

To: Holly Robinson, Editor, Western Telegraph.

PRESS RELEASE BY BETTWS NEWYDD OPPOSITION GROUP

In response to your recent articles about Bettws Newydd (for example the Web Item dated Saturday 27th February 2010, entitled "Newport's Bettws Newydd puts Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority 'between a rock and a hard place' ") we are issuing the following statement:

You quote Cathy Milner, National Park Officer in Charge of Bettws Newydd as saying to Newport Town Council

"Whether we like it or not, doesn't matter. There is permission for a big glass fronted house on the Parrog. The differences are so slight (between the 2006 and the existing house) we won't notice it from the beach...It's a big house, there is this permission, we are where we are".

Whatever Mrs Milner is telling statutory consultees, the differences between the stamped approved scheme for Bettws Newydd and what exists now on site are very marked indeed.

In June last year, the National Park Development Management Committee concluded that the as-built dwelling is contrary to Joint Unitary Development Plan policies. In October, the Officers themselves stated to the Committee that "*having reassessed the situation*" they agreed, and furthermore, "*a modification to the current scheme to bring it in line with the approved scheme is not possible without complete demolition and rebuild*".

So, why this complete turn around yet again by Mrs Milner?

The as-built scheme includes a dwelling in the wrong position on the site, which is not sunk into the ground as shown on the stamped approved drawings, contains an area the floor size of most people's houses which was not approved, and has destroyed habitats by bulldozing vegetation, including an area of wetland important in the local environment.

The current application is for nothing more than the construction of bunds to cover up the building (presumably by importing material onto the site which, in itself, is contrary to policy), and for planting (which may grow fast enough and survive) to make the building look a little more like the stamped approved drawing, albeit after 10 years and perched on a hill in the wrong place.

The proposal is still very clearly not in compliance with the JUDP and must be refused.

About the Bettws Newydd Opposition Group

We are a formally constituted group with the following aims:

- To achieve the replacement of the present development at Bettws Newydd one that is more appropriate to the location, in conformity with the JUDP and other planning policies, and acceptable to both the local and wider community.
- To persuade the PCNPA to identify and itemise the mistakes made in dealing with this development and to change its processes to prevent repetition.

Objectives: To pursue all available lawful remedies and means to achieve the above aims.