

27 February 2019

David J Rowlands
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Further to our last report of 15th November 2017, I can advise the Petitions Committee that we have been able to secure £1m from within the Natural Resources Wales budget to dedicate to the work required to re-open the Forest Drive.


Unfortunately, unprecedented forest fires have impacted the original timeline and work has been ongoing in clearing the damage and undertaking reparative work. This has been explained by my staff to the local community at the most recent meeting of the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive. At that meeting we indicated that a re-opening in the spring of 2020 was now being aimed for and this appeared to have been accepted.

NRW has been working closely with the Local Authority who have a significant presence on site and with whom we wish to collaborate, to ensure that a joined-up approach maximises the benefits of both party's investments in this flagship recreation facility.

Working with the local authority and utilising their civil engineering expertise to undertake an engineering assessment of the works required, has confirmed that the funding set aside for this project should be adequate to get the Drive open again within the revised timescale.

We are committed to appointing a locally based Project Manager to support this Project and undertake the much needed regular communication with the community. We are out to recruitment for this important post and I am confident that a Project Manager will be identified within the next few weeks. Preparatory project design work has been completed by experienced NRW staff who will continue to direct the Project and make sure the new Project Manager is fully supported.

Best wishes



Clare Pillman

Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales