

Tamsin Law (CSP - Development Control)

From: Julian Jones - RWT <julian@rwtwales.org>
Sent: 13 June 2018 17:13
To: Tamsin Law (CSP - Development Control)
Cc: Gwilym Davies (CSP - Development Control); Mohammed Mehmet (CSP - Chief Executives); Powell, David
Subject: Planning Application P/2014/0009 - Proposed erection of 2 broiler units and associated works at Banc Gwyn, St Harmon - URGENT REQUEST FOR DEFERRAL

Importance: High

Dear Tamsin

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust maintain our objection to this development as we have done for some years.

I refer to an email exchange between myself and Senior Planning Officer Gwilym Davies during 2017:

Email from Julian Jones, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust to Gwilym Davies, PCC 7th April 2017:

"On behalf of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust I wish to maintain our objection to this development. The Trust is concerned that the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted by the agent on behalf of the applicant does not address the range of ecological concerns posed by this proposed development.

I would be most grateful if you could outline how our concerns about the River Wye tributaries SSSI/SAC and the Gilfach SSSI/SPA (one of the finest lichen sites in the UK) have been mitigated and the reasons why ecological issues were not covered within the ES."

Reply from Gwilym Davies to Julian Jones, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, 11th April 2017:

"Thank you for your email. I have forwarded your email to Tamsin for consideration."

Even at this late stage in the process I would be grateful if you could outline how you considered our objection within your report which recommends approval of this development?

Welsh Government Minister Lesley Griffiths has put on record (in a letter to the Chair of the Welsh Government Petitions Committee, 30th April 2018) that Local Planning Authorities such as yourselves should arrive at decisions for poultry units by taking into account a range of views; she specifically mentioned Local Wildlife Trusts – i.e. Radnorshire Wildlife Trust in this instance.

I have become accustomed to what appears as an endemic behaviour not to engage with us when reaching a recommendation, but I suggest that it is never too late to start and we are always ready and willing to discuss our concerns with you and your colleagues.

Only today we have been informed of a letter from Lesley Griffiths to Russell George AM where it stated that Welsh Government's Chief Planner will be writing to Local Planning Authorities across Wales as a consequence of the increase in intensive poultry unit developments. This letter from Welsh Government will include advice about how you take account of the importance of sensitive environmental areas and the importance of cumulative impacts.

Given this opportunity, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust ask for deferral of this application at Banc Gwyn. We believe this is completely justifiable and allows for the chance of a more informed decision being taken on this proposal and others in the future. A decision that takes into account the most up to date information (for example does your report take account of ammonia sensitive lichen species at Gilfach SSSI which you are legally obliged to protect under section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales), 2016?) and does not risk reducing the resilience of sensitive ecosystem as is found within the Marteg Valley.

Kind Regards

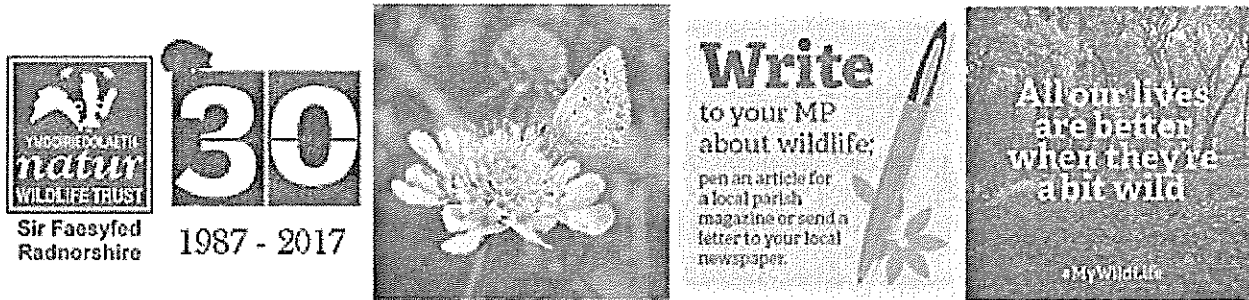
Julian

Julian Jones

Director

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