



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**

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