

ATISN 20833 - ITEM 001

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: HELP TO KEEP CEIBWR WILD / HELPU NI CADW CEIBWR LLE WYLLT  
Date: 11 July 2024 13:58:00  
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We Dear Ms James,

We ask for your urgent help to halt the planning process of a proposed adventure hub in our village – NP/24/0198/FUL. The last day to object is July 15th July 2024 for a decision on the 17th July 2024.

This private enterprise is part funded by a UK Levelling Up Grant. This grant was successful without any community and other important stakeholder consultation. The proposed hub will increase traffic congestion and noise pollution in this small village, will negatively impact local people working and living in the village, putting their health and safety at risk. It also has the potential to utterly devastate the protected wildlife and habitats at Ceibwr Bay. It is a sad but very typical example of the failure of the previous UK government to understand the needs of communities in Wales. Over 80% of the residents strongly oppose this, and the mental health of some residents has been impacted sufficient to seek medical advice.

Ceibwr Bay is an SSSI and forms part of Ceredigion Special Area of Conservation – a site of highest European importance. It has vital and endangered species and habitats including nesting razorbills and guillemots, breeding grey seals, a biogenic reef and schedule 1 choughs and peregrine falcons.

The exponential increase in thrill-seeking adventure tourism is putting wildlife at risk, and commercial providers continually breach the codes of conduct and guidance from respected conservation bodies which all state to keep 100 metres from marine wildlife. This guidance is being totally ignored at Ceibwr Bay. Currently there is no protection of the bay and no rebuke of adventure providers breaching guidelines. The bay is being failed by those who should be managing it. It exists as a paper park – which is a sad state of affairs in 2024 in the only coastal National Park in Britain. If the adventure hub planning is approved, it will devastate the bay forever.

Indeed, we question if the planning process has not fulfilled the legal requirements of the objectives of the Habitats Directive – which applies at an SAC – and enshrined into law, which state the precautionary principle: if the applicant cannot prove there will be no adverse effects, then the proposal must be refused. We would like an urgent and mandatory investigation into this area of law before any planning can be approved. We understand that NRW has a legal obligation to do so.

In order to ensure nature recovery by 2030 and protection of SSSIs, as promised by your manifesto, we need to protect these vital sites. Thrill-seeking adventure tourism needs careful management and should not occur at areas of such high ecological importance.

This is a close-knit rural community with very few second homeowners – unusual in a coastal area. Hence, we have a deep affiliation to this landscape and feel we have a moral duty and a right to protect this wild part of Wales for the enjoyment of the many visitors who come to appreciate the wildlife, and to enhance and restore biodiversity for future generations.

We urgently need your help to listen to the community, to challenge the planning application for the adventure hub and stop the grant money to be used for this private enterprise. The site of the proposed adventure hub would be better suited to affordable housing, and any monies from the grant would be better placed towards the now closed Cardigan Swimming Pool to ensure all local children can swim, rather than a private enterprise that has very few local benefits and will destroy the environment.

We look forward to hearing from you

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