

Disciplinary action call on 'eyesore' house mistakes

PLANNING officers should be brought to account for mistakes made during the Bettws Newydd saga, according to a local group.

The comment comes after Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority chief executive Tegryn Jones said failings in the handling of the controversial Newport development were unlikely to reoccur, and he issued an apology at a recent town council meeting.

The saga dates back to 2006, when the house was built bigger than the original plans.

In 2010 a Welsh Government planning inspector granted an appeal to allow the building to remain.

The Bettws Newydd Opposition Group (BNOG) welcomed Mr Jones' apology, but says it does not go far enough, adding there was 'serious maladministration'

By Anwen Humfrey

that cannot be 'explained away'.

A BNOG spokesman said: "The monitoring officer's report lists mistake after mistake made, yet no-one has been brought to account."

The spokesman added: "Had officers acted correctly when complaints were first raised by the public the building would look very different today.

"Instead, the eyesore that is Bettws Newydd will stand in perpetuity, a reminder that public sector planners are rarely brought to account for their mistakes."

The group is calling for matters to be referred to the authority's standards committee for disciplinary action to be considered.

Chief executive Tegryn Jones said the authority had thoroughly reviewed and analysed all aspects of the case.



UNWELCOME REMINDER: Bettws Newydd as it looked during construction.

He said: "As a result, we identified and implemented a series of recommendations to make sure that our procedures for dealing with planning cases are robust and fit for purpose.

"This has resulted in significant change in both procedures and policies.

"The authority deals with more than 500 planning applications each year. Rather than continuing to review

one case, the current and ongoing focus is on ensuring we provide an excellent planning service that meets the needs of the public."

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