

John Griffiths AC /AM
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-461
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/00845/13

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

June 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 22 May seeking my views on the petition led by Karen Roberts asking the Welsh Government to list the paddling pool at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as a building of special architectural or historic interest.

To qualify for listing, candidate buildings must be of nationally significant architectural or historic interest and must satisfy published criteria. Where these are met, the Welsh Ministers are under a duty to list a building, but cannot do so otherwise. The criteria explain that for structures built after 1840, greater selection is necessary to identify the best examples of a building type, and only buildings of definite quality and character qualify. For twentieth century buildings, we have to identify only key examples of their type. To qualify for listing on grounds of historic interest, the criteria direct us to identify structures that illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history.

The paddling pool has been considered for listing by my officials in Cadw on two previous occasions but it did not meet the exacting criteria to be listed. Cadw has, however, reviewed the case again and concluded that the structure does not meet the criteria for listing and so cannot be listed.

The paddling pool is judged to have insufficient architectural merit as it does not have any real architectural form. Although the pool is obviously engineered, it cannot be said to have any special qualities of design. In comparison, the architectural interest of the adjacent lido derives strongly from the buildings that surround the pool, and it is these which form the basis of its listing. The paddling pool has no formal association with these buildings since they operated as independent entities with no functional relationship between the two. Cadw is, therefore, of the view that the paddling pool cannot be regarded as a building of definite architectural quality and character as a post 1840 structure, neither can it be considered to be a key example of this twentieth century building type. It is recognised that the pool is representative of the history of leisure and recreation, and has a place in the hearts and memories of those that have used the facility, but it lacks sufficient stand alone value at a national level to justify listing. Although the pool has some group value within the wider park, this is outweighed by the lack of sufficient architectural quality.

I appreciate that my reply will be disappointing but I understand that the Council intends to provide free access for under 12s to the new paddling pool within the adjacent Lido development to ensure that no existing facilities are lost within the park.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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