

Yr Hen Felin, Upper Bridge Street, Newport SA42 0PL

Cllr Michael Williams, Chairman, Development Management Committee,
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority,
c/o 4, Harding Street, Tenby, Pembrokeshire SA70 7LW

12th January 2010

Dear Cllr Williams,

Bettws Newydd

I write yet again on behalf of BNOG which as you know represents several hundred opponents of this unauthorised development, for which the DMC refused retrospective consent 6 months ago, and for which a section 78 appeal application has surprisingly not been received by the Planning Inspectorate for Wales within the statutory period.

In my letter to you before your December Meeting I reminded you that the DMC was told in October 2009 that it was intended to give the applicant one month in which to demonstrate that (quoting from the October 2009 Officer's Report) "there are acceptable modifications possible" which could "then be included as the specific steps to be taken in the enforcement notice". The Committee resolved to invite the applicant to explore such modifications and (quoting from the resolution) "if this could not be achieved then an Enforcement Notice should be issued". (Emphasis added)

I must repeat our great concern over this matter and now add our outrage and astonishment engendered by the decision of your Officers without returning to your Committee, not only to extend the time available to the applicant by nearly 3 months to date but also to proceed with this matter by 'inviting' yet a further planning application.

We have been told by Mrs Milner that Officers have been heavily influenced by additional legal advice of counsel (access to which we have to date been denied by the National Park solicitor). Whatever the reason for Officers to proceed in this way, we put it to you that the October 2009 decision of the Development Management Committee should not have been so disregarded.

The time has come for your Authority to act and to be seen to be acting decisively, impartially and with consistency. Instead, as more and more time elapses without expression of firm control from the Membership of the Authority, the more the inevitable suspicion grows that Officers and the Developer are looking to find a means of settling this matter to their mutual satisfaction, short of any appeal going to the Welsh Planning Inspectorate.

We are sure you will recall the wise words of Cllr Robin Evans, at the time of your Committee's decision to reject the retrospective proposal, that if Officers were right about the merits of that application, and he and most ordinary folk as it seemed to him were wrong, that what has been built was wholly against policy and good planning, then he for one was content to have that established definitively by a Planning Inspector on appeal. That comment, you will recall, received broad support amidst the Committee Membership.

We urge you, and through you the Membership of your Committee, to finalise and order issuance of the Planning Enforcement Notice without further delay at the 27th January DMC Meeting

Yours sincerely,

R.W. Atkinson, Chairperson, Bettws Newydd Opposition Group

c.c. All DMC Members; Richard Howells, National Park Chairman;
John Parsons, Monitoring Officer; David Prescott, National Park Solicitor;
Paul Davies, Assembly Member; Ifor Jones, Director of Conservation and Development;
Catherine Milner, Development Control Officer