

PRESS RELEASE: SAVE NEWPORT VISITOR AND INFORMATION CENTRE

A meeting called by Newport Community Forum to bring together those willing to help SAVE NEWPORT VISITOR CENTRE has resolved unanimously, with one abstention by Newport County Councillor and Member of the National Park Authority, to form an Action Group to investigate, challenge and oppose closure of this Centre which provides a very important service to Newport and the North East area of the Park.

This well-attended gathering expressed deep concern that whilst the Members of the National Park Authority have apparently only agreed to consult on a package of methods to deliver information services in future, the Chief Executive is saying that Members have unanimously agreed to withdraw from the building in Newport as soon as possible. This has left Newport uncertain of the task ahead.

Newport's Centre is very well regarded, performs very well and costs very little, so that it is difficult to understand why the decision to close could be made – except that a report to the National Park Task and Finish Group, unbeknown to the public set up to look at the future of information services, noted that the capital gain from sale of this building could cover the cost of exiting the service in Tenby, which is largely duplicated by the County Council, and where that building is leased.

The consultation period for Newport has been all too short – a little over 3 weeks by the time people became aware of it – but a petition with over 900 signatures asking the Park to make every effort to keep the Centre open was submitted by the closing date on 31st October. This is still available to sign at various locations in Newport, and by going on line to <http://savenewportvisitorcentre.naeg.org.uk/>

Concerned people should also write to the Chairman of the National Park whose contact details can also be found on this website.

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