

LETTER TO TEGRYN JONES, Chief Executive of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

22nd October 2016

Dear Tegryn Jones,

The Future of Newport Visitor Centre

With respect, you are being unfair to the people of Newport and the North East of the National Park.

The “consultation” meeting on 18th October was advertised by the Authority as “*a public meeting to discuss proposals to change the way that information services are delivered in Newport*”

There was no mention of closure and sale of the Visitor Centre.

At the “consultation” meeting, the first question put to the Authority was “*On what are we being consulted? Has the decision been taken by Members of the Authority to close and sell Newport Visitor Centre or not?*” The answer given by the Director of Delivery and Discovery was that you were seeking views on a package of new ways of delivering information.

There was no mention of closure and sale of the Visitor Centre.

The recommendation to Members at the meeting of the Authority on 28th September was “*To consult on a proposal to change the way information services are delivered in Tenby and Newport in order to invest in a package of new initiatives aimed at supporting the growth of the wider visitor economy in Pembrokeshire*” and you have previously stated that “*Members were unanimous in supporting the recommendation of the Task and Finish Group as set out in the original committee paper*”

There was no mention of closure and sale of the Visitor Centre

However, you have now asked staff at Newport Visitor Centre to tell the public, in response to questions, that at a meeting of the Authority, *Members unanimously agreed to withdraw from our buildings in Tenby and Newport as soon as possible*” Further, that “*the Authority is currently consulting on new ways of delivering tourism information locally, but is presently committed to withdrawing from our premises in Newport and Tenby in the near future*”

When was this decision by the Authority taken? Have the Members resolved to both close the service from the Newport Visitor Centre and sell the building or have they not? You had every opportunity to answer these questions at your public meeting but you did not do so

Until we have a clear answer, this community is left uncertain of the task it faces in supporting the sustainable development of Newport and the surrounding area.

I consider your attitude and approach highly unhelpful and contrary to the *Wellbeing of Future Generations Act* and the Wales Programme of Government, *Taking Wales Forward*.

Regards

Sandra Bayes