

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
Chair of the Environment and
Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-04-343

20 December 2013

Dear

As you may be aware the Petitions Committee is currently considering the following petition, which collected 156 signatures:

We call upon the Welsh Government to examine ways to prevent the destruction of amenities on common land, including for example the Marian Common in Llangoed, Ynys Môn.

I enclose a copy of correspondence received in light of a recent evidence session with the petitioner and a link to the transcript of the evidence session for more information.

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s21880/11%20November%202013.html?CT=2#p343>

As this falls within the remit of your Committee we wanted to make you are aware of the petition so that the Committee could consider its implications when considering forthcoming legislation that may impact on the issues it raises.

All information relating to the Petitions Committee's consideration of the petition can be found at:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=2329>

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Caerdydd / Cardiff
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Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8242
E-bost / Email: William.powell@wales.gov.uk

Additionally the Committee agreed to:

- write to the Police Commissioner for North Wales and the Chief Constable seeking their views on the apparent illegality on the common; and
- write to the National Farmers Union and Farmers Union of Wales seeking their views on the issues raised by the petitioners.

If you want any further information on this petition, please contact the Committee Clerk at stephen.george@wales.gov.uk or on (029) 2089 8242.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and a distinct 'P'.

William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

Enclosure: Correspondence from the petitioner.

P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land - Anglesey- Correspondence form the petitioner to the Clerking team, 10.09.2013

Dear Sian

Thank you for forwarding a copy of Carl Sargeant's letter to William Powell AM, Chair Petitions Committee.

The comments are duly noted, but the fact remains that whilst Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 should, in theory, prevent the resurfacing of the land, it does not prevent the destruction of vegetation and the modification of the landscape for vehicular use: basically, anyone can cut and drive large dirt tracks across any common land with impunity. In the worst case scenarios, little of the natural heritage would be left for the enjoyment of local communities. Furthermore, under the 1832 Act, if no greater protection is provided for common land, in this particular instance, it is likely that 'rights of access' will be applied for after twenty years and then, of course, vehicular trespass will be legitimised. We would welcome improved statutory laws to protect the common land in Wales. Common land should be for the benefit and use of the whole community and should also enhance the experience of visitors to Wales.

We feel that we must repeat what we have stated in previous correspondence to the committee, that Petition P-04-343 shows the strength of feeling over the destruction of amenities on common land and augments the preceding paper petition containing over 300 names which called for the protection of Marian Common, Llangoed. We fully support the petitioner and the views of Mr Lewis Davies in his letter to you dated 30th May 2013. We fear that, unless there are stronger statutory laws to prevent the acquisition of common land for private development, Marian Common, and other commons in Wales, will be lost forever to the detriment of local communities and the natural environment.

We have recently spoken to members of the community who are also concerned about the protection of this land and who agree with the statements above.

Dr Karen Pollock & Mr Tom Pollock