

Karen Roberts

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04/07/13

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

### **Petition – Save Ponty Paddling Pool**

I write in response to your recent letter asking for my views on the correspondence received from the Minister in relation to the above

The content is indeed disappointing, but to be honest was expected, as CADW had already given a similar reply and they would have advised the Minister accordingly. This despite the fact that their original advice was to the contrary, as has been documented in previous correspondence.

The problem seems to stem from the fact that the paddling pool was not regarded as within the curtilage of the Lido when the original listing was placed on that building. It therefore seems that the fact that the paddling pool structure predates the Lido and is an integral part of Ynysangharad Park is regarded as immaterial.

As for the argument that the Council will provide free swimming for under 12s and so there will be no loss of facility, that is a matter of opinion. The current paddling pool is free to use for all. The new pools will be part of the Lido complex. One adult will be allowed free entry with a child, which means there will be a cost for families where there are more adults than children.

Whereas currently any number of large family groups enjoy the free facility and sit and picnic in the Park for hours they will be limited time-wise in the Lido. The new children's pools planned are also much smaller than the current pool.

I am sure I speak for all of the 2077 people who voted in the referendum to keep the paddling pool, and many other residents, when I say that it is little short of vandalism to remove this much used facility that brings thousands of visitors to Pontypridd every year along with the economic benefits that entails.

However, it seems the odds are stacked against the public, and despite the quite overwhelming opposition there is to the Council's plans they will be able to carry on and do just what they want.

I thank the Committee for their consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely



**Karen Roberts**