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Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-187
Ein cyf/Our ref MB DFM 804/09

Sandy Mewies AM
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

28 September 2009

Dear Sandy

I am writing further to our recent correspondence concerning the use of debit and credit cards in paying the Severn Crossings' toll.

We have been pressing the Highways Agency throughout the summer for their interim statement but due to their continuing internal debate this has been delayed. We now expect it later in the autumn.

In the meantime my Transport officials will continue their dialogue with the Highways Agency through the regular Severn Crossing liaison meetings at which they will seek an early as possible release of the interim statement. I will of course write to you with a copy as soon as we receive it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ieuan Wyn Jones'.

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
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Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-190/218
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/05252/09

Sandy Mewies AM
Temporary Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

28 July 2009

Dee Sandy

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 2009 and enclosed correspondence from petitioners in Pendoylan and Wenvoe in response to my letter of 20 May 2009.

On 15 July 2009 I announced that no road scheme will be taken forward for improving access to Cardiff International Airport. We will however be providing funding to enable safety measures improvements to Five Mile Lane (A4226). I shall shortly be publishing a Statement of Results setting out the findings of the Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross Access Improvements Study.

With regards to the specific questions raised in paragraph 2 of your letter dated 8 July 2009 please refer to the attached response.

Ieuan

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

DFM/05252/09 – Sandy Mewies, AM, Temporary Chair of the Petitions Committee - Re. Petitions regarding the Proposed Cardiff International Airport Access Road

Response to Questions Raised by the Petitions Committee in their letter dated 8 July 2009 (Paragraph 2)

Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross Access Improvements Study

Bullet Point 1

The Welsh Assembly Government previously commissioned a study in 2001 to identify improvements to address the current and future traffic problems at Culverhouse Cross and improve access to Cardiff International Airport and Barry. This study reported in July 2002, "*The A48/A4232 Culverhouse Cross Study*".

In August 2003 the Welsh Assembly Government set out recommended transport improvements in, "*The A48/A4232 Culverhouse Cross and Airport Access Study – The Way Forward*". The study provided a clear indication that transport improvements were required to relieve Culverhouse Cross and to assist in enhancing the economic development and regeneration in South Wales, including improvements to the road links to Cardiff International Airport.

The current Study, which was commissioned in early 2006, investigated the options available to provide improved access to the Airport taking into consideration Wales' future economic, business and leisure passenger needs. It also investigated the options available to relieve the traffic and safety problems at Culverhouse Cross. Consideration was also given to the wider effect of these options on improving access to Barry, St Athan and the Vale of Glamorgan generally.

Bullet Point 2

The publication of a Statement of Results setting out the findings of the current Study will provide the public with details of the technical appraisal work undertaken and the results of the Public Consultation.

Bullet Point 3

Details of the traffic modelling results for the three routes under investigation are attached to this response.

Bullet Point 4

The current Study considered strategic improvements to the trunk road network, as well as public transport improvements. The existing A4050 adjacent to Wenvoe is not a trunk road and is the responsibility of the local highway authority, i.e. the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The study therefore

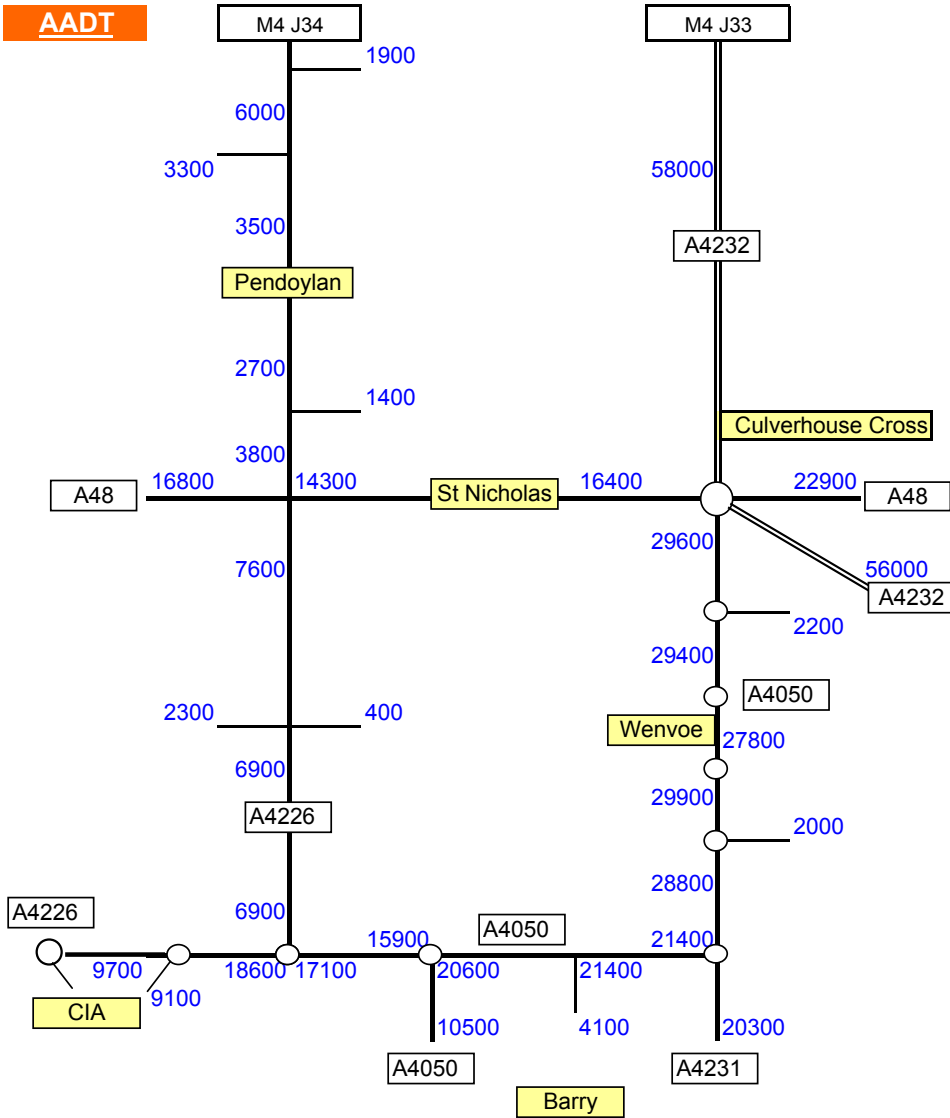
did not specifically consider options to alleviate local traffic concerns at Wenvoe.

Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross Access Improvements AADT Summaries, 2008

Date of Issue: 03 February 2009

Model Run Date: 15 January 2009

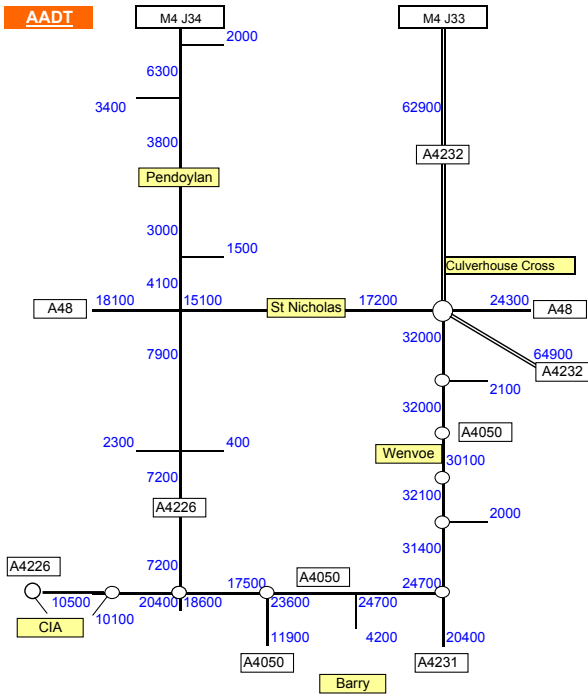
Base Network - 2008



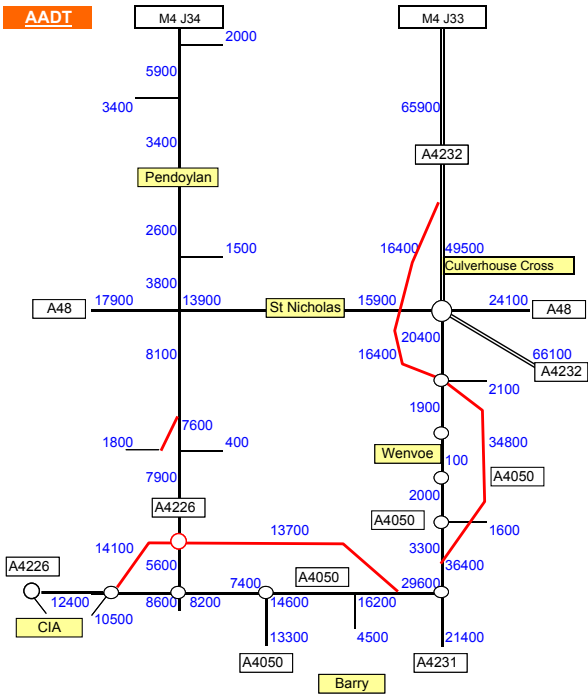
Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross Access Improvements
AADT Summaries, 2013
Variable Demand Forecasts

Date of Issue: 03 February 2009
 Model Run Date: 02 February 2009

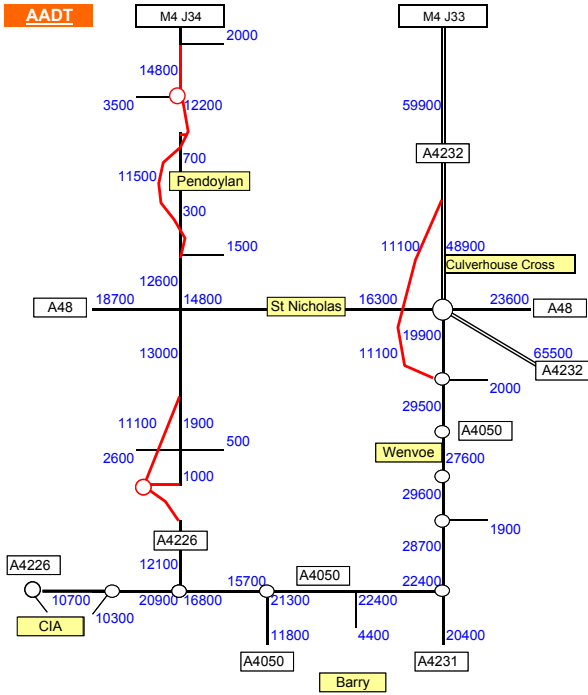
Scenario 1: Do Minimum Network - 2013



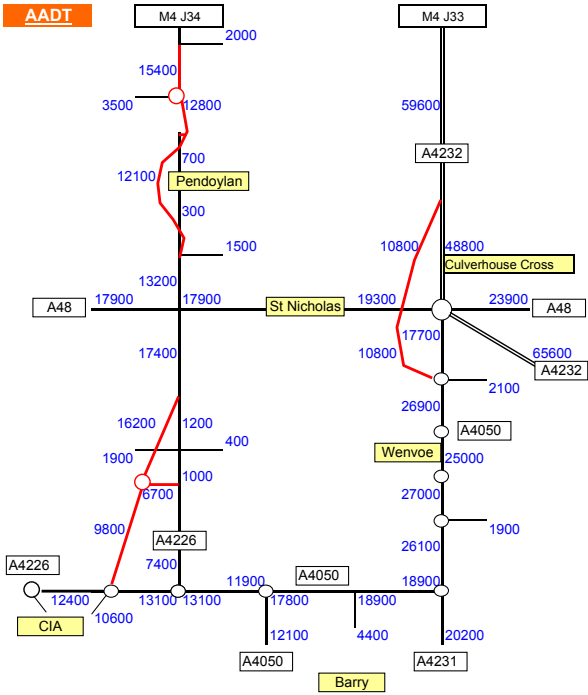
Scenario 4: Corridor A - 2013 (east of Wenvoe BP)
 As (2) with A4232 dual 3-lane, CHX & Wenvoe Bypasses dual 2-lane, low speeds through Wenvoe (traffic calming), N. of Barry Link wide single c/way



Scenario 7: Corridor C - 2013 (Moulton to Weycock)
 As (2) with CHX Bypass single c/way, J34 route west of Pendoylan
 Sycamore Cross improvement, A4226 off-line north of Moulton



Scenario 8: Corridor C - 2013 (Moulton to CIA)
 CHX Bypass single c/way, J34 route west of Pendoylan
 Sycamore Cross improvement, A4226 link to CIA

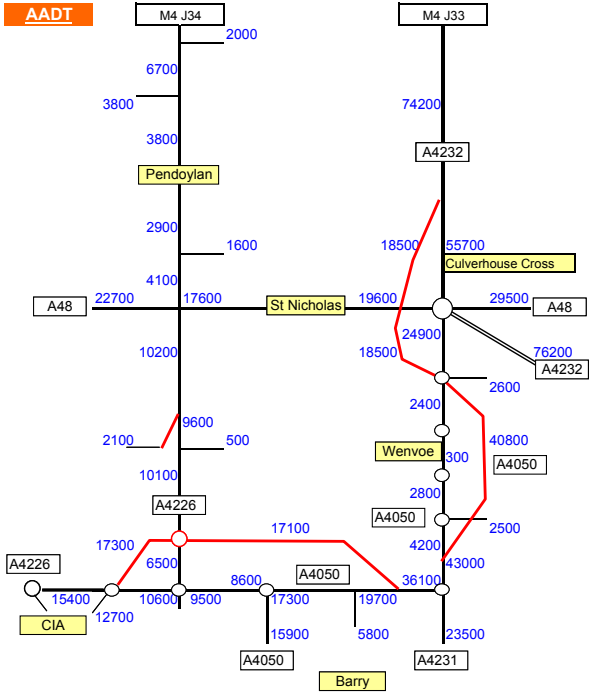
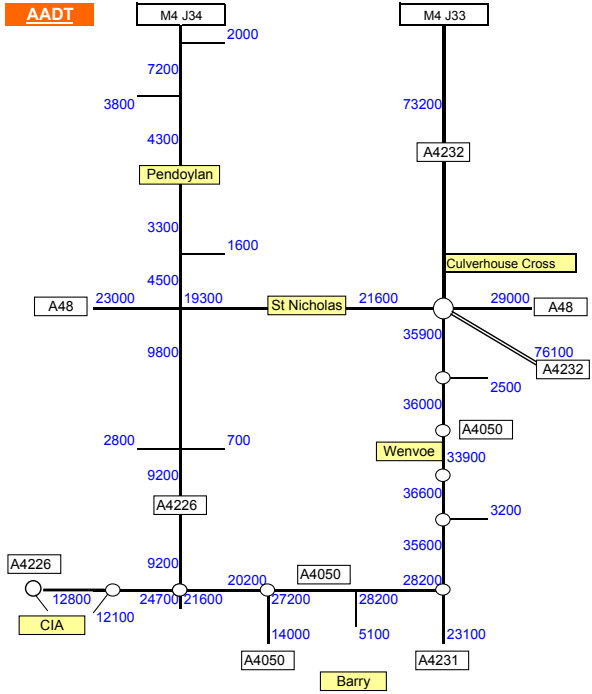


Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross Access Improvements
AADT Summaries, 2028
Variable Demand Forecasts

Date of Issue: 03 February 2009
 Model Run Date: 02 February 2009

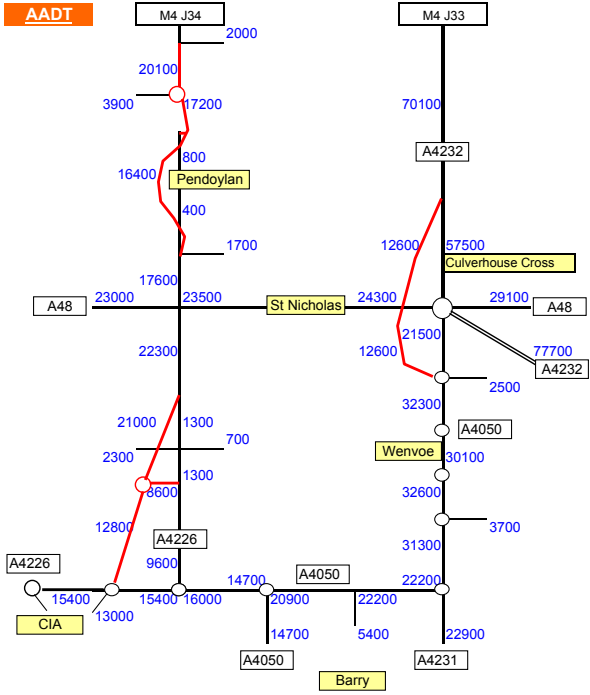
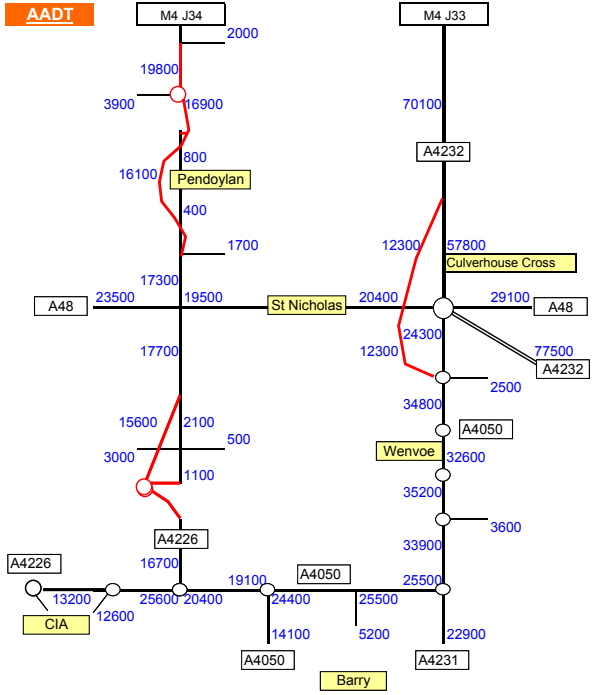
Scenario 1: Do Minimum Network - 2028

Scenario 4: Corridor A - 2028 (east of Wenvoe BP)
 As (2) with A4232 dual 3-lane, CHX & Wenvoe Bypasses dual 2-lane, low speeds through Wenvoe (traffic calming), N.of Barry link wide single c/way



Scenario 7: Corridor C - 2028 (Moulton to Weycock)
 As (2) with CHX Bypass single c/way, J34 route west of Pendoylan
 Sycamore Cross improvement, A4226 off-line north of Moulton

Scenario 8: Corridor C - 2028 (Moulton to CIA)
 CHX Bypass single c/way, J34 route west of Pendoylan
 Sycamore Cross improvement, A4226 link to CIA

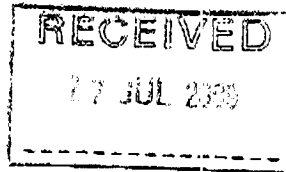


Brian Gibbons AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-205
Ein cyf/Our ref BG/05175/09



Sandy Mewies AM
Transport House
64 Chester Street
Flint
Flintshire
CH6 5DH

24 July 2009

Dear Sandy,

Thank you for your letter about Abergavenny Cattle Market in which you outlined the Committee's recent deliberations following receipt of a petition calling upon the National Assembly not to repeal the Abergavenny Improvement Acts 1854 to 1871 ("the Acts").

You ask that the Committee be alerted should I receive an application for the repeal of the Acts, and also whether I would automatically seek to repeal the Acts (once planning consent for a development had been granted), or whether I would consult prior to taking any decision.

I have mentioned on previous occasions that I have no view as to whether there should be a cattle market in Abergavenny. That is rightly a planning matter for Monmouthshire County Council and, should it be called in, the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing. I understand that the Counsel General has written to the Committee outlining the powers available to Welsh Ministers to repeal the Acts, and I can confirm that I would not automatically seek to repeal the Acts if I were to receive an application from Monmouthshire County Council following completion of the planning process. I would need to consider the circumstances at the time such a request was made, and in order that I may do so, I would need to consult and consider any responses received.

As requested, I shall inform the Committee if I receive a request from Monmouthshire County Council to repeal the Acts.

Yours sincerely

Brian Gibbons
Brian Gibbons AM

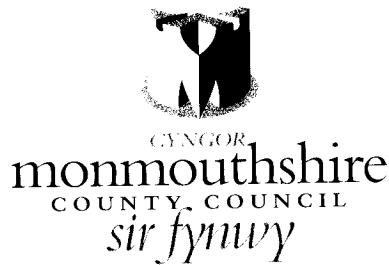
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

RECEIVED
1 SEP 2009



Sandy Mewies,
Temporary Chair of the Petitions Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
CARDIFF,
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyf: P-03-205
Our Ref/Ein Cyf: SKFG/LB/02
Date/Dyddiad: 28th August, 2009
File Ref:
The Person dealing
with this matter is/ Mr. S.K.F. Greenslade
Y Person sy'n delio
gyda'r mater yma yw:
Tel/Ffôn: 01633 644266
Fax/Ffacs: 01633 644260
e-mail address/ stevegreenslade@
cyfeiriad e-bost Monmouthshire.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Mewies,

Re: PETITION: KEEP ABERGAVENNY LIVESTOCK MARKET

I refer to your letter dated 10 July 2009 to which I have now been asked to respond. I apologise for the Council's delay in dealing with this matter.

I have now also had the opportunity to review the minutes of the proceedings of the Petitions Committee on the 23 June 2009 when the petitioners in respect of the above petition were invited to address the Committee.

The Council is the landowner of the current Abergavenny cattle market site which is situated in the town centre shopping area of Abergavenny. The current market is operated under a lease from the Council to a local firm of market auctioneers.

The market is in a poor condition and, although the current market auctioneers are under an obligation to keep the market in good repair, it is understood that the market is not sufficiently viable to generate enough income to bring the old market up to modern day standards nor, even if someone made a major capital investment to improve the market condition to thereafter maintain it fully. The existing site, restricted as it is on all sides, is also too small for current needs. Quite simply the cost of improving the current market to modern standards is prohibitive and funds do not exist to enable this to happen and thereafter maintain the current site. However, the sale of the site for development will raise sufficient funds to finance the provision of a new modern cattle market facility on an alternative site.

Furthermore, the Council are also having to consider the long term future of Abergavenny as a shopping centre in its own right. Recent retail survey reports commissioned on the viability of the town centre have identified that the current spread of uses taking place has led and will continue to lead to a leakage of shoppers to other nearby shopping centres. A proposal by a

Correspondence from the public is welcome in Welsh or English / *Croesewir gobebiaith gan y cyboedd yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg*
S.K.F. Greenslade J.P., C.P.E.A., I.R.R.V.

Corporate Director, Regeneration, Environment and Resources Directorate/
Cyfarwyddny Corfforedig, Cyfarwyddiaeth Adfywio, Yr Amgylchedd ac Aduoddau

Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, Cwmbran, NP44 2XH. *Cyngor Sir Fyny, Neuadd y Sir, Cwmbrán, NP44 2XH.*

private developer for an out of town shopping centre has also come forward in recent months and this is likely to have a significant effect on the town centre unless steps are taken to actively improve the “offering” available. The retail reports commissioned have identified that the best solution to stop any further detrimental impact on the town centre and to turn around the situation is the creation of a town centre superstore.

With both of the above issues in mind, the Council have determined to sell the existing cattle market site for redevelopment as a superstore and to provide a new cattle market in an out of town site. The lack of other suitable town centre sites for a superstore has been a key driver in this decision.

The Council have moved forward on the replacement cattle market and as well as purchasing a suitable site (near Raglan) the Council has also secured planning permission for the development.

At the moment, what remains of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts requires that the Council should hold a cattle market within an area of the town centre prescribed by the legislation. It does not restrict the market to the current site but there is no other suitable site within the town centre area. Much of the Improvement Acts have already been repealed through the enactment of subsequent local government legislation.

In order to assist your understanding of the current position with regard the proposals I attach an appendix to this letter which sets out the Council’s response to the questions that were raised by your committee members to the petitioners. I have dealt with the questions in the order they were asked by the members.

With regard to the repeal, the Council has submitted a request for the Minister to consider the repeal of the legislation but this has now been overtaken to an extent by recent events and the withdrawal of ASDA from the project. However, the Council will need to seek a repeal of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts in order to proceed with a redevelopment of the cattle market site and it is anticipated that a further request to the Minister to make the necessary order will follow in the future.

The Council does appreciate that the Minister is not obliged to repeal the legislation and that the Minister must take into account all relevant issues before making a decision in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. Because of that, the arrangement with Henry Boot was, and any future development proposals for the cattle market site will, be conditional upon the Council being able to secure the repeal. It is not correct that the “developer” realised that a repeal of the legislation was necessary after they had made their planning application to redevelop the cattle market. The Council has been fully aware of the need to repeal the legislation from the outset of deciding to seek to redevelop the cattle market and has taken the advice of leading Counsel on the appropriate way forward. Our lawyers have, in fact, been in contact with your officers over a number of years in respect of this matter.

The Council is currently minded to try and secure a planning permission on the town centre site before seeking revocation of the Improvement Acts but the Council may review this position. The Improvement Acts are outdated and the Council has other powers, such as under Section 50 of the Food Act 1994 which would enable it to run a market. It may also be necessary for a compulsory purchase order to be made over the site (this was being proposed as part of the Henry Boot/ASDA scheme) and the Council would need to consider this alongside considering the appropriate time to seek a repeal of the legislation.

I would also assure you that the Council would expect to be able to demonstrate to the Minister that it would be in a position to provide a modern, operational cattle market on an alternative site before seeking formal approval to repeal the Improvement Acts.

Accordingly, whilst I do not expect that the Council will ask the Minister to progress the repeal of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts at the moment I can confirm the Council will seek to have the relevant legislation revoked to enable the redevelopment of the town centre to take place and to allow the provision of an alternative market on a new regional site.

I hope this information is of assistance to your committee but if I can provide any further details on the Council's behalf I would be happy to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.K.F. Greenslade', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S.K.F. GREENSLADE

Corporate Director - Regeneration, Environment and Resources

Appendix

1. The Council had entered into an agreement with a developer (Henry Boot Limited) to secure the provision of a superstore, library, car parking and other retail units to provide a comprehensive redevelopment of the cattle market site. The redevelopment was tied into securing the repeal of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts in so far as they may require a town centre cattle market to be retained and securing vacant possession of the current site. In order to secure obtaining vacant possession of the site the Council was committed to securing an alternative cattle market site.

The redevelopment of the site was therefore effectively conditioned by these pre-requirements and no definitive date can be provided as to when the site would be redeveloped. This has been compounded by the current economic situation which has resulted in the original deal between the Council and Henry Boot Limited coming to an end.

The Council has now resolved that it will go back out to the market to seek to secure the redevelopment of the site as a superstore. It is anticipated that this will raise the best return for the Council on the sale of the asset. Contrary to what the petitioners have suggested this is not a "free marketplace for a private company". It will result in a significant capital receipt for the Council much of which will be reinvested into creating a new cattle market, a new library and major Public Realm improvements at the adjoining Brewery Yard.

2. The original scheme had included a number of other features for the town centre including some residential development. The current proposal is simply for a superstore development and a new library built to Welsh library standards. The local opposition was never co-ordinated in respect of a mixed use proposal with different groups wanting different things in the development albeit the main opposition groups have always acknowledged the need for a superstore on the site. In order to progress the new scheme it will be solely focussed on a superstore and library. It is anticipated that the planning system will control the nature of goods and services offered to bring a maximum regenerating benefit to the town without the adverse consequences suggested by the petitioners.

3. I cannot estimate the number of new jobs which would be created but the figures suggested by the petitioners are low. A recent superstore chain announced the creation of 200 retail jobs at its proposed 20,000 sq feet store in (the report does not indicate gross or net floor space) whilst another chain is promoting 400 jobs at its 45,000 sq feet store. The proposed scheme will be for a net store of between 30-40,000 square feet net and some 45-60,000 sq feet gross which would suggest a possible job creation of 300-400 jobs. The suggested job losses are without foundation.

4. The project has been the subject of extensive public consultation from inception to the time when the Henry Book agreement collapsed. Numerous consultation meetings have been held over the years with interest groups (such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Bryn-Y-Cwm Forum and the Town Council) as well as periodic public meetings. The design contest encouraged the public to have their say and both the Town Council and the Forum were represented on the decision making design panel. Up to the time the agreement collapsed the Council was engaged with Henry Boot in trying to accommodate more and more of the Farmers' wishes. Indeed, it could be said with conviction that it was the extensive consultation and the tireless attempts to push Asda into accepting the wishes of interest groups that eventually led to them pulling out to the overall detriment of the town.

5. The deal involving the Henry Boot Limited and ASDA has now come to an end. The development of the site was always subject to the need to obtain planning permission and so all aspects of how the development took place on the site were both

subject to public consultation and a final decision by the council as local planning authority. This clearly represented a further element of community consultation.

6. I cannot provide a detailed figure on the numbers employed at the cattle market but it would be low in comparison with the new jobs generated by the development. These roles will be transferred to the new site and increased as it will now also serve to run markets from other displaced auctioneers resulting from the closure of the Newport cattle market. Even with this increase in use of the site, the new market will not be viable without the Council building the new market without any hope of the capital expenditure being recovered. However, whilst the superstore is important to Abergavenny so is the provision of this new cattle market for the improvement of the rural economy and support to the agricultural community. This is why the Council is committed to its redevelopment on a more suitable location with the provision of modern buildings and environmentally friendly services.

This relocation will need an appropriate repeal of the relevant parts of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts to enable the market to be provided under the Council's default powers.

7. Whilst the continuation of the market is important, it is not necessary for it to continue to operate on the current site to be important to the local community. By operating within the County it will ensure a far greater draw of potential auctions than could be accommodated in the town centre site. The petitioners refer to the Skipton cattle market which they hold out as an example. They acknowledge that the cattle market itself was not viable but Skipton has turned itself around to make a profit. The Skipton market is built on an out of town site with good road access and ample parking provision. In fact, it is very similar to the new market being proposed by the Council especially in that it was financed from the sale of the original town centre site that is now a Morrisons Superstore. All of the other activities which have been promoted to bring business to the market rely on good transport connections and parking.

8. The Council has employed consultants to review how best to create more opportunities to improve visits and shopping trips to the town centre, The best proposal for that is to introduce a superstore in the town centre which will improve the draw of shoppers and encourage linked trips between the new store and the existing facilities in the town centre. Mr Greenwood also misunderstands the regeneration argument. The idea is not to restrict the number of people who visit Abergavenny and just keep the town centre for "local" people. Instead the idea is to keep local trade and increase the number of visitors so that they come to Abergavenny rather than going to other towns which will thereby increase the economy and viability of Abergavenny as an important retail destination.

The suggestion that the local auctioneers have been "hamstrung" is also incorrect. The auctioneers have been very keen to maintain a relationship with the Council and to secure a new cattle market on an alternative site.

9. In response to Mr German's questions, as mentioned above the ASDA deal is no longer a relevant issue.

10. In response to Mr Davies questions, the Council has been in continuous consultation with the NFU and FFW, both organisations being very supportive. They are very clear on the need for a market in Monmouthshire but equally clear that if Raglan cannot proceed for any reason they would expect to see a continuation of the current market. The Council is in accord with this view. Obviously, the Council acknowledges there will be a number of farmers living close to Abergavenny who would prefer the market to remain for reasons of geographical convenience.

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

Investment in Abergavenny's Future

A Business Opportunity

1. Introduction

Jenny Long's letter in the Abergavenny Chronicle on 12th February 2009 struck an immediate chord in the community and a major campaign quickly gathered momentum. The main objective was to raise awareness of the impending loss of a priceless town asset, demonstrate the massive opposition to MCC's current plans to turn the livestock market into a retail park and to argue for a better alternative.

This document summarises what has been achieved so far, sets out exciting ideas for modernising the existing livestock market and presents the case for viewing these ideas as a major business opportunity waiting to be seized,



The KALM March filling Frogmore St. 25th April 2009

2. KALM achievements to date

Since its inception the KALM campaign has:

2.1 made personal contact with many farmers, all but one in support

2.2 made alliances with the long-established SAUCE group and the Bryngwyn Action Group

2.3 publicised the campaign through the local press and via street stalls

2.4 secured the support of many town centre shops who put up banners

2.5 held a street march through the town attracting 430 participants and securing a front page lead article in the Chronicle

2.6 obtained 5270 signed letters from shoppers to AM Nick Ramsay calling for the retention of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts, 303 signed letters from farmers in



Presentation to Mike German AM of the letters of opposition and petition signatures

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

addition, over 4750 petition signatures to a National Assembly of Wales (NAW) petition calling for the NAW not to repeal or amend the Acts

- 2.7 presented the KALM case to the NAW Petitions Committee who are taking it very seriously
- 2.8 sought and obtained valuable legal advice from the Environmental Law Foundation regarding the Abergavenny Acts and the conduct of the campaign
- 2.9 caused the Farmers Union of Wales (FUW) to ballot all their regional members on the question of retention of the Abergavenny market, with the ballot coming out 55% in favour of retaining Abergavenny as against a new market at Bryngwyn - a remarkable result

2.10 visited the new Skipton livestock market to see what had been achieved there and what lessons could be learned for Abergavenny. This market was privately funded and now runs at a profit, disproving MCC claims that all livestock markets need taxpayer subsidies.

3. Skipton livestock market - good ideas for Abergavenny



Some of the agricultural retail units in Skipton market

3.1 Features of the new Skipton livestock market in Yorkshire

Members of KALM were given a guided tour and talk on the Skipton market by the General Manager, who is also an auctioneer. The site, built as a regional market, was moved from the town centre to the fringe in 1989. The visit strengthened a belief that our own market could, with inspired management, become profitable and a real asset to Abergavenny.

In its early days, the new Skipton market almost failed, with many local users opting to trade elsewhere, often travelling large distances to markets in places such as North Wales and Scotland. The poor trading results were due in no small measure to the lack of the traditional market atmosphere.

Commercial viability was eventually established by re-creating a market atmosphere and making the market accessible on six, and even seven, days a week by a variety of imaginative measures:



Main covered penna area at Skipton market showing sheep sale ring right of centre

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

3.1.1 introducing agricultural retail units

3.1.2 introducing a veterinary practice

- tractor and farm machinery mechanics and maintenance

- equestrian studies and arena (for which they have space)

- veterinary nurse studies



The main sale ring at Skipton, showing theatre lighting above

3.1.10 capitalising on the removeable stock pens by using the entire covered penned area for other purposes such as exhibitions, auction sales of furniture, antiques, farm equipment, reclamation, rare breed shows, vintage tractor rallies, as well as a meeting space which can be hired out to anyone who wants to stage something.

3.1.11 a water re-cycling system which saves £40,000 per annum in water charges.

3.1.3 adding a cutting room for bespoke cuts of meat for farmers wanting to sell their home-grown meat to local consumers direct from their farms, shops etc. ready packed and labelled.

3.1.4 introduced multi-use and removeable stock pens

3.1.5 weighing of all animals immediately before entering the sale ring

3.1.6 good, clever sale ring lighting with electronic display panel for all to see weights, price etc

3.1.7 making the main 180 seat sale ring adaptable for other uses, including a theatre

3.1.8 introduced a good restaurant and male/female disabled indoor toilet facilities

3.1.9 entered into partnership with a local college to provide rural educational facilities such as:

3.2 Ideas for Abergavenny market

3.2.1 Private investment. Skipton market is privately owned by 560 investors, many of whom are market users. The income generated from rental of premises, hire of the space, hire of the sale ring etc has tipped the commercial balance from loss to sustained profitability. There is no reason why Abergavenny market, once the



Abergavenny market on a busy day

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

Abergavenny Acts have been secured, should not be taken by a private consortium of auctioneers, farmers and business investors and turned into a similarly profitable and imaginative business which serves the interests of the livestock market users as efficiently as possible whilst at the same time generating profitable income from a variety of other activities.

3.2.2 Atmosphere. Skipton initially underestimated the importance of generating the right atmosphere and had to work and invest to correct this mistake. Abergavenny market, by virtue of its central location, is not handicapped in this way, having a ready-made atmosphere. The site could however, be further integrated into the community by introducing some of the ideas gleaned from Skipton.



Skipton livestock market frontage, showing that attractive market architecture can be achieved

3.2.3 Multi-use pens. Covered, multi-use stock pens could be introduced and designed to feed into two sale rings. The existing pens are in need of replacement in any event. A new layout could incorporate efficient bio-security much more easily.

3.2.4 Conversion of the slaughterhouse complex. This group of currently run-down but

historic buildings could be converted to some of the uses identified above such as offices, restaurant, small educational facilities and retail premises, possibly with an entrance from Park Road as well as from the market. The rather forbidding appearance could be overcome by imaginative architectural treatment and appropriate windows.

3.2.5 Skipton's new market has benefitted from the vision and drive of one man, an auctioneer who has steered the project from its inception. To redevelop Abergavenny livestock market in the ways indicated above will require similar vision, imagination and entrepreneurship. These qualities need not reside in one person. KALM would envisage a consortium of local people who would ideally include farmers, auctioneers, vets, businessmen and other private investors.

4. The need for a plan

What KALM has not so far done is to put forward a plan for the Abergavenny livestock market. This is because it is not the job of KALM to specify a blueprint for a new livestock market, nor to organise a consortium of people who would do it.

What KALM can do is to outline the potential opportunity presented by the livestock market to encourage people with the right expertise to come forward, which is what this manifesto seeks to do.

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

5. The constraints on redeveloping the site.

Any plan to redevelop the livestock market as a livestock market must take into account a number of constraints:

- 5.1 The legal agreement between MCC and Henry Boot. However, this does NOT prevent any developer or consortium from putting in a planning application for an alternative plan for the livestock market. The current delays in the MCC/Boot process are working strongly in favour of an alternative developer.
- 5.2 The difficult position of the AMAL group of auctioneers, who are tenants of MCC and understandably do not want to upset their landlord. They are bound to be publicly reluctant to do anything which seems hostile to the MCC/Boot plan
- 5.3 Finance. KALM believes that the Abergavenny site offers a unique business opportunity which could produce good returns for private investors with the imagination to see beyond the run-down yard currently there. Skipton shows what can be done.
- 5.4 The surrounding road infrastructure and the surrounding conservation area, which needs to be respected

6. Some advantages of redeveloping the site as a modern livestock market and community resource.

A redeveloped livestock market and community resource would have major advantages over the proposed Henry Boot retail park and superstore:

- 6.1 widespread support within both the shopper and the farming communities, contrasting with the proven massive opposition to the Boot retail park
- 6.2 no damaging retail impacts on the town centre. On the contrary, a re-developed market and community resource would have a positive regenerative effect on the town



Abergavenny market today

- 6.3 a privately funded market would save MCC having to find £5M to build a new livestock market elsewhere.
- 6.4 no need to repeal or amend the Abergavenny Improvement Acts.
- 6.5 securing the future for local farmers
- 6.6 no need for a big underground car park
- 6.7 fewer vehicle movements than with the Boot scheme, which includes car parking for 370 cars.
- 6.8 good integration with Abergavenny's growing reputation as a good food destination, unlike an Asda superstore
- 6.9 good integration with Abergavenny's role as a tourist and visitor destination, unlike a retail park
- 6.10 use of the site for other activities than livestock sales, as at Skipton, thereby

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

providing a community resource and generating revenue which makes it commercially viable, as at Skipton. The Abergavenny site has the enormous advantage over Skipton of being close to the town centre, where Skipton is a mile out.

7. Local sustainability for a stronger local economy

Maintaining a buoyant local economy in which the greater portion of income and investment remains within that economy is a vital element of sustainability, a policy to which our County Council is committed. The removal of a staple industry from the town would damage the local



Abergavenny town centre

economy and isolate the agricultural-related services and retail sector from the heart of their business as well as jeopardise the market day business in the town.

The transfer of Newport market to Abergavenny on a Wednesday has resulted in some retailers registering an increase in trade on that day, refuting MCC and National Farmers Union claims that the livestock market no longer increases the

in-town footfall.

A strong, locally-based economy in Abergavenny would bring benefit to the whole town, not just a section of it, and a busy, successful livestock market at the heart of our community would also fulfil a number of roles:

- 7.1 bringing in more visitors and business, complementing the existing town centre trading
- 7.2 strengthen the local sustainability programme and enhance Abergavenny's importance within the local food industry
- 7.3 open up channels for further integrating the relationship between producer and consumer
- 7.4 place Abergavenny livestock market on the agricultural map as a centre of excellence
- 7.5 provide farmers with what they want

8. The vision

8.1 Unique business opportunity

With its priceless location near the heart of a busy and popular market town the livestock market presents the kind of business opportunity which comes only once in decades. It's far too precious to be squandered on an obsolete twentieth century retail park.

8.2 Twenty first century solution

We believe our case for staying put, modernising the market and widening its commercial scope is overwhelmingly compelling for the future of Abergavenny's social and economic prosperity, offering sustainable twenty first century solutions to accelerating changes in climate, resources and, not least, in farming practices.

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

8.3 Harnessing and marketing 'tradition'

We have gleaned much from the idea and application of 'atmosphere' and 'tradition' and realise that these are not 'old fashioned' concepts to be derided, but are a positive element in the marketing of successful progressive business, whatever that business may be.

Abergavenny has these elements, a key one being the livestock market, and already capitalises on them for tourism. Why sell the town short by destroying that key element and allowing a soulless and obsolete retail park in its place? Moreover, one of the few certainties in our uncertain world is the need for farmers to trade livestock because food will never go out of fashion.

8.4 the potential for business

Suitably re-designed, re-built, and run as a business, a new livestock market has the potential to:

- 8.4.1 provide an up-to-date livestock sale facility second to none in Wales and the south west, including a meat cutting room, and thereby bringing in a lot more farming trade than it currently does and helping to re-generate the town centre. (This has already started to happen after the closure of Newport market.) It may need to operate on several days a week, generating more revenue for the business.
- 8.4.2 provide viewing and other facilities for public visitors, increasing the attractiveness of Abergavenny to visitors and tourists, thereby bringing more trade to the town centre shops.
- 8.4.3 provide retail outlets on the site geared to both farmers and visitors, increasing the "pull" of the whole complex and generating revenue for the business. It may be possible to adapt some or all of the existing abattoir buildings for this.
- 8.4.4 provide an advice and resource centre geared to farmers. Again, the abattoir buildings might be suitable for this.

8.4.5 provide community facilities such as those achieved at Skipton by making the main covered penned area multi-use by having removeable pens. The covered pens area could be easily the largest covered space in Abergavenny, increasing the number and type of events that Abergavenny could stage, bringing in more trade to the town and generating more revenue for the business.

8.4.6 the whole enterprise would be funded mainly by those who would use it - farmers, auctioneers, vets, hauliers, but since it would be designed from the outset to run as a profitable business, additional funding could come from local business people, town centre traders (who would greatly benefit from it) and also from local people who would like a small stake in their town.

All this *is* possible, given people with the expertise and drive to make it happen. Mr Eaton from Skipton is very sympathetic to such a venture and has offered to provide informal advice if needed. He's been there and done it, so his advice could be invaluable.

9. The Future

KALM have all but fulfilled the objective of our campaign, having made a strong written and verbal case to the National Assembly of Wales Petitions Committee. The ball is currently in the NAW's court.

This does not mean we will sit back nor cease applying pressure when appropriate. However, KALM have been challenged by MCC and the NFU on a number of occasions to outline an alternative to building a new regional market on a greenfield site. Their argument that the present site is obsolete is ridiculous. Five acres of land cannot be obsolete: it is the buildings and fittings on the land which are obsolete and these can be replaced by modern alternatives which capture the opportunities outlined above. The run-down state

Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market



The Abergavenny market site looking south.
A business opportunity waiting to be seized.

of the market is due to AMAL's understandable uncertainty over the future and MCC's failure as landlord to ensure maintainance.

KALM would like to see the initiative for regenerating Abergavenny livestock market taken up by AMAL together with local business people, farmers and anyone who has a stake in the town.

This vision is shared by a great many people in the community and is the only truly sensible and sustainable way forward. We know it is do-able because people in Skipton have done it, and on a much less ideal site.

We plan to hold an initial meeting for interested people at The Angel Hotel in September.

If you are interested in finding out more and may wish to meet with other like-minded people, please contact one of the authors below in the first instance.

KALM
July 2009

Authors: Jenny Long and Barry Greenwood, with contributions from a number of members of the KALM working group.

Contacts: Jenny Long, 01981 240711
email: katherinelong@sky.com

Barry Greenwood, 01873 852245.
email: bandjgreenwood@talktalk.net

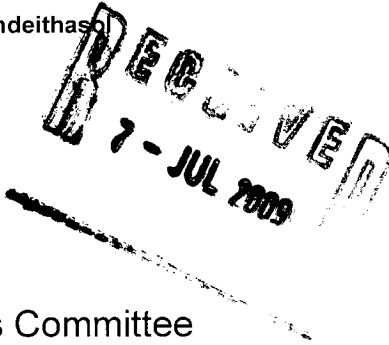
Quote from Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797):
"No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

Edwina Hart AM OStJ MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/05267/09

Your ref: PET-03-219



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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3 July 2009

Deew Saw

Thank you for your letter of 26 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales about the regulations governing the relocation of pharmacies in Wales.

The provision of pharmaceutical services to a population is the responsibility of the Local Health Board (LHB).

Persons who wish to provide pharmaceutical services under the NHS apply to the LHB, which then determines the application in accordance with the requirements of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992 (as Amended) ['the Regulations']. Applicants have a right of appeal against the refusal of an application as do interested parties where an application is granted, such appeals are determined by officials on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

The Welsh Ministers are not involved in the determination of applications unless, and until, they are subject to appeal. Each appeal received by the Welsh Ministers is considered upon its merits and in accordance with the criteria set out in 'the Regulations'.

I am aware of a current application by Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd to relocate premises from 99 – 101 Holton Road to the surgery development off Hood Road.

It is not appropriate for me to comment further in detail on any application which may be appealed, or is subject to appeal, as this will jeopardise the Welsh Ministers appellate function.

(10)

With regard to considering possible revisions to the Regulations, I have recently established a Task and Finish Group on the provision of pharmacy services in Wales and I will consider this matter when they have reported to me in the Autumn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain

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Sandy Mewies
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

13 July 2009

Dear Ms Mewies

Petition – Pharmacies in Barry

Thank you for the letter addressed to Marc Donovan, our Board Chairman, I have enclosed the following response from the Welsh Pharmacy Board.

If you require any further information or clarification on any issues please do not hesitate to contact the office of the Welsh Directorate.

Yours sincerely

Jocelyn Parkes
Principal Policy Advisor

Petition – Pharmacies in Barry

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is the professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in England, Scotland and Wales. It also regulates pharmacy technicians on a voluntary basis, which is expected to become statutory under anticipated legislation. The primary objectives of the Society are to lead, regulate, develop and represent the profession of pharmacy. The Society leads and supports the development of the profession within the context of the public benefit. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy. In addition, it promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums. Following the publication in 2007 of the Government White Paper *Trust, Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century*, the Society is working towards the demerger of its regulatory and professional roles. This will see the establishment of a new General Pharmaceutical Council and a new professional body for pharmacy in 2010.

In compiling our response to your request for our views on the Petition – Pharmacies in Barry – we have limited our comments to the principles that we feel should be applied within the overall process rather than limiting our answer to the Barry area.

Background

The **NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992 Statutory Instrument No: 662** were introduced to combat concerns that allowing an open market for the provision of pharmaceutical services would result in clustering of pharmacies around GP premises which would have a negative impact on the existing distribution of independent pharmaceutical services providers. The regulations were intended to introduce a more strategic approach to the provision of pharmaceutical services to benefit the population as a whole and introduce some degree of control to the community Pharmacy market, whilst taking into account the business operations of individual community pharmacies.

General comments

The regulations that are currently in place relating to "Control of Entry" including minor relocations do not necessarily reflect existing and developing service provision under the community pharmacy contract and lack flexibility to ensure that they can encompass future service modernisation.

The premise for **NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992 Statutory Instrument No: 662** is that "pharmaceutical services" are the supply of prescribed drugs and appliances. This definition is now out dated and a more encompassing definition is needed to reflect both the essential and advanced services in the pharmacy contract and the potential developments for service delivery that enhanced services offer.

Any consideration for a pharmacy contract or minor relocation should be based around an assessment of adequacy of pharmaceutical service provision needs, within the context of the broader definition of "pharmaceutical services". This assessment needs to take a patient centred approach to the medicines management; health promotion and access to medication needs of patients but also needs to appraise "pharmaceutical services" within the wider provision of health and social care service delivery.

Any control of entry process based on pharmaceutical needs assessment and application process should be consistent across Wales whilst allowing reflection of local need and encouraging innovation of service.

Procedures should be open, transparent, subject to scrutiny and followed in a consistent manner across all the Local Health Boards. It may be advantageous to require LHBs to appoint a “responsible officer” for the process and to ensure that panel members for application approval are provided with appropriate training.

The application process should take place within a clear designated timeframe; with allowances for exceptional circumstances should they arise.

Consultation on any application process should include patient groups and organisations likely to be effected by changes to pharmaceutical service provision. These should include organisations within a designated radius or one appropriate to the geographical considerations.

There is also a need to ensure that the updated process removes some of the perversities of the current system and encourages an appropriate distribution of location and access to services.

Minor relocation

Prior to the introduction of the **NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992**, minor relocations were used as business opportunities to site a pharmacy in close proximity to a GP surgery. The regulations introduced parameters for minor relocations which include the concept of neighbourhoods

Minor Relocations - Regulation 4(3)(A)

Where a pharmacy wishes to relocate the business to other premises, provided the relocation is minor, the LHB normally grants the application if it meets the following conditions:

- the move is within the same neighbourhood and is minor
- the same services are to be provided, and
- there will be no break in provision between the old premises closing and the new premises opening.

The concept of neighbourhood plays a central part in minor relocation applications.

The leading case on this issue is the case of **R-v-Yorkshire Regional Health Authority ex parte Suri & Gompels (1995)**. Here the court said that the definition of neighbourhood is primarily to be related to geography as well as physical and social factors. It would, therefore, seem that if a proposed minor relocation is over a short distance with no physical barriers or social factors for the users and the new premises serves essentially the same population as before, and then the application will normally be granted

In the definition of neighbourhood distance is only one, albeit it an important, factor, consideration should be given to whether the same neighbourhood, or population who rely on the pharmacy for its services, would continue to have adequate service provision.

In conclusion, we would recommend that the Welsh Assembly Government reviews the current regulations relating to control of Entry requirements to update the process and allow for a new wider definition of pharmaceutical services and a full pharmaceutical needs assessment. Within this revised process there should be an option to reconsider existing provision, taking into account changes in patient need, service advancement and changes in demographics. We would further suggest that, when launching the new mechanisms, appropriate training be put in place to ensure complete understanding of the regulations and their interpretation and this training should include Local Health Boards and Business Service Centres.

Edwina Hart AM OStJ MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/05373/09

Your ref: PET-03-222



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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16 July 2009

Dear Sandra -

Thank you for your letter dated July 9 regarding the petition from the National Osteoporosis Society about linking a Fracture Liaison Service to every hospital in Wales that receives fragility fractures.

Phase 1 of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People, which focussed on setting down the structures and foundations underpinning this 10 year programme, has been largely achieved across Wales. Whilst recognising that the initial targets and milestones for the NSF standard for falls and fractures have been largely achieved, there is variation across Wales and more work remains to be done.

The NSF is currently being reviewed by Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Health Inspectorate Wales. This joint inspection will report in the summer of 2010 and the NSF is currently being progressed through interim action plans across Wales.

I will ask my officials to meet with the National Osteoporosis Society to discuss their petition further.

John Griffiths AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau
Deputy Minister for Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-225
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/05160/09

Sandy Mewies AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

26 July 2009

Dear Sandy,

Thank you for your recent correspondence, addressed to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Jane Hutt AM and the Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM. I am responding to both of your letters as post-16 learning falls within my area of responsibility.

This year the post-16 sector will receive over £560 million to deliver learning. We've also invested large sums of money in recent years to achieve pay parity between FE lecturers and teachers. These developments have occurred within difficult economic times and subsequent budget pressures.

We allocate funds to colleges, who have the authority to plan and deliver learning provision which they judge as appropriate to meet local needs and Welsh Assembly Government's priorities. In doing so, there are many demands which colleges need to prioritise and take into account when developing their curriculum offer.

Gorseinon College received an allocation of £9.128m which represents a small increase of nearly 1% when compared to its 2008/09 allocation.

We need to ensure value for money and the best curriculum offer possible for the public funding available to Further Education. Each college is, therefore, expected to offer learning that is relevant to, and based on local need.

As an autonomous body, decisions on running costs, including staffing and running of courses and learning centres, rest with Gorseinon College's Management Team and Governing Body.

In addition to the funding settlement on 24 March 2009, I announced an additional £2.3m for FE institutions to ensure that learners with learning difficulties or disabilities (or both) are able to access education on the same terms and with similar opportunities as other learners. This additional funding meets in full the eligible requests made by FE institutions to DCELLS for Supplementary Funding for the academic year 2008/09.

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On 8th April 2009 an additional £8.93m was announced in direct response to the economic downturn to support those FE institutions and Local Authorities most affected by the recent budget settlement. Gorseinon College did not meet the criteria for this additional funding.

In addition to announcements on recurrent funding, the Welsh Assembly Government has announced specific funding packages of around £100 million to aid learners during the economic downturn. Whilst it is true that, with the exception of Pathways to Apprenticeships, these initiatives are not directed at the FE sector, there is no reason why a college that is able to be flexible in delivery should not benefit from all of these initiatives. I acknowledge that, from the College's perspective, funding from specific initiatives is not as welcome as recurrent funding. However, it is another potential funding source at this difficult time.

In terms of European funding, no sector is restricted from applying for European Structural Funds. The 2007-2013 programmes, however, have adopted a more strategic approach to delivery in order to maximise resources and avoid duplication of activities. This involves greater collaboration among partners, including the FE sector. In support of this, I understand from officials in the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) that Gorseinon College is closely involved as a lead partner in the South West Wales region's ENGAGE project application for Convergence funding and that a funding decision will be reached shortly.

Opportunities are also available for organisations, including FE colleges, to benefit from European funding via tendering for European-funded project delivery activities in response to invitations published on the Sell2Wales website. Guidance on how the FE sector can benefit from European funding is available on the WEFO website www.wefo.wales.gov.uk

Best wishes,

T oh

Your Ref: PET-03-225



16 July 2009

Sandy Mewies
Temporary Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

RECEIVED
17 JUL 2009
10:15 AM
SANDY MEWIES

Dear Ms Mewies

Thank you for your letter of 9 July informing me of your deliberations on a petition relating to the funding of courses at Gorseinon College. Please accept this letter as a response to the queries you raise.

This college, like the rest of the FE sector in Wales, received a cut of around 7.4% in the expected funding allocation from DCELLS for 2009-2010. We have also experienced a cut in our second major income stream, ESF grants. Objective 1 income ceased in December 2008 and Convergence Funds, that were supposed to follow on from Objective 1, have not materialised. In all, we will have around £800,000 less income than we expected for next year.

Since March 2009 the college has petitioned DCELLS to allocate more recurrent funding to us, and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), via DCELLS, to provide assurances of ESF funding next year. In both cases we have failed to get either an increase in our funding or sufficiently robust guarantees of EU income to put into the income side of our budget next year.

The cuts we have made to our costs next year against this funding background, have been exclusively in courses offered to adult learners and largely in community based venues. The college will no longer operate one of our centres, in Pontarddulais, from September 2009.

Having said this, we have received from DCELLS a significant increase in our Work Based Learning Contract. This additional funding has to be earmarked for 'Skillbuild' and 'modern apprenticeship' courses offered to our 16-19 year olds. It cannot be used to fund provision that we have cut in our community based learning.

We are therefore in a position where we have received no funding, or sufficiently clear indication of European funding, that could be used to prevent the course closures referred to in the petition.

I hope this response is sufficient to meet your needs. Please feel free to come back to me should you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Nick Bennett

Principal & Chief Executive

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Chief Executive & Principal
Nick Bennett

Prif Weithredydd a Phennaeth
Nick Bennett



Wales Training
Awards 2004
Cwobrau Hyfforddiant



**Commentary on Written
Representations Made to Petitions Committee
by Manordeifi CC**

Letter dated 4 August 2009 from Calon Yn Tyfu Cyf

Para 5. FCW categorically denies that management approach was a factor in award of the grant.

Para 10. It is inaccurate and disingenuous, and is an attempt to marginalise the concerns, by implying that the opposition to CYTC is mainly due to "3 neighbours who have pursued adverse claims through the land registry ..." The submission to the Petitions Committee is from Manordeifi CC supported by Clydau CC, as the community's democratically elected representatives. Furthermore, the Petitions Committee might not be aware that the total number of signatures on the formal petition totals 458. There is no doubt that, despite CYTC's claims to the contrary, the wider community is very concerned by this affair and demands an enquiry.

Para 11. Community Council's petition is non-malicious and is on behalf of entire community.

Para. 12. The "independent consultation", commissioned by FCW after the grant had been made, highlighted community concern and antipathy and made recommendations which have as yet to be acted on, even after a formal request to CYTC from Manordeifi CC for community consultation and involvement. CYTC's only pro-active response to the consultancy report was to try, via its solicitors, to suppress its publication into the public domain.

Para 13. No evidence has been produced to indicate whether or not the businesses were a commercial success.

Para 15. "all operations" do not comply with funding bid, e.g. the promised "sensitive" extraction should FCW/Cydcoed fully fund woodland purchase.

Para 17. However formally "unqualified" in forestry matters the members of the community funding this project might be, they still have a right to object to aspects of the woodland management by CYTC on the basis of their general experience and knowledge.

Para 18. To date there has been no effort by CYTC to actively seek/accept wider community involvement and they provide in their letter a misleading picture of their attitude towards the local community. Community involvement should be more to do with the development and management of the woodland than apple pressing. There is written evidence that they did not welcome local meetings. Their "open day" was a response to widespread publicity of the public meeting at Bwlchgyroes on 9th July 2009, where 2 "elderly residents" (not local) and a very small number of

others expressed support for what had been done after viewing/experiencing a guided tour.

Para 20. At no time has anyone made accusations of corruption against a Cydcoed/FCW officer. The true nature of the officer-in-question's relationship with CYTC is evidenced in e-mail correspondence between the parties. Similarly, a report of the meeting of the Cydcoed Committee to consider CYTC's funding bid, when some astutely-drawn doubts and reservations were dismissed by this officer, and the award approved solely on the basis of his verbal support and assurances, indicates the level of his influence and his commitment to CYTC, since he neither offered nor was asked for any other evidence of their integrity.

Para 21 This description of CYTC's recruitment policy and procedure is proof of the exclusivity of the co-operative. No such exclusivity applies in respect of other recipients of a Cydcoed award. E.g. Troserch.

Para 24. The planning authorities should themselves respond to CYTC's accusation of misleading the public in respect of the GPDO planning application. They have already been asked to investigate any planning application in respect of a timber processing plant and timber yard.

Para 25. This implies that FCW's offer of mediation was initiated by CTYC, which, according to FCW, was not the case, and has not yet been formally made to Manordeifi CC.

Para 27. CYTC do not give evidence of the nature of the "common, sustainable approach". The many generalisations in this letter would be fully explored by an independent enquiry.

Re Letter dated 25 August 2009 from FCW

Para 2. "No restrictive definitions of community groups were used". However, FCW had a duty to ensure that beyond eligibility, groups were also APPROPRIATE to receive specific funding. Cydcoed did have a Model Constitution which new groups were encouraged to adopt, which ensured democratic community inclusion.

Para 3. "The woodland was in private ownership". FCW has asserted that the woodland is still in private ownership (of CYTC), which means that relationships with contractors including tendering and income from timber sales and how it's used, are all private matters. This seems to contradict the concept of a community woodland project using community funds for the benefit of the community.

Para 4. FCW continued to sponsor CYTC after they failed to fulfill the special condition of the grant, to submit a business plan by 31st March 2007. The business plan they submitted, over a year later, failed to meet the grant condition and Ben Reynolds was subsequently employed by Cydcoed to develop a 'clear and transparent' business plan, which is currently withheld.

FCW should provide the Petitions Committee with evidence of CYTC's "good track

record” and the steps it took to verify the evidence. Had FCW made the high level of enquiries expected from a body dispensing public funds they would have been made aware of these misgivings.

Para 5. “Calon Yn Tyfu followed the same application process as other groups”. But the level of community inclusion demanded of other groups before funding was released, such as Troserch Woodlands Society and Longwood Community Woodlands, was not required of CYTC.

FCW states that the Cydcoed application process is “fully transparent” but the income from timber sales and how that income is used for the benefit of the community is not transparent.

Para 6. No mention is made by FCW of public attitudes as displayed at both public meetings, or the false claims of CYTC’s funding bid (e.g. the Cenarth woodland project) that came to light at the public meeting on July 9th.

Para 7. The call for an inquiry is on a moral basis, rather than legal. Had there been statutory provision for such an inquiry protesters would long since have invoked it and a resolution would have been found.

FCW omit to mention that, having made a £500,000 plus grant of public funds for the purchase of woodland, and having failed to carry out basic independent checks on the recipient of the grant and their competence, and failed to check claims in the bid document (and the letters of support), FCW then failed to take a legal charge, or any other security, over the land. Such negligence should be examined by an independent enquiry especially as the grant was unusual in that it was for land purchase for private ownership rather than woodland rights.

Re Letter dated 10 August 2009 from The Minister for Rural Affairs:

Comments in the main are those applied to the FCW letter. In addition:

Para 2. This interpretation of the Cydcoed award would seem to preclude CYTC as a viable recipient since it has not so far made pro-active effort, nor shown intention, to achieve “social inclusion”, nor bring about “social and economic wider community benefit”. The environmental aspect has aroused a high level of public antipathy. “Focus on the immediate communities” has been and remains almost entirely negative. Group size precludes it from definition as a “high capacity community group”.

Para 3. CTYC are now legal owners unless it is shown the transaction was flawed. A public enquiry would confirm this either way.

Para 5. There is little if any similarity between CTYC and other award recipients in terms of community membership, procedure and policy. An enquiry will show if other award recipients benefit from the same level of influence on Cydcoed Committee as that exercised on CTYCs behalf by its Project Officer.

Para 6. Issues raised at public meetings may well have been addressed but none so far has been resolved. It could be that an independent public inquiry would achieve such resolution and recommend a way forward.

Para 7. The fact that there is no statutory right to have a public enquiry in such a case does not mean that the Minister cannot allow an enquiry especially when there are so many concerns from the community about the use of public funds. It is suggested that in such a case the Minister has a responsibility to hold an enquiry in the interest of Lessons Learnt.