

**Subject:** Bettws Newydd: Jane Davidson in Newport on 4<sup>th</sup> June. 1:30 pm TIC.

Dear Supporter,

You will recall that our appeal to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to “call-in” the Bettws Newydd application was rejected.

The responsible minister is Jane Davidson, Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing. We thought we should let you know that she is visiting Newport this coming Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, to officially open the new Newport Tourist Information Centre (TIC) in Long Street (opposite the car park). The ceremony takes place from 1:30 pm until about 2:00 pm.

You will recall that our appeal was rejected on the grounds that it is "not of more than local importance". This is notwithstanding the points below and about 40 letters of support sent by you to Jane Davidson from all over the country. The letter we received was signed by a planning official. It can be seen at <http://parrog.org.uk/090520-WAG-refusal.pdf> .

If you live locally you may want to come to the Tourist Information centre on Thursday at 1:30 pm, to make your views known to her in your own way. It is, of course, an election day, and we hope that she might be in a receptive mood!

We have not given up yet on the Welsh Assembly Government. One supporter (Brian John) has already written a powerful letter of appeal, which can be seen at

<http://parrog.org.uk/090527-wag.pdf>

In addition we have written twice (once several weeks ago) asking for a meeting during this visit. At the time of writing we have not had a reply to either letter.

**We are planning to ask Jane some or all of the following questions:**

1. Were you actually involved or consulted on the decision not to “call-in” the above planning application?
2. Did you look at any photographs of this development? (As can be seen on our web site at <http://parrog.org.uk> especially in the Photo Gallery.)
3. Did you read any of the 40 or so heartfelt letters to you in support of this “call-in” application? (We plan to hand some of your letters over).
4. This development is in the National Park and is visible from the heritage path over several miles by many visitors to the Park. It sets precedents of National Importance, and involves breaches of both Local and National Planning policies. It has received widespread local and National Press coverage. A petition of almost 500 signatures has been submitted to the National Park with about half being from outside the area and indeed from across the world.  
Therefore if this case is not of “more than local importance” then what would have to be different for such a planning application to be called in?
5. What is the purpose of a Welsh Assembly Government if it is unwilling to intervene in cases such as this?
6. Can you assist in changing this decision or otherwise advise us what to do?

We also plan to suggest to Jane, during her visit, that she goes to the beach and sees Bettws Newydd for herself.

In the meantime we continue to follow other lines of appeal; we will keep you posted.

Finally, we would like to thank again the many people who wrote to Jane Davidson in support of the application. One such example (well worth reading) is at <http://parrog.org.uk/090518-letter-JD.pdf> .

Thanks again for all your support.

From the Bettws Newydd Opposition Group.

**Notes:** You are receiving this note as a result of providing your email when signing the petition regarding Bettws Newydd, or contacting us as a supporter. If you don't want to receive these periodic updates, please send an email to [info@parrog.org.uk](mailto:info@parrog.org.uk) . Anyone wanting to join the distribution list can also write to this address, or preferably submit the form at <http://parrog.org.uk/joinus.htm> We apologise for not replying individually to every email received.