

Following a well attended Community Meeting on 1st November, a Working Action Group was formed to investigate, challenge and oppose closure of Newport Visitor Centre and of which the Authority has been informed. At the first meeting of this Group on 9th November it was decided to convey the unanimous views of the Community that we wish to keep the facility of the Visitor Centre in Newport and that the promised period of Consultation with businesses and community organisations in Newport has not taken place.

At Page 142 of the PCNPA Report no 52/16 under – Proposal, it was recommended *“that the Authority enters into a period of consultation with business and community organisations in Newport to see if we can deliver visitor information in these two important locations in partnership with others and without the need for PCNPA to manage its current visitor centre buildings. The Authority would like to put in place partnership arrangements that will ensure that Newport continues to receive localised visitor information services.”*

The conclusion of this document (at page 145) was that *“The NPA is planning to undertake a period of consultation with businesses and community organisations in Newport to see if we can deliver visitor information in this important location in new ways.”*

The only Consultation, apart from a meeting with the Community Library Committee, has been the Public Meeting held on the 18th October. That meeting concentrated on suggested changes in the delivery of information services rather than disposal of the Centre. Those changes were not well received and are regarded as inappropriate and inadequate to support and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of Newport and the North East of the Park.

The presentation at that meeting contained *“Under New Models of Delivery.”*
“New approaches to assets • Promoting a consensus based approach • Joint management with communities, charities, and private groups.” There has been no such Consensus approach or exploration for joint management as has been clearly indicated in the correspondence from the Newport Community Forum to the Authority.

We emphasise that the Community wish to keep the Visitor Centre Facility open in Newport and that we welcome all efforts to achieve this. As we have set up this Working Group it should be easier for the National Park to consult on all possible avenues in future.

The meeting of the PCNPA Task and Finish Group to *“explore potential changes to the provision of information to visitors”* has now been postponed to 18th January as the Authority is *“continuing to receive responses to the recent consultation process”*. As will be apparent, we do not consider that there has been a proper and adequate consultation up to now, so we welcome this time to have meaningful dialogue and discussions as to how we may now proceed to achieve this *“consensus approach”* and keep the Visitor Centre open.

We await to hear from you.

Newport Visitor Centre Action Group