

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

05.07.2023

Dear Minister,

RE: Penrhos Coastal Park

Only in Wales can somewhere win the UK's Best Park of the Year, then face demolition the next. Penrhos Coastal Park became Wales' first park to win the UK's highest recognition for recreational parks in 2022. Now, this much-loved park and nature reserve is facing the renewed prospect of development.

Back in 2013, permission was given to developers, Land and Lakes, for a proposed Leisure Village encompassing 500 cabins, shops, restaurants, bars and a swimming pool. Land and Lakes had failed to find capital for this development and earlier this year, with planning permission about to expire, undertook "commencement works".

A local grassroots campaign, Save Penrhos, who have been actively campaigning to save the park since plans first became public in 2011, claim that the works undertaken do not stipulate a material start for a multi-million-pound leisure village.

They have a chartered Surveyor's report stating the works to be tenuous at best. The surveyor also does not believe the tokenistic works meet the reasonable threshold of 'material' and that the works undertaken by Land and Lakes do not comply with the planning permission or its conditions.

Yet on 7 June 2023, the Planning Committee for Anglesey County Council voted 5-3 in agreement that "Commencement works" had been undertaken without any evidence of a site visit being recorded as the planning officer stated, *'they did not need to see it'*.

The 'Save Penrhos' campaigners are now gathering funding for a legal team from Buxton Solicitors, with an aim to take this matter to court for a Judicial Review.

Cont.



However, I am writing to you in the hope that it does not have to come to that.

This development would not only see the destruction of one of the most beloved parks, but it would also detrimentally impact an ancient woodland, AONB, SSSI, and Grade II listed historical buildings dating back to King Edward VI's reign.

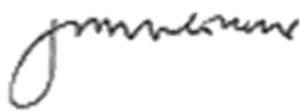
Moreover, should this development go ahead it will be devastating for the variety of protected species that inhabit the ancient woodland including red squirrels, bats, badgers and more.

Given the importance of the site not just to the public but to the biodiversity in the area, much of which is threatened, CPRW asks that you as Minister with responsibility for Planning, and Climate Change, calls in this application for full review to ensure that this asset to both nature and the public is not lost for a quick gain.

CPRW have spoken with the MS for Ynys Môn Rhun ap Iorwerth, who shares our wish to protect Penrhos. He has maintained regular contact with the Save Penrhos campaign and whilst he sympathises with the position current councillors face due to the historic planning permission, he is also eager to reiterate his support for any intervention from Welsh Government that could help preserve this valuable community resource.

I implore you to act swiftly in this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,



Jonty Colchester
Chair
CPRW

CC. Rhun ap Iorwerth MS



YDCW
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