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Tegryn Jones MBA  
Chief Executive  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

29th October 2017

Dear Mr Jones,

Newport Visitor Centre

We write to enquire what the Authority intend to do with regard to the decision of the Members to adopt Option 3 of the report 42/17 as presented to them at the September meeting.

Option 3 was not a valid option for consideration. The Chairman and officers knew this prior to the meeting, but did not explain this to the members, so that they came to their decision upon a false premise. Logically, the decision cannot stand.

So that a more detailed proposal could be brought to the next meeting on 27th November for a final decision, you were seeking a strategic steer through September's meeting, which you do not now have. The calender you gave to the community provided for further consultation from 28th September to 27th October, so that a wider community view on the proposed business plan and way forward could be incorporated into a final paper to be presented on 29th November for final decision. That calender has now been withdrawn.

You state that the only remaining matter for decision now, is how you will dispose of the building. Surely that cannot be correct as the members did not come to a decision on the only two valid options put to them. You do not know what their decision would have been if those were the only options.

There are also further serious concerns that ought in fairness to be remedied if you are to comply with the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales.

These are :

1. that the way the report 42/17 was presented to the Members gave the false impression that the Authority had already decided at Dale to move away from the Visitor Centre model of delivery, in order to invest in a package of new initiatives, whereas the only decision then made, resolved **to consult** on proposals so to do.

2. Also at that time, you gave an undertaking that the consultation would consider whether these proposed initiatives were right for Newport, and this has not been determined to be the case.

As this is a much changed Membership from that in Dale - which discussed potential and possible changes to support the visitor economy in Pembrokeshire, it is obviously fair and equitable that members should not have been influenced in their decision making by an incorrect perception of what had actually been resolved a year ago. The remarks of two members on 27th September illustrate that this has happened : you will remember that one new member said that she had been very impressed by our case but felt herself obliged as a new member to follow the decision taken by members at Dale, and another member thought that the strategy to close had already been decided.

We still hope that it will be possible to allow the building to be used for a proper PCNPA Visitor Service to promote the profile of the Parks in this area, and that the PCNPA outpost office will continue.

We also hope that the building will be shared with the Community Library to the benefit of the wider community. (In your report 42/17 on option 1 at page 97 you mistakenly imply that this has not already been discussed and endorsed as a beneficial move by Pembrokeshire Library Services, but it has, and members need to be assured of this fact)

Lastly, I would like to point out that decisions in Dale were based on information, much of which is now out of date. Your own current reports to the Operational Review Committee of 6th September -12/17 and 13/17 - give a clear picture of a service that is performing well and both effectively and economically meeting the needs of the special area which is the North East of the Park. It is this information that should have been given to members on 27th September, and as this was not done, should be presented to the next meeting of the Authority.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

*Mary Hallinan*

Lady Hallinan, Chairperson Newport Visitor Centre Action Group  
p.p. Sandra Bayes, Secretary, Newport Visitor Centre Action Group

cc Paul Davies AM ; Gwyneth Hayward, Chairperson PCNPA