



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref TO/CS/01855/13

Gareth Clubb
Cyfarwyddwr – Director
Cyfeillion y Ddaer Cymru – Friends of
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2 December 2013

Dear Mr Clubb,

Thank you for your e-mails of 11 November to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food and of 20 November to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration regarding the proposed Circuit of Wales development at Land North of Rassau Industrial Estate, Rassau, Ebbw Vale. I have been asked to reply.

The reasons for not calling in the proposed development are detailed in the decision letter of 22 August 2013. I have enclosed as Annex 1 of this letter a copy of the decision letter; please find enclosed.

In relation to assessing the potential noise impacts on the Brecon Beacons National Park from the proposed development, and whether they were of more than local importance, we consulted Natural Resources Wales who is our statutory advisor on planning issues associated with National Parks.

In a letter of 9 August 2013 to the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales stated that on balance it was satisfied that the environmental impacts of the scheme could be appropriately managed and the proposed development did not need to be called in. Natural Resources Wales commented that:

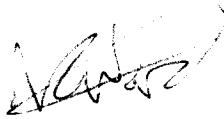
“The table [Table 1: Appraisal of Issues dated 10 July 2013] concludes in several places that, at the time of its consideration by the LPA, the necessary detail of this outline application was not available to the LPA / Council and therefore could not be assessed, and that the application is of more than local importance. Whilst this is so, as a result of the information now available to us and the commitments contained in Annex 1, we are now satisfied that the environmental impacts of the scheme can be appropriately managed during subsequent stages of the scheme should the planning decision be confirmed. This letter therefore supersedes the position set out in Table 1.”

We accept that the questions asked of us relate to the position at the time it was considered by the LPA and our advice in Table 1 is given accordingly. However, we consider it is also reasonable to describe the substantial change in circumstances between that date and the present. As a result, we consider it also reasonable to channel our resources into continuing to work with the applicant and other parties to continue to ensure that the scheme, if consented, is sustainable."

In essence, the Natural Resources Wales' Table 1: Appraisal of Issues, dated 10 July 2013, referred by you in your e-mail of 20 November to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration is superseded by Natural Resources Wales' letter of 9 August 2013 to the Welsh Government. For completeness of information, I have enclosed as Annex 2 of this letter a copy of Natural Resources Wales' letter of 9 August 2013 and its annex.

On the basis of the advice from Natural Resources Wales contained in its 9 August 2013 letter it was therefore considered that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed Circuit of Wales development were not of more than local importance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Ward', is written over a faint, dotted grid background.

**Andrew Ward MRTPI
Decisions Manager
Planning Division**