

**P-04-417: Save Morfa Beach and Prevent the Closure of Public Footpaths 92 and 93 – Correspondence from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**

Dear Naomi,

I write following receipt of a letter from William Powell AM, dated 8th April 2013 regarding the above. He has requested details of the date of the Inquiry and the decision made and that the response should be sent direct to you.

For background purposes, I would advise you that on the 18th August 2011 the Authority published 3 rights of way orders. One order is to extinguish Footpath 92 Port Talbot that leads down to Morfa Beach, one order is to divert Footpath 93 Port Talbot, the other is to create a new right of way.

The aim of the orders is to have a new path that will form part of the Wales Coastal Path that will connect with Bridgend via a new bridge that will span the River Kenfig.

Morfa beach is in private ownership and the Footpath 92 Port Talbot, as depicted on the Definitive Map and Statement, stops short of the beach and as far as anyone can ascertain there is no legal access onto the beach.

We've had approx 370 objections to the extinguishment order and approx 9 objections to the diversion order (not including petitions).

The Legal Department submitted the legal orders to the Planning Inspector (PINs) on the 3rd April 2013 and we're currently awaiting formal acknowledgment. This is unlikely to be received until PINs are satisfied with the submission, as a rigid process with strict timescales will immediately follow the acknowledgement. PINs may be able to give you additional details in relation to the current position as far as they are concerned, should you wish to contact them direct. The objectors will be advised of the date of the Inquiry following its receipt from PINs. Given that the Inquiry has not yet commenced, I am unable to confirm the decision made.

I trust that this clarifies the queries raised however should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Nicola Pearce**

**Head of Planning**

**Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**