th place in the scenario rankings."**

As petitioners we also submit that the comparisons above – unfavorable though they are to incineration – may even underestimate the contribution of incinerators to greenhouse gas in the context of Prosiect Gwyrdd. This is because waste is due to be transported over substantial distances to a 5 county incinerator in Cardiff or Newport. Both the current proposals for incinerators in Cardiff and Newport would involve all the waste generated nearby being transported by road either in refuse collection vehicles or bulk lorries. In addition, between 20 and 30% of the original tonnage of this waste will be re-exported, again by lorry, as partially toxic ash for use in the construction industry and/or for landfill. A smaller percentage of highly toxic flue or fly ash will also be exported by lorry over long distances to special sites in England licensed to store dangerous waste. Yet more lorries will ship out metals recovered from the ash which have not been incinerated into the atmosphere.

A mass-burn incinerator serving 5 counties will generate considerably more transport by road of waste and waste products than the current system, or than alternatives such as MBT, largely because of the larger catchment area required to service a mass-burn incinerator, the constant financial incentive to maintain input waste tonnages and the high proportion of waste which has to be transported a second time as ash. This inevitably means a higher proportion of greenhouse gas will be emitted by lorries, in addition to the amounts gushing into the atmosphere from the incinerator chimneys.

PG has not given sufficient weight to greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in proposals which make no serious attempt to avoid high emission levels. A striking example is the failure to deploy rail transport in the Cardiff or Newport proposals. In the case of Veolia, this is in spite of the fact that the Llanwern steel processing mills have a freight siding with an immediate link to the main rail network. How can this Project describe itself as "Green" or "Gwyrdd" in either of our languages, when it has allowed bids which are so prone to high greenhouse gas emissions and which fail to make use of even of existing rail infrastructure ?

² *Eunomia Consulting, Jan 2008*

In conclusion we would ask the Petitions Committee to reject assertions based on fictitious “offsets” which wrongly claim that MBT is the "worst option from a climate change point of view" and that incineration is the best. *The opposite is the truth.*³

Health

The health arguments alone justify a precautionary approach which avoids the risks inherent in mass-burn incineration which have damaged health for the last 150 years since the technology was invented by the Victorians.

We will not repeat the extensive arguments which SNIC gave in our original evidence last December or our supplementary note sent to the Committee earlier this month on health. However we do draw the Committee’s attention to the devastating “Sniffer” report on particles discussed on pages 11-12 of SNIC’s original evidence. We are still hearing little but silence from officials on this report despite its clear warning that millions of lives are being shortened by exposure to the very particles produced in concentration and profusion by mass-burn incinerators. The EU Directive covering particles requires reductions in their emissions not the construction of new incinerators which will produce more particles. Fines will be inevitable if the Directive is ignored. The only argument we hear amounts to saying “because there are a different sources of particles we shouldn’t worry about incinerators”, ignoring the evidence that incinerators can account for a high proportion of particles in their vicinity, and the fact the incineration – unlike some other processes producing particles – is a totally unnecessary technology when safer, viable alternatives exist. The Environment Agency for Wales conceded in their oral evidence to the Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Scrutiny Panel in March 2012 that 6.3% of PMs come from incinerators.

SNIC also draw attention to a new Italian article by Silvia Candela⁴ published in November 2011, not yet available in English as far as we know. A copy of the original is attached. The study is part of a series studying the impacts on the local population of 6 modern waste incinerators in Italy, which is of course subject to the same EU legislation on air quality and incinerators as Wales. **This particular study shows significant relationships between exposure to incinerator emissions and stomach, pancreatic, and other forms of cancer.** It is not the first study to show a correlation between incinerators and cancers based on epidemiological area studies. There is a steady flow of such findings : indeed the HPA’s own *volte face* on area studies in January

³ We would also refer to the extensive discussion of the advantages of MBT, including the new plant at Avonmouth, given in our original evidence of December 2011

⁴ ***Studio di coorte sulla popolazione residente. Mortalità e incidenza dei tumori nei soggetti residenti intorno agli inceneritori per rifiuti solidi urbani in Emilia-Romagna*** Silvia Candela (Azienda Usl di Reggio Emilia, Dipartimento di Sanità Pubblica, responsabile Linea progettuale 4)

2012, when they commissioned a study of birth events around UK incinerators, suggests that doubts about the safety of incinerators are growing even within bodies which have previously been reluctant to accept that there are real risks to the public.

SNIC stand by their evidence, and still believe that Wales has a unique opportunity to build on its progressive policies in other areas of waste generation (eg the restrictions on plastic bags and high kerbside recycling) and move forward with the safest greenest waste disposal policy in Britain and perhaps Europe based on recycling, mechanical and biological processing with energy-from-gasification. Such a policy would create desperately needed new jobs. It would be light on capital investment, and flexible enough to modify economically as and when technology improves further.

These and other issues, concerning cost as well as health and the environment, need to be fully aired in the Senedd as it still appears to be the Administration's resolve to construct mass-burn incinerators throughout Wales to burn residual black bag waste for the next 25-30 years. Like the other petitioners, SNIC hopes that the Committee can be a catalyst in adopting a much greener, safer and less costly approach.

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:

Your Ref/Eich Cyf:

Date/Dyddiad:

Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:

Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:

Email/Ebost:

3rd January 2012

Tim Peppin



Abigail Phillips
Clerk to the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Abigail

Petition regarding Prosiect Gwyrdd

Thank you for your letter of 16th November 2011 requesting views on the petition received in relation to Prosiect Gwyrdd.

The petition makes three points. Comments on each of these are provided below. The questions suggested in your letter are addressed within these comments.

Localised facilities and council choice over waste technology and procurement

The EU Waste Framework Directive establishes the principle of 'proximity', requiring member states to establish an integrated and adequate network of installations for the disposal or recovery of mixed municipal waste collected from private households. It requires that waste is disposed of, or recovered, in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies, to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and public health. In introducing the concept of 'localised facilities', however, the petitioners need to clarify their definition of 'local'. There are numerous factors that need to be considered in relation to what is 'adequate and appropriate', including the waste quantities involved and the technological choices available, budgets and costs, and geography and resilience:-

Quantities and technology: The quantity of municipal waste in Wales was 1.62m tonnes in 2010/11, with under 400,000t in any one quarter. This total has been falling slowly each year with an ongoing downward trend expected. Prosiect Gwyrdd accounts for around 40% of this waste. With up to half of this municipal waste currently being recycled or composted, some of the waste treatment technologies available would be capable of dealing with all of Wales' residual

Steve Thomas CBE
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr

Welsh Local Government
Association
Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600
Fax: 029 2046 8601

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth
Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
Rhodfa Drake
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG
Ffôn: 029 2046 8600
Ffacs: 029 2046 8601

www.wlga.gov.uk

municipal waste in one or two facilities. Indeed, the recently withdrawn Covanta project in Merthyr Tydfil would have had a capacity of 750,000t per annum. Likewise, facilities operating and being developed in England are on a scale that could deal with a large proportion of Wales' waste.

Budgets and costs: From a sustainable development perspective the prospect of a range of community level facilities generating energy that is then used in the same community certainly has attractions. Furthermore, it is important to see costs and benefits of different options 'in the round': there would be many potential benefits of a community-level approach over and above waste considerations (e.g. reduced transport, improved energy resilience, local employment opportunities). However, local authorities have to deal with today's pressures and the budgets available as well as looking to the future. Moreover, sustainable development considerations must apply across all services and a disproportionately expensive solution for waste would take scarce resources away from other priority areas of local authority activity. Adopting technologies without a 'track record' would also carry a level of risk that would be unacceptable for authorities who – notwithstanding their successes with recycling and composting - are dealing with a regular and unrelenting stream of residual waste. For the moment, then, to achieve an acceptable level of costs there are likely to be economies of scale and/or certainty associated with using 'tried and tested' technologies currently available in the market place. As a consequence, local authorities have come together in a number of consortia across Wales to identify ways of dealing with their food and residual waste. Prosiect Gwyrdd is one of six such residual waste consortia.

Geography and resilience: Whilst there may be technologies capable of dealing with large tonnages it is important to consider the transport logistics of moving such volumes to a small number of facilities – and the level of resilience in the face of potential transport and weather disruption. Subject to guidance in the Welsh Government's municipal waste strategy (which has set out the Welsh Government's preferred approach in terms of waste treatment), local authorities have been relatively free to identify the spatial scale that works best for them. Sensibly, local authorities have agreed on a collaborative approach. The Welsh Government has established the Wales Waste Procurement Programme Office (WPPO) to help authorities work through the procurement process. Each consortium has been given advice to assist it through the Government's preferred process of competitive dialogue. The WPPO reports to a monthly Programmes Steering Group chaired by the Welsh Government and attended by WLGA. The procurement support has generally been welcome by the local authorities. The six consortia that have emerged to date are likely to continue to evolve as commitments to construct facilities are made, offering new opportunities, subject to capacity and cost considerations. Two consortia are currently in discussions with Welsh Government about the possibility of a different procurement approach that could see them working together. Whilst these discussions have yet to be concluded, the Government has demonstrated a willingness to engage with local authorities to identify geographical/scale configurations and procurement arrangements that are acceptable to all.

Overall, then, it is misleading to say that Prosiect Gwyrdd is 'against WG's policy of localised facilities' - 'localised' must be seen in context. There are grounds for arguing that the Welsh Government has limited the choice of local authorities in terms of waste technology and procurement. First, the Municipal Waste Strategy set out its preferred approach to waste treatment, supported by a 'blueprint' that recommends use of energy from waste with high energy efficiency for treatment of residual waste. Second, the

Government has made it clear that long term financial support for alternative approaches is unlikely to be agreed. Third, the Government has required a process of competitive dialogue to be followed in procurement. However, there is a fine line between 'giving leadership' and 'limiting choice'. Allowing 22 local authorities to pursue their own approaches could have resulted in an unstructured approach, being inefficient in terms of resource use (e.g. up to 22 sets of legal and financial advisors), taking much longer and, ultimately, potentially arriving at a very similar solution in light of market feedback. Whilst not always agreeing with all aspects of the Welsh Government's approach, WLGA is content that the approach being followed is a constructive and pragmatic way forward, provided there is a continued willingness to engage and reach consensus on issues that arise as the process unfolds.

Waste survey

The survey referred to is understood to be the *Public Attitudes to Waste in Wales* survey of 1,030 adults undertaken by GfK NOP on behalf of Waste Awareness Wales (WAW) in 2010/11. The petitioners argue that the survey was flawed and gave only a two-choice option on waste disposal.

To be clear and open, WAW is funded by Welsh Government and is hosted by WLGA. The survey was a wide-ranging one and looked in particular at recycling behaviour. It was not, therefore focused solely on waste disposal options. When asked, two thirds of respondents felt that burning waste for energy is better than land filling. This is a significant finding. Of those who did not favour 'energy from waste', their main concern was about pollution. Importantly, though, the research found that there is a poor understanding of the issue of 'recovery' from waste.

The suggestion contained within the petition' is that there are alternatives to landfilling or burning. It is misleading to suggest, however, that there are alternatives to landfilling that do not involve burning. On the WAW website there is information about waste recovery and the various broad categories of technologies that exist for non-recyclable waste – see:- <http://www.wasteawarenesswales.org.uk/recovery/index.html>. This shows that:

- **Advanced Thermal Treatment** – turns waste into a fuel. This fuel then has to be burned to create heat and electricity
- **Pyrolysis** – treats waste at 300-800 degrees Celsius to produce a gas which is then burned
- **Gasification** – operates at higher temperatures than pyrolysis but again produces syngas which is burned.
- **Mechanical and Biological Treatment** - this reduces organic waste into a material known as flock, while removing recyclable materials. The remaining material is used as a fuel which is burned in a thermal heating process. In any case, given the investment in separate recycle and food waste collections throughout Wales, there should be little organic or recyclable material in the waste going for treatment
- **Energy from Waste** – this burns waste at over 850 degrees Celsius. Energy is recovered through the incineration process by using the heat to create steam. This can be used for heating and power. The bottom ash from the incinerator is then filtered to remove any remaining metals while the rest can be used as an aggregate. Filters capture any residues or particles from the incineration process, known as fly-

ash, and this is sent to landfill. Waste is therefore recovered as a valuable source of heat and power.

In the Welsh Government's Municipal Waste Strategy it states: "In respect of projects receiving Welsh Assembly Government funding support, the 'reference solution' for dealing with municipal waste is to meet the recycling/composting targets set in Towards Zero Waste, treat the separated food waste via Anaerobic Digestion and **recover energy from the residual waste at an energy from waste (EfW) plant** with the capability to secure, and as far as possible actually realise, 60 per cent thermal efficiency" (page 75; emphasis added).

In terms of advantages and disadvantages of incineration/EfW:

Advantages/arguments in favour

- It provides a solution to the problem for local authorities of what to do with waste that cannot be recycled or composted
- Less space is required than via landfill and the volume and weight of waste are greatly reduced
- It avoids environmental damage associated with landfill such as from leachate and emissions of methane
- There is financial support on offer from Welsh Government
- Even non-recyclable waste still has a value – it is a resource that we can use beneficially to recover energy (as opposed to burying it in the ground)
- It therefore makes a contribution to energy security and may be attractive to energy-using industries (with potential knock on employment benefits)
- EfW plants are very tightly regulated by Environmental Permits issued by the Environment Agency. Emission controls have to meet EU Waste Incineration Directive limits that are currently far tighter than controls over other comparable industrial and power plants that do not use waste as a fuel.
- Health Impact Assessments (HIA) carried out for both the Regional Waste Plans and Towards Zero Waste concluded that modern well regulated waste treatment plants do not have a significant impact on health, and therefore should not be a cause for concern. The Health Protection Agency study of September 2009 "The Impact on Health of Emissions to Air from Municipal Waste Incinerators" reviewed research into links between emissions from municipal waste incinerators and effects on health. It concluded that "*any possible health effects are likely to be very small, if detectable*".

Disadvantages/arguments against

- Historically, EfW has been more expensive than landfill (especially to meet emission standards), although increases in landfill tax are tilting the balance back in favour of EfW
- Health studies cannot *totally* rule out a risk to health, however marginal this may be, with concerns in particular about dioxins
- Public perception of EfW is generally negative (based at least in part on the poor reputation of previous generation incinerators that were not designed for EfW)
- The larger the plant the greater the number of vehicle movements bringing waste to the facility which could cause local neighbourhood nuisance (although, conversely, if located near a densely populated area the waste can be dealt with more or less 'on site', minimising transportation to distant landfill sites)

- Existence of EfW capacity could deter recycling, especially if there are contractual tonnages that have to be supplied (however, the EfW cap and the statutory recycling targets effectively eliminate this risk in Wales)
- Employment generation will not be substantial as this is a capital intensive operation (as are the other technologies listed above); however, there is a need for continuous monitoring and this will require highly skilled individuals to be available at all times
- Finding a suitable location can be difficult – not only due to public opposition but also because of the need for it to be well linked by transport and, ideally, co-located with energy using facilities that can benefit from electricity/heat generated.

Overall, in light of the above information and the work already undertaken to enable separate food and dry recycling collection in Wales, WLGA agrees that Energy from Waste (EfW) offers the best option for disposing of non-recyclable waste. There is a cap on EfW use of 30% by 2024/25 – which is the ‘flip side’ of the 70% recycling and composting target. Therefore, contrary to the suggestion in the petition, the existence of EfW plants will not act as a disincentive to recycling – ultimately, they will be dealing solely with non-recyclable material (see below). Moreover, the need for EfW plant should reduce between 2024/25 and 2050 because (i) products and packaging materials should increasingly be chosen and designed for disassembly and preparation for reuse / recycling and (ii) collection services and facilities to recycle all of the material should be in place.

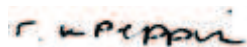
Recyclable waste post 2020

The petitioners argue for it to be “illegal to burn recyclable waste” by 2020. The Welsh Government’s statutory targets already require local authorities to be recycling 64% of municipal waste collected by 2019/20 – and 70% by 2024/25. There are financial penalties for not meeting these challenging targets. That means that local authorities already have a major incentive to maximise the amount of recycling they undertake. Indeed, councils have taken important steps to facilitate an increase in recycling and good progress is being made towards the next statutory target of 52% by 2012/13. At the point at which recycling levels of 70% are achieved there will be little if anything left in the waste stream that is capable of being recycled. The only material going forward to energy from waste plant for ‘burning’ would be residual waste. Therefore, WLGA believes there is no need for further legislation on this matter.

Interestingly the petitioners focus on councils’ role in recycling. In fact, municipal waste accounts for under 10% of all waste in Wales. There are challenges in terms of increasing recycling in other sectors too, including industry and commerce, construction and agriculture.

I hope that the information supplied above is of use to your Committee in considering the petition. WLGA would be happy to provide oral evidence to the Committee if required.

Yours sincerely



Tim Peppin
Director – Regeneration and Sustainable Development.



Office/Swyddfa: 02920 717523
Fax/Ffacs: 02920 363419
Email/Ebost : info@prosiectgwyrdd.co.uk

Prosiect Gwyrdd
PO Box 3120
Cardiff
CF30 0DA

Prosiect Gwyrdd
Blwch SP 3120
Caerdydd
CF30 0DA

Our ref: PG/ILD/WG/094
Your ref:

10th January 2012

Dear Sarita,

Thank you for your request for information relating to the 'Petition' on residual waste. As only point 1 relates specifically to Project Gwyrdd, we have responded to this point and have left points 2 and 3 to the stakeholders that deal with these issues.

The response gives a short introduction and counters the claim that the Project is 'against WG Policy of localised facilities'. It then goes on to explain why the Project is consistent with each 'Council being able to chose their own waste technology and waste management procurement.'

Introduction

Prosiect Gwyrdd is a partnership of 5 local authorities to deliver a solution to residual waste. This work is being carried out in parallel with each of the partners' priority to recycle and compost as much waste as possible, in line with the legally binding Welsh Government waste targets. The procurement is supported by the Welsh Government, both in terms of the cost of the procurement and a 25% contribution of the gate fee of the facility over the contract term.

Each of the partners are committed to adhering to the EU Waste Hierarchy and are investing in reduction and reuse schemes, recycling education, recycling and composting collections as well as the infrastructure or service contracts to process these materials.

The Project is committed to delivering the residual waste infrastructure needed to meet the Welsh Government waste targets up until 2025. The Welsh Government's Towards Zero Waste sets out Wales' intention to recycle all of the waste we produce and eliminate any non recyclable rubbish by 2050. If this is achieved there will be no need for energy from waste in the future but in the meantime residual waste has to be dealt with in a sustainable way.

Against WG policy of localised facilities.

Prosiect Gwyrdd is a sub-regional approach to residual waste procurement and the Project has to strike a balance between the principles set out in the Waste Proximity Principle and achieving value for money benefits through partnership working. Both proposed sites at the ISFT stage are within the partnership area, with Viridor's site at Trident Park in Cardiff and Veolia's site south of the existing Llanwern Steelworks in Newport.

The site location chosen by the bidders would have been determined by a range of factors including the proximity to where the waste is being generated, the availability to connect to the



grid to sell electricity, potential heat users and the transportation links and cost to deliver the waste to the facility.

The Project evaluates the bidders' Transportation Plan using an integrated environmental model assessment which takes all of these factors into consideration.

The Project is fully in line with Welsh Government Waste and Environmental Policy. This has recently been confirmed to the Project in a letter from the WG's Waste Programme Office. A Local Partnerships Transactor has been appointed to the Project by the Welsh Government to oversee the procurement to ensure that it is line with the Welsh Government's requirements and the Welsh Government will carry out their own 'health check' before contract close.

Council's to chose their own waste technology and waste management procurement.

All five Councils chose through a due democratic process, to become part of 'Prosiect Gwyrdd'. The Project had to produce an Outline Business Case and had to chose a reference technology to show that the Project was affordable. Through an integrated environmental model Assessment, Energy from Waste was chosen as the reference technology at that point in time. The Outline Business Case and the agreement to start the procurement was agreed by all five Full Councils in summer 2009. The procurement has always been technology neutral – we did not specify a technology.

Through this democratic process, each Council agreed the Prosiect Gwyrdd procurement route, agreed the Outline Business Case, agreed the evaluation criteria, and agreed to advertise the requirements of the Project to the global market through an advert in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Each of the partner Councils did chose their own procurement route and this has been carried out through democratic process. Through this process they have also selected the two technologies that remain in the procurement.

Yours sincerely,

Prosiect Gwyrdd

www.prosiectgwyrdd.co.uk



Ms Abigail Phillips
Clerk to the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

3 January 2012

Dear Ms Phillips,

Response to petition on Prosiect Gwyrdd

Further to your letter of 16 November 2011, inviting views on the above petition, I attach a note setting out the views of the Welsh Environmental services Association (WESA) on the questions posed in your letter. WESA is the trade association representing Wales's waste and secondary resource industry. We are a leading partner in Wales's transformation from a disposal to a zero waste society and our members have helped Wales' municipal recycling rate increase to 45%. WESA members recover both value and energy from the Wales's waste whilst protecting the environment and human health.

While the attached response touches on the health impacts of energy from waste plants, you may be interested to know that we have submitted a detailed assessment of this issue to the Prosiect Gwyrdd Scrutiny Committee in response to the latter Committee's consultation on this topic. If this is a topic which your Committee decides to explore in depth, please let me know and I can send you a copy of it.

In principle I would be willing to give oral evidence to supplement the attached response if asked to by the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Farrow
Director of Policy

RESPONSE BY THE WELSH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION TO THE PETITION ON PROSIECT GWYRDD RECEIVED BY THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

The Welsh Environmental Services Association (“WESA”) is the trade association representing Wales’s waste and secondary resource industry. We are a leading partner in Wales’s transformation from a disposal to a zero waste society and our members have helped Wales’ municipal recycling rate increase to 45%. WESA members recover both value and energy from the Wales’s waste whilst protecting the environment and human health.

Q1. What, in your view, is the best method of disposing of non-recyclable waste?

A1. The principle must be to deal with non-recyclable waste in a way which safeguards human health and the environment, while where possible recovering some value from it for society and the economy. Historically the main way of dealing with non-recyclable waste was to dispose of it to landfill, and today’s modern landfill sites are well-engineered to protect the environment and to capture landfill gas to create energy. But the scope to continue with landfill is diminishing, due to EU targets and national policies (plus the main economic driver of increasing landfill tax) which aim to preventing waste and recycling or recover more of what’s left – in line with the so-called “waste hierarchy”. That is why other methods of dealing with non-recyclable waste are coming to the fore, including a whole range of different technologies ranging from controlled combustion to anaerobic digestion and composting. The waste industry we represent is technology neutral and will use the proven technologies which best meet the needs of its clients, be they businesses or local authorities, and which are most suitable for the various waste streams that need to be dealt with, bearing in mind issues of cost, environmental protection, and public policy.

Q2. What are the advantages and disadvantages (in terms of the environment, health, local economy etc) of incineration?

A2. Modern energy from waste plants are very different from old-style incinerators. First they are much cleaner and safer in terms of emissions, thanks to technological advances and stringent EU controls, so that they pose effectively no risk to human health and the environment*. Secondly they are much more efficient at recovering energy, and in some cases heat too, from the wastes they burn, and can make a useful contribution to energy supplies. So the benefits of energy from waste as opposed to landfill are that it is better for the environment, provides useful energy, helps meet EU and national targets on waste and energy policy, and provides more jobs than landfill. On the downside, energy from waste should only be used for wastes which are not recyclable or compostable (where economically feasible and environmentally beneficial), ie what is sometimes known as “residual waste”.

www.esauk.org

154 Buckingham Palace Road London SW1W 9TR

Tel: 020 7824 8882 Fax 020 7824 8753 e-mail info@esauk.org

Environmental Services Association Ltd. A company limited by guarantee. Reg no 962961 London. VAT no 243 8018 73

The larger energy from waste plants are substantial capital projects requiring major financing and project management skills, but they can offer valuable economies of scale. It is important that investment in residual waste treatments such as energy from waste does not run counter to continuing efforts to reduce waste in the first place, and to recycle or compost as much as possible of the waste that remains. It is notable that those European countries which have the highest recycling rates also have a significant energy from waste sector for residual waste – and almost no landfill.

Q3. Do you think it's a good idea for local authorities to collaborate on waste policy, which could lead to resource savings, or is it more important for them to find the most appropriate solution for their locality? What are the reasons for your answer?

A3. This is ultimately a choice for local communities and their elected representatives to make. Wales has the advantage of having unitary authorities, which means that responsibility for waste collection and waste disposal is in the same hands, which is not always the case elsewhere in the UK. There can be advantages in local authorities collaborating, for example in offering similar or complementary collection systems for householders and businesses in neighbouring areas, and in achieving value for money in contracting with waste companies who can achieve economies of scale when providing facilities for the recycling and treatment of waste over wider areas. But equally, depending on the local circumstances and the waste stream in question, there can also be advantages to small scale local solutions such as anaerobic digestion plants or in-vessel composting for food waste or garden waste. So its very much "horses for courses".

*In response to the Prosiect Gwyrdd Scrutiny Committee's consultation on the health effects of Energy from Waste plants, WESA commissioned a review of the research evidence in this field from global sustainability consultancy AEA Technology. This report, entitled *Review of research into health effects of EfW facilities* has been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

WESA

January 2012

RESPONSE BY THE WELSH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION TO THE PETITION ON PROSIECT GWYRDD RECEIVED BY THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

The Welsh Environmental Services Association (“WESA”) is the trade association representing Wales’s waste and secondary resource industry. We are a leading partner in Wales’s transformation from a disposal to a zero waste society and our members have helped Wales’ municipal recycling rate increase to 45%. WESA members recover both value and energy from the Wales’s waste whilst protecting the environment and human health.

Q1. What, in your view, is the best method of disposing of non-recyclable waste?

A1. The principle must be to deal with non-recyclable waste in a way which safeguards human health and the environment, while where possible recovering some value from it for society and the economy. Historically the main way of dealing with non-recyclable waste was to dispose of it to landfill, and today’s modern landfill sites are well-engineered to protect the environment and to capture landfill gas to create energy. But the scope to continue with landfill is diminishing, due to EU targets and national policies (plus the main economic driver of increasing landfill tax) which aim to preventing waste and recycling or recover more of what’s left – in line with the so-called “waste hierarchy”. That is why other methods of dealing with non-recyclable waste are coming to the fore, including a whole range of different technologies ranging from controlled combustion to anaerobic digestion and composting. The waste industry we represent is technology neutral and will use the proven technologies which best meet the needs of its clients, be they businesses or local authorities, and which are most suitable for the various waste streams that need to be dealt with, bearing in mind issues of cost, environmental protection, and public policy.

Q2. What are the advantages and disadvantages (in terms of the environment, health, local economy etc) of incineration?

A2. Modern energy from waste plants are very different from old-style incinerators. First they are much cleaner and safer in terms of emissions, thanks to technological advances and stringent EU controls, so that they pose effectively no risk to human health and the environment*. Secondly they are much more efficient at recovering energy, and in some cases heat too, from the wastes they burn, and can make a useful contribution to energy supplies. So the benefits of energy from waste as opposed to landfill are that it is better for the environment, provides useful energy, helps meet EU and national targets on waste and energy policy, and provides more jobs than landfill. On the downside, energy from waste should only be used for wastes which are not recyclable or compostable (where economically feasible and environmentally beneficial), ie what is sometimes known as “residual waste”. The larger energy from waste plants are substantial capital projects requiring major financing and project management skills, but they can offer valuable economies of scale. It is important that investment in residual waste treatments such as energy from waste does not run counter to continuing efforts to reduce waste in the first place, and to recycle or compost as much as possible of the waste that remains. It is notable that those European countries which have the

highest recycling rates also have a significant energy from waste sector for residual waste – and almost no landfill.

Q3. Do you think it's a good idea for local authorities to collaborate on waste policy, which could lead to resource savings, or is it more important for them to find the most appropriate solution for their locality? What are the reasons for your answer?

A3. This is ultimately a choice for local communities and their elected representatives to make. Wales has the advantage of having unitary authorities, which means that responsibility for waste collection and waste disposal is in the same hands, which is not always the case elsewhere in the UK. There can be advantages in local authorities collaborating, for example in offering similar or complementary collection systems for householders and businesses in neighbouring areas, and in achieving value for money in contracting with waste companies who can achieve economies of scale when providing facilities for the recycling and treatment of waste over wider areas. But equally, depending on the local circumstances and the waste stream in question, there can also be advantages to small scale local solutions such as anaerobic digestion plants or in-vessel composting for food waste or garden waste. So its very much "horses for courses".

*In response to the Prosiect Gwyrdd Scrutiny Committee's consultation on the health effects of Energy from Waste plants, WESA commissioned a review of the research evidence in this field from global sustainability consultancy AEA Technology. This report, entitled *Review of research into health effects of EfW facilities* has been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

WESA
January 2012



Chartered Institute of
Environmental
Health

Sefydliad Siartredig
Iechyd yr
Amgylchedd

Damage to Human Health and the Environment from Incineration of Waste

Response to Prosiect Gwrydd Joint Scrutiny Panel: Call
for Evidence

November 2011



Chartered Institute of
Environmental
Health

Sefydliad Siartredig
Iechyd yr
Amgylchedd

Sefydliad Siartredig Iechyd yr Amgylchedd

Fel **corff proffesiynol**, rydym yn gosod safonau ac yn achredu cyrsiau a chymwysterau ar gyfer addysg ein haelodau proffesiynol ac ymarferwyr iechyd yr amgylchedd eraill.

Fel **canolfan wybodaeth**, rydym yn darparu gwybodaeth, tystiolaeth a chynghor ar bolisiâu i lywodraethau lleol a chenedlaethol, ymarferwyr iechyd yr amgylchedd ac iechyd y cyhoedd, diwydiant a rhanddeiliaid eraill. Rydym yn cyhoeddi llyfrau a chylchgronau, yn cynnal digwyddiadau addysgol ac yn comisiynu ymchwil.

Fel **corff dyfarnu**, rydym yn darparu cymwysterau, digwyddiadau a deunyddiau cefnogol i hyfforddwr ac ymgeiswyr am bynciau sy'n berthnasol i iechyd, lles a diogelwch er mwyn datblygu arfer gorau a sgiliau yn y gweithle ar gyfer gwirfoddolwyr, gweithwyr, rheolwyr busnesau a pherchnogion busnesau.

Fel **mudiad ymgyrchu**, rydym yn gweithio i wthio iechyd yr amgylchedd yn uwch ar yr agenda cyhoeddus a hyrwyddo gwelliannau mewn polisi iechyd yr amgylchedd ac iechyd y cyhoedd.

Rydym yn **elusen gofrestredig** gyda dros 10,500 o aelodau ledled Cymru, Lloegr a Gogledd Iwerddon.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

As a **professional body**, we set standards and accredit courses and qualifications for the education of our professional members and other environmental health practitioners.

As a **knowledge centre**, we provide information, evidence and policy advice to local and national government, environmental and public health practitioners, industry and other stakeholders. We publish books and magazines, run educational events and commission research.

As an **awarding body**, we provide qualifications, events, and trainer and candidate support materials on topics relevant to health, wellbeing and safety to develop workplace skills and best practice in volunteers, employees, business managers and business owners.

As a **campaigning organisation**, we work to push environmental health further up the public agenda and to promote improvements in environmental and public health policy.

We are a **registered charity** with over 10,500 members across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Julie Barratt

Cyfarwyddwr yng Nghymru
Sefydliad Siartredig Iechyd yr Amgylchedd

Ffôn symudol 07919 212664

E-bost j.barratt@cieh.org

Cwrt Glanllyn

Parc Llantarnam

Cwmbran NP44 3GA

Ffôn 01633 865533 **Ffacs** 01633 485193

www.cieh-cymruwales.org

Julie Barratt

Director of CIEH Wales

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Mobile 07919 212664

Email j.barratt@cieh.org

Lakeside Court

Llantarnam Park

Cwmbran NP44 3GA

Telephone 01633 865533 **Fax** 01633 485 193

www.cieh-cymruwales.org

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is pleased to be able to assist the Joint Scrutiny Committee in its consideration of the potential impact of waste incineration plant emissions on human health and the environment.

Our response will answer the two specific questions constituting the Terms of Reference of the Committee, thereafter we will make more general points which we hope will assist the committee in its consideration of this issue.

c. *Is there any validated scientific evidence that an energy from waste incineration plant operating within the UK's current statutory framework causes harm to Health and Environmental damage?*

In our view there is no credible scientific evidence that a well run waste incineration plant poses any significant risk to either human health or to the environment. The CIEH endorses the view expressed in the Health Protection Agency paper 'The Impact to Health of Emissions to Air from Municipal Waste Incinerators' (2009)ⁱ which in its conclusion states that 'Modern, well managed incinerators make only a small contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants. It is possible that such small additions could have an impact on health but such effects, if they exist, are likely to be very small and not detectable'.

We consider that the regime of emission limits and monitoring required by the Environmental Permitting (EP) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 is sufficiently rigorous to protect both human health and the environment from harm from such emissions to atmosphere as are generated by modern well run incinerators.

d. *If there are examples(s) of validated scientific evidence, what are the causes of/effects on human health and the environment?*

None of which the CIEH is aware. There are large numbers of credible, peer reviewed studies looking at potential damage to health and to the environment from particles emitted from waste incinerators and from various specified chemicals, including known carcinogensⁱⁱ

None of the studies however can point to a credible risk being posed by such emissions.

General comments

It is generally accepted that in the past old style waste incinerators did generate pollution problems through emission of particulates to air and through the emission of chemicals that had an adverse impact on human health and on the environment within the vicinity of the incinerator.

The CIEH is however of the view that the combination of the control put in place by the Environmental Permitting (EP) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and advances in emission control and screening technology in modern incineration facilities are such that no significant risk is posed with either to human health or to the environment through the operation of such facilities.

We trust that the foregoing will assist the Joint Scrutiny Committee in its deliberations and would be happy to provide such other information or assistance as may be considered to be necessary.

ⁱ Health Protection Agency 2009 'The Impact of Health on Emissions to Air from Municipal Waste Incinerators'

ⁱⁱ Ibid

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-341
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06941/11

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

2 December 2011

Dear William,

P-04-341 Waste and Incineration

Thank you for your letter dated 15 November 2011 seeking my views on the petition received regarding waste and incineration.

My views on each specific item in the petition are as follows:

Item 1: To review Prosiect Gwyrdd, which is against WAG policy of localised facilities, and allow councils to choose their own waste technology and waste management procurement.

As part of the Welsh Government's waste strategy "Towards Zero Waste", Prosiect Gwyrdd is taking forward policy for the treatment of residual waste and localised facilities. It is subject to monitoring and evaluation. Local Authorities are able to choose their own waste technologies and waste procurements

Decisions on the location of waste facilities need to bear in mind the 'proximity principal' which is part of the Waste Framework Directive. The Directive establishes the principle of 'proximity' within the context of the requirement for member states to establish an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations and of installations for the recovery of

mixed municipal waste collected from private households, including where such collection also covers such waste from other producers, taking into account best available techniques. The Directive requires that the network shall enable waste to be disposed of, or the wastes referred to above to be recovered, in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies, in order to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and public health. The proximity principle also links to the Directive's requirement that the network shall be designed to enable member states to move towards the aim of self-sufficiency in waste disposal as well as in the recovery of waste referred to above, taking into account geographical circumstances or the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste. The Directive also makes it clear that each member state does not have to possess the full range of final recovery facilities within that member state. Both Technical Advice Note 21 (Waste) and the three Regional Waste Plans recognise the need for waste facilities that service the needs of regions of Wales. Decisions on the location of waste facilities rest with the Local Planning Authorities.

Under the Residual Municipal Waste Treatment Procurement Programme local authorities are free to choose which waste technology they wish to procure for the treatment of their residual municipal waste. The tender issued by Prosiect Gwyrdd was "technology neutral". Bids were assessed according to the National Evaluation Framework which includes criteria covering deliverability, cost, financial viability of the company, and a number of sustainability criteria. The National Evaluation Framework has been developed by the Welsh Government's Residual Municipal Waste Treatment Procurement Programme. At each stage the Prosiect Gwyrdd procurement project has been subject to rigorous monitoring and control.

The five authorities working within the Prosiect Gwyrdd Consortium are working together because it is recognised that there are clear economies of scale when procuring residual waste management options. It is important that the management of waste is as cost effective as possible given the financial pressures that we are all under.

Item 2: To review the Wales waste survey that only gave people a 2 choice option on waste disposal

The Waste Awareness Wales report was produced in August 2010 for the Welsh Government seeking public attitudes to waste. The survey as a whole gave the public several options regarding waste management.

The report was based on a detailed survey and a series of focus groups with the Welsh public. The report looked at consumer attitudes to the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover. The report asked a number of detailed questions on the waste hierarchy including people's views on recycling, what barriers they faced, how effective recycling information available was as well as possible methods to increase recycling.

Anaerobic digestion (AD) from food waste was discussed during the recover questions, as one of the options.

The survey sought views on incineration as a way of recovering energy from residual waste rather than landfilling it, but only as the next to last item on the waste hierarchy after waste had been reduced, reused and recycled and food waste had been separated for anaerobic digestion. The aim of this part of the survey was to gauge the public's view on incineration. The survey asked specifically for opinions on burning non-recyclable waste to produce energy.

Item 3: By 2020, make it illegal to burn recyclable waste which would promote councils to recycle.

The Welsh Government has acted to stop potentially recyclable materials from going to incineration by setting statutory targets to recycle 70% of municipal waste by 2025 and meet the interim targets before then. Wales is the only UK country to have such statutory targets.

In March 2011 the Welsh Government consulted on the Collections, Infrastructure and Markets (CIM) Sector Plan which identified the need to increase significantly the recycling of wastes produced by businesses. The CIM Sector Plan consultation document referenced a study that the Welsh Government has commissioned to consider instruments to facilitate the increased recycling of business waste, including measures such as the introduction of energy from waste bans for specific materials which can be recycled. The responses to the consultation document are being considered and the final version of the CIM Sector Plan is due to be published in spring 2012.

Yours,



John Griffiths AC / AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Terry Evans
17/1/2012

Abigail Phillip
Clerk to Petitions Committee
Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee
Welsh Assembly
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Re-Views to Petition Committee on Ministers response
Waste and Incineration Petition, P-04-341

My initial view to the response of the Environment Minister is that again the Minister's reply to this petition and the Incineration Petition earlier in the year, is not the Ministers response but the Minister's official's response from his waste management office, we need a bold Minister to take on the change that is required to our waste management, if he cannot or will not see the enormous resources in waste as clearly can be seen in other countries then he should move over for a Minister with drive and ambition to do the job, to allow or promote Welsh Councils to lock themselves in to contracts on Incineration of 25+ years is an act of irresponsibility, and should challenged on such a decision.

I would welcome the Minister to personally reply to the questions in my response to the Petitions committee without asking his officials, because these questions are plain and simple for the people to understand.

The Minister states that local authorities are able to choose their own waste technologies and waste procurement, then why was Caerphilly Council who was 9 months in their procurement process of choosing a MBT technology had it stopped by the Welsh Assembly and financially pressurised in to Prosiect Gwyrdd, there are numerous MBT and Autoclave plants in operation around the country, there is an new MBT plant at Avonmouth with 9 year working contracts, the offer to our Welsh Government and its officials is to go and see this plant for themselves

The incineration debate as continued and the health risks are there, information and evidence is gathering by the day, Governments have buried their heads in the sand and continue to use outdated advice from their health departments.

It is time the Minister called for expert evidence, not rely on out dated information, the Minister needs to have the courage and vision to look at the waste management in Wales and to remember this, that once asbestos, smoking and lead in petrol was deemed safe once by our health departments, the warning signs are there, why would an informed person take a risk on human health issues when clearly there are alternative safer, cheaper options available, it gives rise to the question was is really going on here?

The Minister states that the Welsh Government has acted to stop potentially recyclable material from going to incineration by setting statutory targets to recycle 70% by 2025, a Welsh Government survey states that 93% of waste is recyclable, if it became illegal to burn certain recyclable waste the 93% target would be achievable sooner, Scotland as already made it illegal to incinerate certain waste

I would urge the petition committee to hold an oral inquiry and to call expert witnesses.

Terry Evans
Chair United Valleys Action Group (UVAG)

Agenda Item 9.1

DEPUTY LEADER'S OFFICE
SWYDDFA'R DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

My Ref / Fy Nghyf: EM21167
Your Ref / Eich Cyf: P-03-136
Date / Dyddiad: 16th February 2012

William Powell AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear / Annwyl William,

Re: Parking in Heath and Birchgrove

Thank you for your letter dated January 2012. Your letter has been passed to me to respond due to the matter falling within my Transportation Portfolio.

I can confirm that Senior Officers have been working, and will continue to work, both with the Petitioners and the Cardiff and Vale Health Board to assist in finding a solution to the parking problems that the residents of the Heath area of Cardiff are experiencing and have experienced for a number of years.

I would like to thank you for the Petitions Committees recognition of the efforts that have been made by Council Officers.

Yours sincerely,
Yn gywir,

Councillor / Cynghorydd Neil McEvoy
Deputy Leader/ Dirprwy Arweinydd
Executive Member Transport & Economic Development /
Aelod Gweithredol dros Drafnidiaeth a Datblygu Economaidd

PLEASE REPLY TO / ATEBWCH I:

Deputy Leader's Office / Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Arweinydd,
Room / Ystafell 520, County Hall / Neuadd Y Sir, Cardiff / Caerdydd CF10 4UW
Tel / Ffôn (029) 20873348 Fax / Ffacs (029) 2087 2691



Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol Health and Social Care Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



William Powell AC AM

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Chair, Petitions Committee

5 March 2012

Dear William,

Health and Social Care Committee – Inadequate public toilet facilities

You will be aware that the Petitions Committee referred a petition to the Health and Social Care Committee in June 2011 relating to public toilet provision in Wales. The petition called upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the health and social well-being implications resulting from public toilets closures and to urge the Welsh Government to issue guidance to local authorities to ensure adequate public toilet provision.

As you are aware, we held a one-day inquiry to consider the public health implications of inadequate facilities on 19 January 2012. A report of the evidence we received is attached to this letter for your information.

Based on the evidence received, the Committee is firmly of the view that the public health case for better public toilet provision is strong. Furthermore, the Committee believes that the evidence collected suggests that there is a prima facie case for further investigation of local authority provision of public toilet facilities. A series of practical suggestions were made by witnesses, through which local provision could be better planned and provided, with improved outcomes for public health. It is our view that these potential solutions could merit further investigation by those more expert in local government matters.

The Committee has drawn this work to the attention of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee in the hope that, when next considering its forward work programme, it may be able to consider this matter for further investigation. The work has also been drawn to the attention of the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for Local Government and Communities.

Bae Caerdydd
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Yours sincerely

Mark Drakeford.

Mark Drakeford AC AM
Cadeirydd - Chair

Correspondence from the Petitioner 13 March 2012.

Representatives from the Parents Campaign for CASS have re-opened discussions with the Local Education Authority to further the best practice model of CASS. We will obviously re-open the Campaign for CASS should services from the CASS team be compromised in anyway or if CASS home support services are not enhanced in the future.

Once again I would like to apologise for the short notice in letting the committee know of our decision but as a Campaign we have decided on this course of action on the behalf of our children.

We would also like to thank the Committee and its Chair for providing the Campaign with the opportunity of attending the committee.

Many thanks,

Nichola Coleman