

RICHARD PARRY JONES, M.A.
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
Swyddfa'r Sir
LLANGEFNI
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William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Gofynnwch am - Please ask for: Carol Roberts

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Eich Cyf - Your Ref.

26 June 2012

Dear Mr Powell,

**P-04-390: DESIGNATE PENRHOS HOLYHEAD NATURE RESERVE
(COASTAL PATH) A NATIONAL RESERVE**

I refer to your recent correspondence in respect of the above and welcome the opportunity to submit the following observations on the request submitted by Jenny Amelia Jones to your Petitions Committee.

The Committee will be aware that it is the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) who has the legal power to designate National Nature Reserves (NNR) in the Principality and as I understand matters they have also received a request for the area to be designated as an NNR but have declined to do so as they do not recognise the area to be nationally important in terms fauna, flora or geographical features of special interest.

As far as this Authority is concerned I would point out that Officers have been involved with the applicant company in pre-application discussions for the past 12 months or so regarding development of the area. Whilst the scheme of development is continually evolving the proposal have been subject to community consultation and details can be found on the Internet. The intent is to create a quality tourism and leisure destination, provide a sustainable economic legacy for the Island assist the tourism industry, and in part provide temporary self-contained construction workers accommodation for the nuclear new build development at Wylfa. The latter element will be on the Cae Glas site as opposed to the Penrhos Site. Notwithstanding the foregoing the project will still secure access to the Penrhos Reserve and Coastal Path and mitigate any loss of public access by opening up the Cae Glas site which presently has no public access whatsoever. The Authority is eager to maximise community/planning benefits if the development proceeds.

The development in its totality will comprise of three sites which will be interrelated.

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The development lies within the boundary of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the applicant is fully aware of the need to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 5.5.2 and 5.5.6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 4). The applicant is also aware that the two of the three sites are adjacent to the Anglesey Aluminium site on which a 299MW Biomass Station has been approved by DECC. Part of the Anglesey Aluminium site itself actually occupies a section of the AONB and is linked to Energy related Enterprise Zone status confirmed on the Island by the Minister, Edwina Hart.

The correspondence as submitted seems to imply that the Penrhos scheme will entail development of the whole site to the detriment of the character of the area as well as restrict public access. I would point out that the Penrhos site will still afford access to the public the development will in fact protect access to the area which Anglesey Aluminium annually spends approximately £250,000 on maintaining. Owing to the closure of the Works and the loss of hundred jobs the company can no longer afford the level of maintenance expenditure needed. However, the proposed development, if approved, will ensure continuity of access to the area by the applicant company (although the leisure and public areas will be clearly de-marked) as well as ensure improvements to the coastal footpath etc.

I would not wish to pre-judge any decision in respect of the planning application as discussions are on-going with the developer however the application will be considered on its individual merits having regard to the Development Plan as well as all relevant material considerations. Certainly if favourably consented the development would:

- (i) Assist the area's economic regeneration;
- (ii) Provide a leisure designation hub which will and assist the Island's Tourism industry;
- (iii) Provide a legacy for the Island's residents in safeguarding the Penrhos Coastal Park which without additional financial resources will face an uncertain future.

The Authority is fully aware of the concerns of many people in the area regarding the proposed development and its Officers, in dealing with the proposed application(s), will have due and diligent regard to the planning, social, environmental as well as economic issues concerned. The Countryside Council for Wales will be a formal consultees on the application and will respond in light of its statutory duties.

If I can provide you with any further information in this matter please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Parry Jones
Chief Executive