

# Press Release by Bettws Newydd Opposition Group

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

On Wednesday 23rd March, The National Park Development Management Committee will consider **whether to issue a Discontinuance Order for the Removal of Bettws Newydd**, the huge “modern” house at Newport which has so upset many locals and visitors since its construction in 2007, because it totally spoils a once beautiful coastline by towering incongruously above the pretty Conservation Area of Parrog.

Officers had for years supported this development, until outside planning consultants employed by the Authority agreed with the Opposition that the building is totally out of place.

They then conceded that Bettws Newydd contravened many planning policies. But predictably, the Officers are now recommending to the Planning Committee that no Discontinuance Order be issued, because they claim firstly that it is “*not in the interests of proper planning in the area*” to do so.

This is a house that the Developer built, without planning permission, to Building Regulation plans rather than those approved by the National Park, with the orientation altered by 180° from that shown on stamped approved drawings so that what was assumed to be a passive solar wall now faces north, completely flouting conditions attached to the consent that had been given, bulldozing an area of wetland that the Town Council had told Officers was important habitat in the area of Newport .

This is a building that a Government Inspector, although amazingly granting consent and quashing an enforcement notice requiring removal of the building on appeal, judged to be

- “*visually intrusive*”
- “*insensitively sited within the protected landscape of the National Park*”
- “*tall and dominant in its surroundings*”,
- “*failing to harmonise with, or enhance the landform and landscape character of the National Park*”
- “*uncompromisingly contemporary, with little concession made to the vernacular architecture of the area or the large historic buildings that form the core of the Parrog Conservation Area*”
- “*a clear departure from the varied quality of domestic architecture in the surrounding area*”
- “*a building which relates poorly to the place and its local distinctiveness*”

Bettws Newydd is a building that is hugely disliked by many locals and visitors alike, hundreds of whom have sought its removal by petitioning the National Park.

The Authority has this one last power to repair the damage done to the landscape of the National Park in this highly sensitive area and to make amends for what the Opposition alleges are the very many mistakes made by Officers in the course of this development.

Unfortunately, the Authority must have regard to compensation to be paid where a Discontinuance Order is made. The likelihood of the National Park being in a position to pay such compensation is small indeed.

Reg Atkinson  
Chairman, Bettws Newydd Opposition Group