

P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site – Correspondence to the clerking team, 19.11.2013

Dear Steve,

It was good to meet you at the Petitions Committee visit to the Mid Wales Hospital.

While Phil Collins emphasised the poor condition of the site and his lack of interest in reuse SAVE and Graham Frecknall showed how the buildings could be converted, given the will, preserving the built and social heritage of Talgarth and resulting in a development of appropriate scale that would enhance the town. I hope that we will all be able to work together to achieve this aim.

One of the ways of giving the buildings some further protection would be to include them in the Local List. The Senior Conservation Officer of the BBNPA, after proper public consultation, put all of the original buildings on the list. At a meeting in July 2013, in the face of objections from the owner of the site, the Members of the BBNPA chose to approve the Local List for Talgarth with the exception of the Mid Wales Hospital site. The original buildings match virtually all the Criteria for inclusion on the Local List, namely 1. Historic Interest a) and b) 2. Historic Association a) and b) 3. Architectural & Design merit a)b) and c) 4. Survival a) b)and c) 5. a) and 6. Bio-diversity a) and the Officer had taken into consideration the views of the local community. The minutes of the meeting state “ the officer advised that the Local List advised the Authority what was there and while there was not statutory protection but there is a policy to say that the Authority should seek to protect them. It did not mean that some buildings could not be removed but it ensured proper debate” and yet the Members inexplicably asked for further information. There is no justification for omitting the original Mid Wales Hospital buildings from the Local List. The situation is unresolved to date and I was told recently by the Senior Conservation Officer that it would not be considered by Members before the New Year.

I should be most grateful if the Petitions Committee could help to ensure that the original buildings of the Mid Wales Hospital are included in the Local List. It fits with the petition

‘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.’ I should be grateful if you would pass this information on to the members of the committee.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Virginia

Virginia Brown