

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1079
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02826/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

23rd December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November 2020 regarding the petition to safeguard Kenfig Nature Reserve using compulsory purchase powers.

Unfortunately, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) were not able to come to an agreement with the Kenfig Corporation Trust (KCT) on a long term lease as resolution could not be found over the grazing rights. The grazing rights are part of the Trusts constitution and potentially have significant monetary value, and they were not willing to move their position on this. This meant that the Trust retained exclusive rights on the appointment of any grazier as well as retaining rights to exercise the rights themselves. NRW would therefore not have had control over a crucial aspect of the required management of the site. The greatest risk for degradation to this site is likely to be inappropriate (over or under) grazing, therefore the management of the site is intrinsically linked to the control of the grazing rights.

Following further discussion between both parties KCT have decided to manage the site itself with the support of NRW and NRW recently issued the following statement via social media: :

“A meeting was recently held at Kenfig National Nature Reserve between Natural Resources Wales and Kenfig Corporation Trust to discuss what arrangements need to be in place to ensure the special features at Kenfig National Nature Reserve are protected.

To support the delivery of conservation work required at the reserve Kenfig Corporation Trust have decided to employ the services of a specialist who can manage the reserve, with Natural Resources Wales providing help and support in recruiting the right candidate to the post.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Natural Resources Wales will work with the Trust to have a management agreement in place that will direct the working practices to support the rich variety of wildlife at Kenfig Nature Reserve.”

As the owners of the site, KCT are entitled to manage it themselves and the current position suggests they are willing to do so under an agreement with NRW that secures the outcomes needed. Essentially NRW will help KCT appoint a warden and then issue an annual management agreement to KCT to undertake specific management activities in return for payment.

Whilst there is still some negotiation to go, and the details remain commercially confidential, at present we can be reasonably confident that by the New Year we will have a solution in place negating the need to consider the compulsory purchase of the site.

Yours sincerely,



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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