

Our Ref : TJ/mm

23 January 2012

Mr Reg Atkinson,
Bettws Newydd Opposition Group,
c/o The Old Mill,
Upper Bridge Street,
Newport,
Pembrokeshire, SA42 0PL

Dear Mr Atkinson

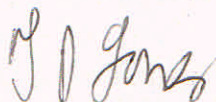
Thank you for your letter dated 16th January 2012 regarding Bettws Newydd, Newport.

The Authority has undertaken a thorough process of reviewing and analysing all aspects of the Bettws Newydd planning application, with the aim of learning from the experience. As part of this process Newport Town Council, as the democratically elected representatives of the people of Newport, and interest groups such as the Bettws Newydd Opposition Group were given a full opportunity of outlining their concerns. These concerns are listed in the report written by the Monitoring Officer, which was presented to Members in May 2011. I consider that the substance of the concerns and the key reasons for any failures were dealt with in the report.

Members of the Authority have accepted the recommendations made in the report and these have been implemented. As a result of this, along with other factors, the Authority has seen a significant change in personnel, procedures and policies and I am now confident that the Authority is operating policies and procedures that should prevent a repeat of the errors made in dealing with the Bettws Newydd application.

Rather than continuing to review the situation from five years ago, the current focus for the Authority is on ensuring it provides an excellent planning service that meets the needs of the public.

Yours sincerely,



Tegryn Jones
Chief Executive



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*Croeso'n ddwyieithog
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We welcome correspondence
in English and Welsh*



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