

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-03-205  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05601/11

William Powell AM  
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11

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Thank you for your letter dated 14 July sent on behalf of the Assembly's Petitions Committee on the petition to keep Abergavenny Livestock Market.

Monmouthshire County Council first raised the issue of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts 1854-1871 with my predecessor some years ago. These Acts appear to require the Council to hold a livestock market in a small area of the centre of the town, including (but not limited to) the site of the current market. The Council believes that the Acts are obsolete and should be repealed.

I and my predecessors have been minded to agree. The requirements in the Acts are certainly unusual and restrictive; they appear to prevent the Council from taking decisions about the re-development of the town; and all local authorities (including Monmouthshire) have other permissive powers governing livestock markets. However, we have long held the position that we will not act until and unless the Council grants planning permission for the re-development of the current market site.

On 14 June, the Council's Planning Committee granted planning permission to re-develop the market site, subject to certain conditions. I am therefore minded in principle to make an order repealing relevant provisions of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts 1854-1871, subject to consultation.

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

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I recognise that this has been a controversial issue locally, but I cannot comment on consultations conducted by the Council, or on planning decisions that it makes. I can only note that the papers before the Planning Committee on 14 June recorded your petitioners' views in detail, along with those of many other consultees; and that a representative of the petitioners addressed the Committee in person. Nonetheless, the re-development of the current livestock market site is a planning matter for the Council, which it has now resolved. It is not a matter for me, and I cannot take any comments on such issues into account in reaching my decision about any repeal.

My only responsibility is to address the concerns that the Council have raised about the obligation that the Acts appear to impose. I must decide whether that obligation is "obsolete, spent or unnecessary", to quote my order-making power in the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. Whether I or others agree with particular planning decisions is irrelevant to that. As such, only users of the market would be affected by any decision I might make, and my consultation will be limited to them and to the Town Council. My officials will begin such a consultation shortly, and it will conclude in the autumn.



**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**

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