

# BETWS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Title: 2009 06 June Minutes Special Meeting**

The Special Meeting of Betws Community Council was held at Capel Newydd Vestry, Betws on Wednesday the 24th June 2009 at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Carwyn James, Anne Sizmur, Maldwyn John, Annette Price, Loreen Lewis, Anthony Richards, June Gunter, Catherine Smith, Betsan Jones (arrived late) and Dr John Dorian Evans (Visitor).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Arnallt James, Richard Howell, Menna Roberts and the Community Council Clerk Catherine Brettle.

Meeting was opened at 6.30pm with Vice Chair Anne Sizmur in the Chair.

The meeting was held in response to the Welsh Assembly Government's decision to grant the erection of 15 wind turbines on Betws Mountain. Comments to be made to WAG within 3 weeks of publishing the inspectors report. Members were saddened with this decision, as they felt that very little consideration was made in the report concerning the feeling of the local residents against the proposals. It was stated that Spain had abandoned wind farms due to their ineffectiveness and excessive costs. May felt that the inspector had not taken sufficient notice of the threat of subsidence on Betws Mountain due to extensive mining operations undertaken over 100 years. Some of the mine workings are close the surface and with the erection of the large turbines could lead to extensive subsidence with a risk to life.

The inspector confirms that water seepage form the old mine workings will be a continuing problem. This point is worrying for the villagers due to increase risk of flooding and damage to property. Members were also worried on what plans are in place to reclaim the land. What would be the size of the bond? How much would the bond be worth in 25 years time? What would happen if the developers wend into liquidation? These questions remained unanswered.

It was felt that the erection of the Mynydd y Betws turbines should be deferred until the application on Mynydd y Gwair is considered. A newspaper article in the Carmarthen Journal stated that the Betws Mountain Preservation Society is considering taking the matter to the High Court?

One member was concerned that he had not received a copy of the report. It was stated that it was only sent to those who attended the hearing. A copy was offered to the member.

The following course of action was agreed:-

- 1.Letter is sent to the Welsh Assembly Government outlining our disappointment with the decision and stating our concerns at various aspects of the development and its detrimental effect on the village. Letter to be drafted by Anne Sizmur, Loreen Lewis and Carwyn James.
- 2.A liaison Committee should be set up between the company and resident of Betws to discuss the on-going development of the wind turbines and try to iron out any future problems.
- 3.A separate committee should be formed to ensure majority of money generated by the development is used for the benefit of the village of Betws.
- 4.A letter to be sent to the Highways Department of Carmarthenshire County Council outlining our concerns that when this development begins there would be an augmentation of traffic on the Mountain Road. This is a busy thoroughfare used by workers to the DVLA and

Morrison Hospital. The increase in traffic could lead to the possibility of a serious accident.

Report on Highway Safety Meeting held on the 12th June 2009

Meeting was held on Betws Square with Mr McEvoy of Carmarthenshire County Council in attendance. Meeting was convened to discuss the severe congestion in Betws Road and in particular on the square. Mr McEvoy stated that he had a plan for all Betws Road; however residents did not want to restrict parking.

During the meeting Mr McEvoy witnesses the severe congestion on the square and stated he was going back to the drawing board and will arrange to revisit the area and come up with new proposals.

Footpaths

Many members have received complaints on the standard of the footpaths in the village. Many paths have become overgrown and are in need of maintaining.

It was resolved that the Clerk writes to the footpath Department of Carmarthenshire County Council to arranged a meeting with the Community Council Footpath Sub Committee. They are to raise our concerns on the lack of footpath maintenance and to ascertain what plans they have to maintain the village footpaths this year.

Mr Lewis did not receive Clerk's letter requesting his services to maintain the flower troughs in the village. Clerk to write to Mr Lewis again address 23 Maesquarre Road, Betws, asking if he would be happy to carry out the work on our behalf.