

## Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:  
**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

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Meeting date:  
**6 November 2012**

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Meeting time:  
**09:30**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

**Naomi Stocks**  
Committee Clerk  
029 2089 8421  
[Petition@wales.gov.uk](mailto:Petition@wales.gov.uk)

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### Agenda

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- 1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions 09:30**
- 2. New petitions 09:30 – 10:00**
  - 2.1 P-04-429 Re-opening of the Carmarthen to Aberystwyth Train Line (Page 1)
  - 2.2 P-04-430 Proposed closure of Tenby Minor Injuries Unit (Page 2)
  - 2.3 P-04-431 Against Health Cuts from the Residents of Pembrokeshire (Page 3)
  - 2.4 P-04-432 Stop the Army Recruiting in Schools (Page 4)
  - 2.5 P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses (Page 5)
  - 2.6 P-04-434 The Welsh and Somalilanders have common love of poetry (Page 6)
  - 2.7 P-04-435 Wales & Border Railways Franchise 2018 to be Operated on a Not-for-Dividend Basis (Page 7)
- 3. Updates to previous petitions 10:00 – 10:30**
  - 3.1 P-04-404 Aberporth Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Pages 8 – 9)
  - 3.2 P-04-421 Oppose Trident moving to Wales (Pages 10 – 11)

## **Environment and Sustainability**

3.3 P-04-398 Campaign for a Welsh Animal Offenders Register (Page 12)

## **Local Government and Communities**

3.4 P-03-240 Road safety on the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey (Pages 13 – 16)

## **Health and Social Services**

3.5 P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society (Page 17)

3.6 P-04-334 Petition for a new renal unit at Prince Charles Hospital (Pages 18 – 21)

3.7 P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service (Pages 22 – 24)

## **Housing, Regeneration & Heritage**

3.8 P-04-335 The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team (Pages 25 – 26)

3.9 P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site (Pages 27 – 42)

## **4. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business: 10:30**

Item 5

4.1 P-04-341 Waste and Incineration – Draft Report **10:30 – 10:45** (Pages 43 – 67)

## **P-04-429 : Re-opening of the Carmarthen to Aberystwyth Train Line**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to re-open the train line from Carmarthen to Aberystwyth. We believe this is vital for the local communities and the Welsh economy as a whole as it will allow the transition of people and services to areas which are otherwise isolated.

This will support the local economies and create a more fluid connection between North and South Wales. At present the only rail connections from North to South Wales must divert through England.

**Petition raised by:** Mark Worrall

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1191

# Agenda Item 2.2

## **P-04-430 : Proposed closure of Tenby Minor Injuries Unit**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned strongly object to the proposals in the Hywel Dda Health Board Document Your Health/ Your Future, referring to closure of the Minor Injuries Unit in Tenby. We call on the National Assembly of Wales to ensure the proposals set out in the Hywel Dda Health Board Document are not carried out and that the MIU in Tenby remains open.

**Petition raised by:** Andrew James Davies

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 157 Associated petitions collected over 581 signatures

## **P-04-431 : Against health cuts from the residents of Pembrokeshire**

### **Petition wording:**

SWAT (Save Withybush Action Team) have fought for the retention of safe, effective and accessible secondary health care services for the people of Pembrokeshire since 2005.

On behalf of SWAT I call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the plans for Secondary Healthcare provision currently being consulted on in the Hywel Dda Health Board area will maintain the present level of services available at Withybush Hospital. The 14000 signatories on the petitions delivered to your office by SWAT do not agree with the preferred option of the Hywel Dda health Board to centralize most inpatient services on the Glangwili site. It is quite clear to the people of Pembrokeshire and elsewhere who have signed these petitions that if centralization of services is required then Withybush should be the preferred site. This would provide an equitable, accessible, safe and sustainable Secondary Healthcare service for the whole of the Hywel Dda Health Board area whereas centralizing services on the Glangwili site would seriously disadvantage the people of Pembrokeshire.

**Petition raised by:** SWAT (Save Withybush Action Team)

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** Associated petition collected approximately 14,000 signatures

# Agenda Item 2.4

## **P-04-432 : Stop the Army Recruiting in Schools**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to recommend that the armed forces should not go into schools to recruit.

Britain is the only country in the European Union that allows a military presence in its schools. Britain is the only country of the 27 European Union countries to recruit 16-year-old children to the armed forces. The armed forces target their recruitment in schools in the most deprived areas of Wales.

**Petition raised by:** The Fellowship of Reconciliation

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 374 Associated petition collected approximately 700 signatures

## **P-04-433 : CCTV in Slaughterhouses**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses to help vets with better regulation and monitoring, to provide footage for training and retraining, to deter some of the animal welfare abuses filmed by Animal Aid, and to provide evidence for prosecutions should they be necessary.

**Petition raised by:** Kate Fowler

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1066

# Agenda Item 2.6

## **P-04-434 : The Welsh and Somalilanders have common love of poetry**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales, a nation known worldwide for its love of poetry, to applaud the similar love enjoyed by its citizens of Somaliland descent whose traditional culture considers poetry to be the core form of cultural expression. Our call comes at the start of the Olympic Truce, that period which extended from one week before to one week after each Olympic Games in the ancient era enabling athletes to travel unhindered through the lands of traditional enemies to compete in the spirit of ekecheiria, the holding of hands. And as citizens of Wales, as lovers of poetry and being committed to striving for peace within and between all nations, we welcome the National Eisteddfod of Wales which we believe to unite these values and we invite all to add their names to this petition and we hope you will promote communities to communities links between our two nations.

**Petition raised by:** Mr Abdikarim Abdi Adan

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 30

## **P-04-435 : Wales & Border Railways Franchise 2018 to be Operated on a Not-for-Dividend Basis**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the next the Wales & the Border franchise is operated on a not-for-dividend basis.

Arriva has a monopoly over much of the railways in Wales and the Border; this does not encourage "cheaper prices and better standards through competition" as capitalism intended, due to that monopoly. In 2018 the contract with Arriva is up for renewal. A "not-for-dividends" pricing system would increase the amount of passengers and allow more people to work as they'd be able to afford to travel creating a knock on effect on the welsh GDP and also, in by-product of proving the system, give England more reason for doing likewise.

**Petition raised by:** Merlyn Cooper

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 35

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-04-404 Aberporth Unmanned Aerial Vehicle**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the Welsh Government to withdraw the support given for UK unmanned aircraft to be tested at Aberporth and to fly across a large area of Wales.

**Supporting Information:** Unmanned aircraft are a significant and dangerous development in the weapons arsenal. These unmanned aircraft are used all too easily, without taking into account the lives of innocent people who are often killed.

**Petition raised by:** Cymdeithas y Cymod

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 July 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1730+



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth  
Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/06329/12

William Powell AM

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

25<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 11<sup>th</sup> July requesting the First Minister's comments on Petition P-04-404 regarding unmanned Aircraft at Aberporth. I am replying in view of my portfolio responsibilities.

Aerospace is a major contributor to the Welsh economy providing direct employment for over 20,000 people. As a prime location for this key sector we must keep pace with innovation and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) represents the most significant technological change in recent years.

The potential civil uses for UAVs far outweigh their military applications but their civilian usage is currently severely restricted by regulatory issues surrounding the use of airspace and the development of UAV technologies. In creating a dedicated airspace for the test and evaluation of UAVs Wales is providing an environment in which these issues can be addressed, thus escalating civil development. This places Wales in a good position to establish itself as a leading location for the emerging civil market and its associated high value technology companies.

ParcAberporth is a technology park focused on the development of unmanned systems technologies. The Ministry of Defence is currently conducting trials of its Watchkeeper UAV programme at ParcAberporth. Watchkeeper is an unarmed platform providing a capability to support and protect UK and cooperative forces in front line operations. The MoD trials activity is providing a valuable boost to the local economy but is one in which the Welsh Government has no remit as defence is a non-devolved matter. Similarly, Wales has no jurisdiction over any collaborations which the UK MoD may enter into.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
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# Agenda Item 3.2

## **P-04-421 : Oppose Trident moving to Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

The First Minister Carwyn Jones has said that the UK's nuclear fleet (Trident) would be more than welcome in Milford Haven if an Independent Scotland decided that they were no longer welcomed there. We oppose having these WMDs in Wales and urge the Welsh Government to oppose the idea of allowing the UK's nuclear fleet to move to Wales.

**Petition raised by:** Mabon ap Gwynfor

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 October 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1236

**Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AC/AM**  
**Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

William Powell AC/AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff

18<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Dear William

I am writing in response to your letter of 10 October.

As I have said before my comments were about a hypothetical situation. There have been no discussions and there are no plans to approach the UK Government to bring any jobs of this nature to Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carwyn Jones'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Carwyn' being more prominent than the surname 'Jones'.

**CARWYN JONES**

# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-04-398 Campaign for a Welsh Animal Offenders Register**

### **Petition wording:**

Please sign in support of a 'Animal Offenders Register', a central Welsh database which will consist of name, address and convictions of people who have been convicted of any form of animal cruelty and abuse within Wales. Breeders / sellers of animals will be required to check this central database before allowing any animal they own / bred to go to a prospective owner / new home; if it is found that someone who has been convicted of animal cruelty or abuse has an animal the supplier / breeder will be held liable and prosecuted. At the moment there is no law to stop anyone who has been convicted of animal cruelty from moving a few miles up the road and then obtaining another animal to inflict further abuse on. Stricter laws need to be implemented to help protect animals, heavier fines and longer prison sentences as well as a Animal Offenders Register.

New York City and various states in the USA have already implemented this law, what is there to stop Wales taking the lead in the United Kingdom? You've heard of Sarah's Law, designed to keep sex offenders from striking again. Now we hope for a law created in the hope of preventing animal abusers from inflicting more cruelty, or moving on to human victims. Research has shown that there is a very strong correlation between animal abuse and domestic violence. Many murderers start out by torturing animals, and we could end up also protecting the lives of people.

**Petition raised by:** Mari Roberts & Sara Roberts

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 19 June 2012

**Number of signatures:** 69

## **P-03-240 Improvements to the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey**

### **Petition Wording**

Due to the increasing levels of traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, on the A40 and due to the inadequate provision of safe pavements and pedestrian crossings acknowledged by the Trunk Road Agency through research on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government we, the undersigned, hereby demand the Welsh Assembly Government, as a matter of urgency, improve road safety in the village of Llanddewi Velfrey, Narberth, Pembrokeshire through implementation of the following measures:

1. Improve the inadequate pavement along the southern side of the A40 between Llandaff Row and the far eastern end of the village to ensure that it meets current safety standards, that it is sufficiently wide for the safe use of pedestrians, pushchairs and wheel chair users taking into consideration the proximity of heavy goods traffic passing by at speeds often in excess of the current limit of 40mph.
2. Install speed cameras at the eastern and western ends of the village.
3. Utilise the existing electrical installation for road crossing signs to provide flashing warning lights at times when children will be crossing the A40 to catch their school bus.
4. Install traffic calming measures at each end of the village and at road junctions to emphasise the need to reduce speed.
5. Reduce the speed limit to 30mph.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-240.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council

**Number of signatures:** 154

**Angela Burns AM / AC**

Welsh Conservative Member for Carmarthen West  
& South Pembrokeshire / Aelod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig  
dros Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro

William Powell  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly For Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



28<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Ref: AB/CR/LLA

*Dear William,*

I would like to draw your attention to the fact the petitioners who brought forward Petition P-03-240 are still waiting for a decision to be made.

I have been informed that delays have occurred because the outcome on the Speed Limit Review on Trunk Roads is still to be announced. However, my understanding was that Petitions should be heard in a timely fashion.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you would remind the Minister that petitioners are waiting for a decision and the outcome of the Review should not be permitted to become an excuse for delaying a Petition.

Thank you for your kind assistance and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yours  
Angela*

**Angela Burns AM / AC**

Shadow Minister for Education  
Gweinidog yr Wrthblaid dros Addysg

14 Market Square, Narberth, SA67 7AU  
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[www.angelaburns.org.uk](http://www.angelaburns.org.uk)

We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh  
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Cymraeg a'r Sesneg



**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
**Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau**  
**Minister for Local Government and Communities**

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P/03/240  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05599/11 -  
**Update**

William Powell AM  
Chair Petition's committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

October 2012

I write to provide you with an update regarding the A40 Trunk Road through Llanddewi Velfrey.

We have completed the Speed limit review and this advised that no changes should be made to the existing 40 mph speed limit through Llanddewi Velfrey. A bid for funding will be made in the next financial year to carry out enhancement works that were recommended. These include repeater speed limit roundel markings and other potential measures including gateway treatments and a 50 mph buffer speed limit at the western end to help reinforce the limit.

In the meantime, we are continuing to monitor this section of the trunk road in line with the rest of the network in order to review and proactively manage any safety issues.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
**Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau**  
**Minister for Local Government and Communities**

LLANDDEWI VELFREY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

29.10.12

Dear Mr Powell

**Re: Petition submitted by Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council P-03-240 to  
Be discussed at your next meeting**

We ask that the following points be considered in that discussion:

1. It is over 3 years since our petition was submitted, after even more years of requests to the Trunk Road Agency and the Welsh Government to remedy the dangerous situation for pedestrians on the A40 as it passes through the centre of our village.
2. It is nearly 2 years since we were told by the former Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones, that no action could be taken until a Speed Limit Review was undertaken.
3. It is for over 20 years that the situation has been getting steadily more dangerous. We have now finally been told that on completion of that Speed Limit Review no action is to be taken on reducing the speed limit and that additional 'enhancement works' may only be possible in the next financial year if funds are available.

We would respectfully ask for answers to the following questions:

1. Is it reasonable to take so long to take action on any petition but especially one that relates to the lives of pedestrians daily being put at risk by narrow pavements, an inadequate crossing and by vehicles travelling at unsafe and excessive speeds?
2. What were the determining factors in the Speed Limit Review that helped Mr Sargeant reach his conclusion that speed limit reduction is inappropriate?
3. Do the enhancement works mentioned in the letter from Carl Sargeant include improvements to pavements and improvements to the road crossing?
4. Is Mr Sargeant aware that the option of creating a 50mph buffer zone to the west of the village was rejected some years ago as we were told by the Trunk Road Agency it can only be done by reducing the current length of the 40mph zone?
5. What specific measures, in relation to the obvious safety issues already raised, does Mr Sargeant intend using, as he concludes in his letter, to 'monitor this section of the A40... in order to review and proactively manage safety issues'?
6. How much has been spent over the years on repeated surveys in comparison to the cost of the relatively simple improvements that we have asked for?

We appreciate the support of the Petitions Committee in pursuing this issue and look forward to a speedy reply.

Yours sincerely

Lynda Hill  
Clerk to the Community Council

## **P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society**

### **Petition Wording**

The National Osteoporosis Society calls upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to fully implement the Falls and Fractures Standard in the National Service Framework for Older People, ensuring that patients with and at risk of fragility fractures are identified, assessed and treated by Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) in all of the new Local Health Boards. We would like a FLS to be linked to every hospital that receives fragility fractures, and ask that the Welsh government insists upon universal provision of FLS's across the NHS in Wales

**Petition raised by:** National Osteoporosis Society

**Petition first considered by Committee:** 7 July 2009

**Number of signatures:** 22

# Agenda Item 3.6

## **P-04-334 Petition for a new renal unit at Prince Charles Hospital**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to build a new Renal Unit at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.

The current unit was built in 1989 to treat up to 16 patients per week but that number has now grown to 52. With the number of renal patients rising annually we feel it is very important that a new unit is built now to cater for the increase. Also with a new upgraded unit it would mean that renal patients requiring minor surgical procedures could be dealt within the unit rather being transferred to other hospitals and taking up much needed bed space.

The following are just a few problems that we have at present unit:

1. No Isolation area (which could lead to cross infection);
2. Only one toilet for male and female patients;
3. Cramped waiting area;
4. Poor air conditioning;
5. Unit has been flooded on a number of occasions

**Petition first considered:** November 2011

**Petition raised by:** Robert Kendrick

**Number of signatures:** 56

**Petitions Committee : 6 November 2012**

**P-04-334 : Petition for a new renal unit at Prince Charles Hospital**

**Email from Petitions - Robert Kendrick - Date 29 August 2012**

I went to a meeting at UHW yesterday so I thought I would let you know how it went. The last email that I sent you I mentioned that there were rumours that the new unit might be located where the current kitchen area is located within PCH but it seems that it might have been just that a rumour.

At the meeting it was disclosed that all bids with costings have now been submitted and that the next course of action is to submit them to the minister, it seems that if she agrees to the off site option then a new unit will be up and running by at least April next year but if Cym Taff get the contract to build a new unit on site at PCH then a further 12 months would be added to the build time.

Because of the urgency wales renal network are going to strongly suggest that the cheaper and quicker option should be taken and that it should be treated as an urgent priority.

I don't know if the committee could approach the minister on our behalf to strengthen our case and to opt for the renal networks option but it would really be appreciated.

Kindest Regards

Robert  
Robert Kendrick



Your ref/eich cyf: P-04-334  
Our ref/ein cyf: AJW/KAD  
Date/Dyddiad: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
Tel/ffôn: 01443 744803  
Fax/ffacs: 01443 744888  
Email/ebost: Allison.williams4@wales.nhs.uk  
Dept/adran: Chair & Chief Executive

Ms Naomi Stocks  
Clerk of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Stocks

**Re: Renal Dialysis Scheme for Merthyr**

I refer to the letter of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012, from Mr William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee, seeking an update on plans for the Renal Dialysis Unit at Prince Charles Hospital. The initial BJC for the satellite dialysis unit in Merthyr was submitted in May 2011, and he may recall there were concerns over the scope of works and associated costs. By agreement, the revised BJC was submitted to the Welsh Government in mid May this year, the scrutiny comments were received at the end of June and the responses to the scrutiny comments were submitted on 16th August 2012.

As you know the condition of the current modular building is not good and although the concerns last autumn about the heating/air conditioning have been resolved and the systems replaced, there have more recently been problems with the water system. A contingency plan exists in case of significant problems which involves patients travelling to other dialysis units in South Wales until a new unit is operational.

I am aware that the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) were to submit by the end of July a costed proposal for an off-site option produced by a third party renal service provider. They believed this could be less costly, and more importantly, be completed in a significantly shorter period of time as it may involve conversion of an existing building rather than a new build.

Continued.....

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**Return Address:**

Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

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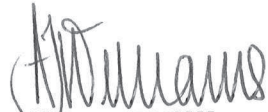
Chair/Cadeirydd: Dr C D V Jones, CBE

Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd: Mrs Allison Williams

I understand that the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) have recently met with patients representatives and are in the process of submitting a paper to Welsh Government officials with a recommendation on either the off-site or PCH site option. My understanding is that this is due to be put before the Minister this month, with a Ministerial decision expected around the end of October or early November.

The LHB is keen that a decision is made soon, and more importantly, that services can be improved quickly to reduce the risks of service interruption to patients from the current unsatisfactory accommodation.

Yours sincerely



**Allison Williams**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Cwm Taf Health Board**

# Agenda Item 3.7

## **P-04-408 : Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales to the same degree as the Adult Eating Disorder Service in Wales.

It has come to my attention that there is a disparity in funding between Adult Services and Child and Adolescent Services as regards funding for Eating Disorder Treatment. At the present time Adult Eating Disorder Services receive £1 million per year from the Welsh Assembly, as well as 4 specialist trained provider groups.

Sadly research points to the fact that Eating Disorders, especially Anorexia Nervosa, are predominantly first experienced around puberty. Historically puberty was around 12-15, however, puberty is becoming younger and therefore statistics are beginning to show the prevalence of Anorexia Nervosa starting at younger ages is apparent. Bulimia Nervosa is generally a disease with an onset age of 18-25, however as with Anorexia this may differ from person to person. The fact that in both disorders, and indeed all diagnosable Eating Disorders, early intervention is the key to a quick recovery, therefore preventing long term financial implications for the WAG, makes this plea more pertinent.

I therefore implore the Assembly to consider this a priority for debate and to mend this disparity by giving equal finances and services to the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder service in Wales as already given to Adult EDS.'

**Petition raised by:** Helen Missen

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 17 July 2012

**Number of signatures:** 246

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07653/12

William Powell AM

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

2 August 2012

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of 24 July regarding the petition urging the Welsh Government to fund the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales to the same degree as the Adult Eating Disorder Service.

The pattern of eating disorders is a complex one and the characteristics differ considerably between children, younger people and adults. The effects of eating disorders can be devastating and studies demonstrate the majority of cases begin to develop during adolescence. As stated in your letter, early identification and appropriate intervention improves the clinical outcome for many people with an eating disorder. In this respect the treatment of eating disorders is very much part of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) core business and sufferers form a considerable part of the overall CAMHS caseload. Some young people may recover from mild conditions which respond to interventions usually available within the first level specialist CAMHS (Tier 2). Others will require more specialised, intensive and on-going support provided by CAMHS at Tiers 3 and 4 and which can include residential and in-patient support.

The four-tier strategic model used within CAMHS provides an effective framework for service commissioning. It is also flexible enough to be the basis for designing services and for effective development of pathways which run from local services through to the most specialised of services. It reinforces the roles of primary care teams, generic psychiatric and physical health services in identifying, assessing, intervening with and monitoring people who have an eating disorder. This 'joined-up' approach ensures the most appropriate intervention is offered on the basis of clinical need.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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CF99 1NA

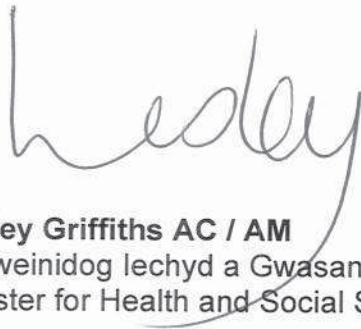
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Since the Eating Disorders Framework was published in June 2009, a model has been agreed for implementing a new specialist community framework. The framework has been issued to all Health Boards in Wales, who are now taking this forward. To improve the provision of treatment, care and training around the condition, the Framework outlines a new specialist community eating disorder service at the Adult Tier 3 level. This was established with the £1 million per year provided by the Welsh Government from 2010-2011. While this funding is aimed at providing provision for adults over 18, the all-Wales service has developed close links with CAMHS teams across Wales including Tier 4 CAMHS.

The aim is to create pathways for young people suffering with eating disorders, increase the sharing of knowledge amongst CAMHS staff, and facilitate the effective transition between CAMHS and adult services.



**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

## **P-04-335 The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to support the establishment of a Welsh international cricket team.

**Petition raised by:** Matthew Richard Bumford

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 11 October 2011

**Number of signatures:** 187

### **Supporting information:**

Whereas Scotland and Ireland gained associate membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and went on to compete in World Cups, Wales has failed to do so. In fact, no Welsh player has played international cricket for over five years as a result of being affiliated to the England Cricket Board. Recently the England and Wales cricket team played several "home" games in the capital of Wales, although no Welsh players were present. It would be unacceptable in other sports, like rugby, for a team comprised entirely of non-Welsh people, playing under a non-Welsh flag, with the badge of another country on their chest, to ostensibly play a "home" game in the Welsh capital. This would simply not be acceptable for other sports and should not be so for cricket. The current arrangements do not foster the game of cricket in Wales and are to its detriment because there is a lack of opportunity for Welsh cricketers to play at the highest level. At present Wales is completely unrepresented in international cricket and this must change with the establishment of an Welsh international cricket team.



William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Your ref:  
Our ref: PO/BC/TS

16 October 2012

*Dear William*

At the Business Committee meeting held on 9 October 2012, Business Managers declined the request of the Petitions Committee for a Plenary debate on a petition calling for the establishment of a Welsh international cricket team.

This is the first time that a request has been made by a committee for a debate where there is no committee report. Business Managers felt that they were unable to justify allocating time within Plenary for a committee debate where there is no committee view or evidence to inform the debate.

*Rosemary*

**Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer**

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
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## **P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to list or otherwise protect buildings of note on the former Mid Wales Hospital site. Unlisted but in the Conservation Area they are an invaluable part of the architectural and social heritage of Talgarth.

**Petition raised by:** John Tushingham

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 28 February 2012

**Number of signatures:** 206

**Supporting information:** The Brecon and Radnor County Asylum had a Grand Opening in 1903. The souvenir booklet describes how thousands of people were present and every nook and corner of the huge building was inspected. Altogether the establishment was a wonder of its time. It is now in an appalling state of decay but this important example of an early Edwardian asylum of the compact arrow echelon style, designed by Giles, Gough and Trollope, noted by Pevsner and on SAVE Britain's Heritage, Buildings at Risk register, is thoroughly worthy of conservation. Situated approximately half a mile from Talgarth in outstandingly beautiful countryside within the Brecon Beacons National Park, and Talgarth Conservation Area, it has a special relationship with Talgarth. Loss of any of the original/notable buildings would be an unacceptable loss of Talgarth's heritage assets.

Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth  
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-365  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05624/12

William Powell AM

c/o Abigail Phillips  
[petition@wales.gov.uk](mailto:petition@wales.gov.uk)

22 May 2012

Dear William

Thank you for your letters of 8 May to me, and Cadw, seeking comments about whether temporary measures will be put in place to protect buildings of note, like those at the site of the former Mid Wales Hospital, from demolition prior to the proposed Heritage Bill in 2014-15. I am replying to both letters as Cadw has no legal identity separate from the Welsh Ministers and is within my portfolio.

The local planning authority can safeguard the buildings on the site of the former Mid Wales Hospital through the requirement for conservation area consent. If conservation area consent or planning permission for development at the site is refused by the local planning authority, or granted subject to conditions, the developer will have a right of appeal to the Welsh Ministers. In view of this it is inappropriate for me to comment on proposals for demolition or the development of the site. However, the temporary protection measures currently being sought by the Petitions Committee seem to relate more generally to unlisted buildings located outside a conservation area but which are locally important.

Demolition of a building can fall within the scope of planning control but Part 31 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 confers a permitted development right (a general planning permission) for any building operation consisting of the demolition of a building. Where a local authority is concerned to protect a building of local interest it can produce a list of such buildings and introduce local policies to protect them. While that in itself does not protect such buildings from demolition, it does provide the basis upon which a local authority could make a Direction under Article 4 of the 1995 Order which would require an application for planning permission to demolish a building included on the local list. This would seem to provide the protection being sought by the Petitions Committee and enable a local planning authority to regulate works to locally important buildings while the issues around protecting such buildings are further considered through the development of a Heritage Bill.

The work that has started on developing the proposed Heritage Bill provides the earliest available opportunity for my officials in Cadw to consider any additional measures of protection that may be required for such buildings. Workshops with external organisations and consultees on the heritage environment are under way and these issues will be explored further in the forthcoming Thematic Bill workshops and my Heritage Conference on 19 July.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis', written in a cursive style.

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth  
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Rhodri Davies,  
Planning Officer  
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority  
Plas y Ffynnon  
Cambrian Way  
Brecon  
Powys  
LD3 7HP

Date: 22 May 2012

Dear Mr Davies,

**Former Mid Wales Hospital, Hospital Road, Talgarth, Powys LD3 0EF**

**Planning Application 12/07690/CAC & 12/07922/FUL**

Mixed use redevelopment of the site for housing, employment and community uses including 76 number residential units (C3), 5 live work units (B1/C3) and 18 number 1-2 bed retirement apartments (C3), Care/health facility (up to 70 bed apartments) (C2/D1), **conversion of the front 'Admin Block' into 4 apartments (C3), conversion of retained chapel into multi-use community building (D2) and offices (B1), conversion of retained mortuary into office space (B1)**, internal roads and paths, new allotments, creation of new cricket pavilion, access road, car park and tennis courts, landscaping and public open space, sustainable drainage systems, **de-construction (demolition) of the existing former ward buildings and associated works, services and utilities**

**1. Objection**

I am writing to object to the above applications, which propose to demolish most of the buildings at the former Mid Wales Hospital site near Talgarth and then replace the former buildings with 103 newly built housing units. This site, an important complex of late C19 and early C20 purpose-built structures set in a high quality landscape, was included within the Talgarth Conservation Area in 2011. I have examined the applicant's planning submission and the primary reason for objection is that the proposals **do not conserve or enhance the character of the Conservation Area. In addition to this there are missing plans and no structural surveys.**

**2. Key Legislation**

2.1 As I understand it, the key legislation relating to this application is **Section 69 of The Planning – Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990**. The section on Conservation Areas at Section 72.2 says: -

***“Special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.”***

2.2 The Welsh Office Circular 61/96 **Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas** under Part Two: **Conservation Areas** dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 1996 provides further clarification and states at Para 20: -

*Quality of place should be the prime consideration in identifying conservation areas.*

*This depends on more than individual buildings. It is recognised that the special character of a place may derive from many factors, including: the grouping of buildings; their scale and relationship with outdoor spaces; the network of routes and nodal spaces; the mix and relative importance of focus and background buildings; vistas and visual compositions; hierarchies of public and private space; materials used in buildings and other surfaces (pavements, roads, garden walls, railings,); architectural detailing (of windows, doors, eaves, gates, kerbs,... ); patterns of use; colours; hard and soft landscaping; street furniture; and so on. Conservation area designation should be seen as the prime means of recognising, protecting and enhancing the identity of places with special character; local conservation policy should be sensitive to quality of place (townscape) in the broadest sense. Authorities should seek to establish consistent criteria against which they should periodically review existing conservation areas and their boundaries. Cancellation of designation should be considered where an area or part of an area is no longer considered to possess the special interest which led to its designation."*

2.3 The National Parks statutory purposes and aims say: -

- i) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park;
- ii) to promote the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the Park;
- iii) to foster the social and economic well-being of the communities within the Park;
- iv) to ensure that all development within the Park has regard to the concepts of sustainability.

#### 4 Key National and Local Planning Documents, Policies, and Planning Briefs

1997 Mid Wales Hospital Planning Brief (MWHPB)

1999 Local Plan

Unitary Development Plan 2007 (UDP)

Talgarth Development Brief 2008 (TDB)

Local Development Plan (LDP)

Management Plan 2010 (MP)

Talgarth Conservation Area Appraisal December 2010 (TCAA)

Planning Policy Wales February 2011 (PPW)

PPW Tan 12. Design and Access

#### 4.1 The Applications. 12/07690/CAC & 12/07922/FUL

I understand the applications were received on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 and were then validated and sent out for the three-week statutory public consultations on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This consultation period then started again on May 4<sup>th</sup> as it was found that essential plan and elevation drawings of the 75 new houses were missing from the public and online files.

On further examination of the submitted plans it appears there are more floor plans, side elevations and site sections missing including no drawings of the buildings the developer proposes to demolish and no structural surveys of them. Some of these buildings remain in

good order with slates on and others have only been removed in the last 6 months. In addition to this the developer's agents fully admit that their Building Conditions Survey was only a surface and visual record. Therefore a sound case for demolition has not been made.

**4.2 I believe, and stand to be corrected, that these missing documents are a statutory requirement and are among the minimum requirements for Validation that comes under the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995. (as amended). However, I think the most important issue at this stage is for these essential drawings/plans and structural surveys to be placed on public file.**

**Without these records it is not possible to make a true evaluation of these buildings both in conservation and architectural design terms. We need to know what should remain and what might need to be demolished. Then we need to look at the architectural design of the whole scheme of new buildings set against old, to see what best befits the site in terms of reflecting its history and respecting its conservation status.**

4.4 The BBNPA Validation Requirements state: -

*Any proposal to demolish a building within the Conservation Area will need to be accompanied by a structural survey and a detailed justification of the proposed demolition together with an assessment of the impact of the demolition on the special character of the area*

4.5 The above requirement is emphasized in the following UDP policies.

**Policy Q 17:** (Development affecting Conservation Areas)

***New development and alterations to existing buildings within or affecting the setting of a Conservation Area will only be permitted where it will preserve or enhance the character of the area and where the design, all building materials, proportions and detailing are appropriate to the Conservation Area.***

4.6 **Policy Q18:** (Demolition in Conservation Areas)

***The demolition or substantial demolition of any unlisted building or structure within a Conservation Area that is subject to Conservation Area consent will only be permitted where there is the strongest justification. Where such a building is to be replaced, a contract of redevelopment will be required to be finalised and entered into prior to the granting of conservation area consent.***

## **5. Definition of the Special Character of the Talgarth Mid-Wales Hospital Site**

3.1 This is to be found in the adopted 2010 BBNPA conservation report prepared by John Wykes Conservation and Planning. It is titled the **Talgarth Conservation Area Appraisal** and within it is a clear description and detailed assessment of the nature and character of the Mid-Wales Hospital site. I will include here the parts concerning the hospital in its entirety for ease of reference.

### **5.2 The Mid-Wales Hospital Site**

10.3 *Wern Fawr an older farmhouse is sited to the north of (the later named) Hospital Road. The farm became the home farm of the hospital and there are other uses linked to it, notably staff houses or "villas" along the southern access road to Talgarth and to Pwll-y-Wrach and a large, detached house, Chance Field, to the north of the main complex.*

*The complex of hospital buildings, main entrance block, Great Hall, separate chapel, mortuary, boiler house and laundry and other specialised treatment facilities was*

originally designed by **Giles, Gough and Trollope in 1900**. The hospital buildings are laid out in a symmetrical “butterfly” plan, with a series of pavilions positioned either side of the central entrance and hall blocks, linked by corridors. There are various modern extensions and buildings but, in the main, the site retains a strong early C20 character.

10.4 Wern Fawr appears to be a five bay house, possibly incorporating an attached barn. It is roughcast and has had its first floor windows heightened into partial dormer windows. The nearby home farm buildings have a very distinctive architectural vocabulary, with local purple-brown sandstone rubble, laid to courses and with a yellow brick trim of quoins and window and door heads. Windows and doors have cambered arch heads. The original hospital buildings are two and single storey, with the main entrance block having a real architectural presence, with an E-plan, ten bays, a projecting two bay centre with porch, topped by a decorative clock turret and ground floor canted bays in the outer bays. The style is a typical late C19-early C20 modified classical, with sash windows, and vernacular C17 elements in the central gable. The materials are coursed sandstone rubble, pink sandstone used for dressings and slate roofs.

10.5 There are also single storey ancillary buildings, in similar materials, with hipped roofs and distinctive multi-paned iron windows with the glazing bar joints expressed by small rosettes. The mortuary is also single storey, but with wooden sash windows. The boiler room chimney is prominent, of tapering square section and with iron reinforcement banding. The chapel is a seven bay rectangle, of sandstone and slate, in a simple lancet style and topped by a louvred cupola.

There is a group of rendered buildings to the east of the main block, with sash windows. The large detached house, Chance Field, to the NW of the chapel, has many attractive Arts and Crafts/Queen Anne-style details – roughcast, multi-pane sashes, a large casement marking the staircase, canted bays and a central porch complete with segmentally arched head.

10.6 The complex is set in a very attractive landscape, with mature coniferous and deciduous trees, in the area around the chapel and Chance Field, by the southern entrance and along the two approach roads. There is a tennis court and a cricket field, complete with a pavilion, to the west of Chance Field.

10.7 The hospital buildings have been unused since the late 1990s, apart from some commercial use of a few units to the east of the main complex. There has been systematic stripping of slates and lead, resulting in damage to the former main hall. There have been attempts to list some or the entire group, but these have been, to date, unsuccessful. A range of uses for the site has been discussed with the private owners but apart from the limited commercial use and the successful conversion of the Waun Fawr buildings for residential and tourism accommodation uses, the main complex is in obvious danger of further damage and, potentially, loss.

10.8. **The financial realities of mixed use development, access considerations and the requirements of the planning system will undoubtedly determine the future of the site but there is a need to secure the remaining buildings and to ensure that any development is of the highest standard, respecting the handsome buildings and their setting in an attractive landscape. It is conceivable that some or all of the original hospital buildings should be listed, on the basis of the quality of buildings like the main entrance block and the chapel and as recognition of the historic building use and layout.**

**This kind of mental/isolation hospital complex is a very characteristic late C19-early C20 development, providing a reasonably humane environment and facilities for sport and rehabilitation. In the last twenty years, many similar sites have been demolished or altered beyond recognition as the NHS has disposed of much of its estate. Whilst listing may be reconsidered, it is desirable to provide some sort of increased protection of the buildings and landscape and to inform future planning decisions. “**

## **6 Site Character Synopses**

I have attempted to distil the above conservation area appraisal to a few key points: -

- *The character of the complex is predominantly 19<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> century.*
- *The layout of the site is the up-to-date “Butterfly” Plan or echelon layout.*
- *The scale of the buildings is no greater than two storeys.*
- *The building style is modified classical with some 17<sup>th</sup> century vernacular.*
- *The materials used are coursed sandstone rubble, pink sandstone used for dressings and slate roofs.*
- *The landscaping is attractive, reflects the rural location and affords open views.*
- *The report also states that the site may be worthy of listing: -*

Approaches have been made to SAVE, Cadw and the Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee in order to explore whether the site is of quality worthy of listing. Further research is being carried out to assess Talgarth's relative importance both with regard to development of Asylum Architecture and in the context of surviving examples of this type of architecture. English Heritage recently produced a Listed Selection Guide: Health and Welfare Buildings, April 2011. This contains a useful section on p9 about Asylums (See Appendix 1). The description of the echelon plan is remarkably consistent with that in Talgarth. **It may well transpire that Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has not fully appreciated the relative uniqueness and survival of an architectural gem on its doorstep.**

## **7. The Developer’s Submission**

It was with great disappointment that I first saw and then read in full the present submission by the developers. There are a number of issues that could be raised; not least the developer's submission with regard to the authority’s Validation Requirements. There are no floor plans or elevation drawings of the hospital wards, Great Hall, court yards and wings, all of which the developer proposes to demolish representing approximately 98 % of the built area of the 3 hectare site. Then the developer proposes to level and cover over of the exceptional butterfly footprint of the whole complex. It is an exceptional design, which has an organic and ordered flow of inner and outer spaces. This is of particular concern, but I will largely limit myself in this letter to a detailed analysis of those aspects directly affecting the Conservation Area status of the site as outlined in the following two documents prepared on behalf of Collins Developments for the redevelopment of the site. Also for clarification purposes of I have titled some of the following items with my character synopsis phrases listed above in paragraph 6. for context and contrast purposes.

### **7.1 The Developer's Conservation Area Assessment Survey (February 2012) and Building Condition Survey November 2011 (5a 2.4) states: -**

#### **a) Demolition and the developer’s Building Condition Survey.**

In 2.4 of the Developer’s Building Condition Survey it states:

*“It is important to note that the Building Condition Survey and report does not*

constitute a full Acquisition type Survey commonly referred to as a 'Structural Survey' and there has been no attempt made to trace the cause of all the defects beyond the obvious visual observation or to attempt any reassessment of the structural integrity of the buildings"

The Developer's Conservation Area Assessment Survey states: -

- 5.4 *The Building Condition Survey demonstrates that it is not practical or financially viable to retain the existing buildings for either their current or a future use. That said, it is proposed to retain the key buildings within the former hospital grounds, which provide the defining valuable characteristics of the site, namely the Chapel, former Administrative building and the mortuary.*
- 6.5 *However, the proposed development, through its respect of the local character and in particular the reuse of the stone from the existing buildings provides a piece of townscape that will be unmistakably Talgarth." (Note: not related to the site itself)*

**b) Layout. The layout of the site is the up-to-date "Butterfly" Plan or echelon layout.**

- "5.8 The design of layout of the proposed development has taken typical plots and forms from within Talgarth and the surrounding villages to determine a typology of properties, in the form of a typical terrace, a land mark building; properties turning corners and detached properties. The analysis has identified the range of boundary treatments appropriate to each form" (note: not related to the site itself)*
- 5.9 *In accordance with the design guidance outlined in Section 4 from the Conservation Area appraisal, the layout has been prepared to define spaces, using built development to define those spaces. The objective has been to provide a piece of townscape that is typically Talgarth / Mid Wales in its form, whilst recognising its relationship to the sensitive landscape within which it is located.*
- 5.13 *The proposed development has been contained within the existing footprint, so As to limit the quantum of development, but also to provide an acknowledgement of the sites former use. (Note: it has been contained within the foot print area, but hasn't conformed to the footprints)*
- 5.14 *Whilst it has not been considered appropriate to replicate the butterfly layout of the former hospital buildings, the layout of the development, in providing a sequence of spaces and streets offers an acknowledgment and recognition of the former layout, for example the provision of the main street, the village green around the chapel." (Note: layout not related to the echelon butterfly plan)*

**c) Scale: The scale of the buildings is no greater than two storeys.**

- 5.15 *However, the proposed development offers a less formal arrangement of buildings, respective of Talgarth, the landscape setting and a scale of development more appropriate to this setting.*

Mass / Scale / Outline

- 5.19 *The height of the proposed development is typically 2 storey, with the use of 3 storey to the Care Facility and the landmark / focal buildings.*

5.20 The proportions of the buildings and their openings follow traditional sizes, typically found in Talgarth. As outlined in the Design & Access Statement, many of the buildings within the locality have simple elevations with informality. Whilst some therefore offer a symmetrical form, others do not, often with windows being of unequal size and not lined up, but reflecting

*the purpose by which the rooms are used. This variety and pattern has therefore been adopted in the proposed development.*

*5.21 The outline / roofline proposed is varied, offering variety in height and form, but within parameters defined by the pitch of roofs, overall height and character. Typically roof ridges are gabled or hipped and are parallel to the street, with occasional variations to add interest. “*

**d) Building Style: The building style is modified classical with some 17<sup>th</sup> century vernacular.**

*“Windows & Doors*

*5.24 These will normally be of timber construction, with some reflecting traditional types with glazing bar patterns or sashes. However, in order to avoid the townscape appearing as a mere pastiche, others will be of a more modern form and character.*

*Porches / Canopies*

*5.25 As with the above, these will reflect the traditional form, scale and mass found in Talgarth. However, these may not all be an entirely traditional form, including potentially more modern styles.*

*Colour*

*5.26 Render will be white / off white or grey; painted timber will be white or of modern conservation colours.”grey.”*

**e) Materials: The materials used are coursed sandstone rubble, pink sandstone used for dressings and slate roofs**

*5.22 As much of the sandstone from the existing buildings is to be reused as possible, which will be used for facing buildings, providing details to elevations (quoins and lintels) and for boundary treatments, typically walls.*

*5.23 As per the Conservation Area appraisal, elsewhere, the use of render is commonplace, in a white, off -white or a grey stone colour. Chimneys will be of brick or render, but may act as a more modern insertion into the built form.*

**f) Landscaping: The landscaping is attractive, reflects the rural location and affords open views**

*5.28 Landscape planting is provided to front gardens and to the spaces created. For example, the village green area is characterized by its openness, the boundary trees and the occasional ornamental species. However, the streets have included native tree species to add character provide shelter as well as a relationship to the surrounding landscape.*

*5.29 Within the incidental spaces, trees are again utilized to add character and a quality of space. Within the rural edge and to offer ecological benefits, additional planting is provided as out lined on the landscape proposals. (Note: The incidental spaces bare no relation in mass or open areas at the centre of the butterfly pattern)*

**8. Anomalies**

On closer examination of the Developer’s statements on Design and Access, Conservation, the BBNPA’s Validation Requirements and policies there are clearly gaps, numerous anomalies

and conflicting statements which are too long to list. However I will highlight a few: -

**8.1** The Developers Design and Access Statement 10.1 states: -

*Further detailed changes have occurred since the public consultation event and the final pre- application meeting with the BBNPA in December.*

This is true. There have been many changes, since the brief one afternoon and evening consultation with the developer, which the public have not been privy too. The main alterations have been in layout and design, which now have little relation to the present scheme.

**8.2**

*Buildings along the High street followed strictly the line of the existing buildings and those immediately next to the existing administration building were set back to allow for better views of the administration building'*

This is not the case at all. If you observe Plan NP5v1 and the original footprint plan of the existing wards (NP4v1) you will see the buildings next to the Administration building have not been 'set back'. You will also notice that the proposed footprints of the adjacent buildings have moved closer to the Administration building. In addition to this all the existing single storey and lower buildings next to the Administration building are being replaced by three story buildings which are the same height, and in the case of the proposed retirement flat block, much higher. Likewise as stated in 6.c above concerning the Developers' Conservation Statements on "Scale", it must be remembered that there are no 3-storey buildings on the existing site. It is the Developers proposal, which is turning single, and two storey buildings into three. This is by no means an enhancement for this very fine Administration Building, or the whole site, which was designed, by Giles, Gough and Trollope in 1900. This is also an encroachment on the height of the Chapel opposite.

**8.3** Apart from one plan drawing, NP5v1, there appears to be no other drawings that meet requirements. In particular there is a complete absence of any plan drawings and elevations of the existing echelon wards, the Great Hall, Wards 7&8 and how they will relate to the new proposals and adjacent buildings. There are also no drawings of the existing floor areas and side elevation details. There is only one site section drawing for the whole 3-hectare site of 103 proposed dwellings. Appendix 2 contains copy of the Validation Requirements.

## **9 Conclusions**

- It is clear from the edited highlights listed above the Developer has missed the point.
- In truth, there is not enough information for anyone to make a proper evaluation of this application. What has been submitted is barely more than outline planning. No attempt has been made to preserve and enhance the character of the Mid-Wales hospital site. The developers are proposing to demolish most of the buildings and re-use material. This is not preservation.
- With regard to the design proposals, the developers freely admit that they have taken their reference as being the wider environs of Talgarth. The particularly characteristic echelon footprint plan of the Hospital site is not respected and neither have the proportions of windows, walls, eaves and pitches informed the designs. Appendix 1 states, "In an echelon-plan asylum the different classes of patients were housed in

pavilions, simulating domestic villas, arranged off a single-storey corridor laid out in a V or arrow head shape. These had unobstructed views of the surrounding countryside” This has not been echoed in the submission.

- There are far more buildings proposed at a greater density and with no feel for the landscape or the setting. Three storey buildings are proposed which do not currently exist. These will dwarf the existing buildings and in no way enhance the conservation area.
- The design and proposed materials are not in harmony with the current buildings. The developers say they are seeking to avoid pastiche but what they are offering in its place can hardly be described as imaginative, innovative or good modern design.
- Design / Development Brief  
6.10 of the Local Plan 1999 and **Policy EM3** states there should be a design brief for the redevelopment of this site. Also the **2008 Talgarth Development Brief** (adopted) supports this approach in 6.3 & C (v)
- Therefore, in the absence of detailed and required plans, showing sensitivity towards this historic site, it would now seem an appropriate time to put the above policy and guidance into action. This could ensure a plan that respects and enhances this special site and landscape. It would be a sad irony if a proposed twenty first century housing development could not even manage to achieve the same level of humane scale in layout and design thought appropriate, one hundred years ago, for the humble inhabitants of a mental asylum.

I look forward to your acknowledgement and a conformation as to when the above missing plans and structural surveys might be viewed and made available to the public. There are also a number of other matters I would like to raise about these applications and I would like to reserve the opportunity of making further comment. I would be grateful if you could provide me with a deadline.

Yours sincerely

Niel Bally

PS. I would like to waive my rights to protection under the Data Protection Act and give you full permission to publish this letter, with my details, on your online planning files.

CC.

John Cook CEO  
BBNPA Chairman  
Rhiannon Edwards  
Chair of Audit and Scrutiny  
Roger Williams MP  
Kirsty Williams AM  
William Powell AM

Cadw  
Marcus Binney CBE (SAVE)  
Princes Trust  
John Wykes  
Rosie Burton

**OVERLEAF: APPENDICES**

## Appendix 1

### Section on Asylums page 9-10 from English Heritage's Listed Selection Guide: Health and Welfare Buildings, April 2011.

The Lunatic Asylums Act of 1845 made the erection of a pauper lunatic asylum compulsory in each county. Twenty-two had been built between 1808 and 1845; 63 followed between 1845 and 1888. All asylums were required to have chapels. Early experiments using detached houses with small-enclosed gardens found no followers until the later nineteenth century. The 'corridor plan' with small secure rooms was generally adopted and remained standard. Variations on this theme included radial and double-cross plans. Most of the later asylums were built on an echelon plan and this (as Elaborated at Claybury Asylum, Chigwell, Essex, by G.T. Hine of Nottingham, 1889; listed Grade II) became the standard model. In an echelon-plan asylum the different classes of patients were housed in pavilions, simulating domestic villas, arranged off a single-storey corridor laid out in a V or arrowhead shape. These had unobstructed views of the surrounding countryside (asylums increasingly were in rural locations). Together with the ancillary buildings – administration block, Kitchens and recreation hall, medical superintendent or deputy's house, chapels, laundry and workshops (work was an integral part of the therapy), boiler house and chimneys, and sometimes farms and railway stations – these huge institutions formed impressive and coherent ensembles

That need to be assessed for listing in the round, especially if the landscapes (which may be candidates for registration) survive to anything like their original layout; conservation area Designation can be appropriate too. Later asylums break down the institutional quality of Hine's prototype by dividing them into smaller units, a counter-trend that is worthy of note.

## Appendix 2 Validation Requirements. (extracts)

A full copy can be downloaded from this link

[www.breconbeacons.org/the-authority/planning/validation-requirements/view?searchterm=validation+](http://www.breconbeacons.org/the-authority/planning/validation-requirements/view?searchterm=validation+)

The Validation Requirements state:

### Conservation Area Assessments

*Required for all applications located within a Conservation Area*

Proposals within a Conservation Area should include an assessment of the appearance of the proposed development within the context of its historic setting and the street scene together with an assessment of the effect of the development on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. This assessment could form part of the DAS or Design Statement as appropriate. Any proposal to demolish a building within the Conservation Area will need to be accompanied by a structural survey and a detailed justification of the proposed demolition together with an assessment of the impact of the demolition on the special character of the area. The statement of justification should be based on the following criteria:

- Evidence that it is not practicable to continue to use the building for its existing use;
- That there is no other viable use for the building;
- Preservation in some form of charitable or community ownership is not possible or suitable; and

*Cont /...*

- Redevelopment would produce substantial planning benefits for the community, which would decisively outweigh the loss resulting from the demolition.

***Existing and Proposed Elevations (Scale 1:50 or 1:100)***

*Required for all applications unless otherwise stated*

*Plans shall accurately show: - the proposed works in relation to what is already there. All existing and proposed elevations.*

***Existing and Proposed Floor Plans (Scale 1:50 or 1:100)***

*Required for all applications unless otherwise stated*

*Plans shall accurately show: the full area of all existing and proposed floors and roofs affected by the development. Any existing building(s) or wall(s) to be demolished. New buildings should also be shown in context with adjacent buildings*

***Existing and Proposed Site Sections, Finished Floor and Site Levels (Scale 1:50 or 1:100)***

*Required for all applications for new dwellings, any applications that involve distinct topographical changes or proposals involving sloped sites and where appropriate to the applications.*

*Plans shall accurately show: cross section(s) through the application site. Existing and finished levels to include details of foundations and eaves and how encroachment onto adjoining land is to be avoided, where the proposal involves a change in ground levels. Relationship between proposed building(s) to existing site levels and neighbouring development/adjoining buildings, to show existing site levels and finished floor levels.*

**Petitions Committee : 6 November 2012 : P-04-365**

Mr William Powell AM	<b>Date 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012</b>
Petitions Committee Chair	<b>Officer: Rosie Burton</b>
National Assembly for Wales	<b>Title: Building Conservation Officer</b>
Cardiff Bay	<b>Tel: 01874 620433</b>
Cardiff	<b>Email: <a href="mailto:rosie.burton@breconbeacons.org">rosie.burton@breconbeacons.org</a></b>
CF99 INA	<b>Our Ref Talgarthconarea/RCB</b>
	<b>Your Ref</b>

Dear Committee Chair

**Re: Petition: Protect Buildings of Note on the Mid Wales Hospital Site**

Thank you for your letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> May relating to the protection of the buildings of note at the above site.

I can confirm that a valid planning application for redevelopment of the site has been received by the Authority. I can also confirm that the Authority is in receipt of an application for Conservation Area Consent to demolish many of the buildings on the site. To that end my comments below are without prejudice to the Authority's determination of the above applications.

You will be aware that the buildings on site are not listed and therefore not protected individually in their own right. In terms of Conservation Area status the Town and Country Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 lays a duty on the local planning authority, in this case the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, to protect and enhance designated conservation areas. Also the first of the special purposes of a National Park Authority includes a requirement to protect the cultural heritage of the area. The Authority will use this framework along with national guidance as set out in Circular 61/96 and local policies as set out in the approved Unitary Development Plan, to determine the current applications.

For your information I would expect any application for demolition to clearly show what loss to the character of the conservation area and enhancement the proposal will bring. In addition when large areas of demolition are proposed I expect a robust justification as to why each element of the property cannot be retained in any redevelopment proposals. In



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considering the redevelopment proposals, I will of course have to bear in mind that the property in question has suffered from much vandalism, theft and dilapidation from not being wind and weather tight.

If you have any queries relating to this letter please contact me on the number above.

Your sincerely

p.p Rosie Burton  
Senior Heritage Officer (Building Conservation)

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