



Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

## **The Petitions Committee**

### **Completion Report**

**Summary of the Petitions Committee's consideration of  
P-03-185 Llantwit Major Regeneration**

**June 2009**

**E-Petition Received**

12 September 2008

**Ruled admissible**

1 February 2009 (following collection of signatures)

**Initial Consideration****10 February 2009**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time, and agreed to write to the Deputy Minister for Regeneration to request more information on the grant application and the reasons for its rejection.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 10 February 2009 and Annex 2 for the letter sent to the Deputy Minister for Regeneration)

**Further Consideration****5 May 2009**

The Committee considered a response from the Minister for Rural Affairs, and agreed to ask the lead petitioner for his comments in writing on the response to his petition from the Minister for Rural Affairs, and the advice she has offered for further applications.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 5 May 2009 and Annex 2 for the response received from the Minister for Rural Affairs)

**9 June 2009**

The Committee considered the lead petitioner's response to the Minister for Rural Affairs' letter, and agreed that it had taken the petition as far as it can and concluded its consideration of the petition.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 9 June 2009)

**Petitions Clerk**

June 2009

## Annex 1

## Extracts from Petitions Committee meeting transcripts

### 10 February 2009

**Val Lloyd:** The second new petition, P-03-185, is again raised by councillor Russell Downe, and it received 491 signatures. It is in relation to the regeneration of Llantwit Major and calls on the National Assembly for Wales,

'to support the appeal of the Boverton Road Regeneration Scheme for the historic town of Llantwit Major, Britain's earliest centre of learning'.

I have learned something today.

**Andrew R.T. Davies:** May I seek your guidance, Chair? I am a former chairman of Creative Rural Communities, which is the awarding body of the particular grant that the petition seeks to address, although I no longer have any contact with the organisation, other than on a constituency basis. Would it be appropriate for me to stand down on this matter, or, given that I no longer have contact with the organisation—

**Michael German:** It is not the awarding body; it is the receiving body. It made the bid.

**Andrew R.T. Davies:** Sorry, it is the facilitating body.

**Val Lloyd:** As long as you do not vote on it, it would be in line with what we have all done when we have an interest in a petition. Does anyone have any comments on the petition?

**Michael German:** This concerns the rejection of the grant, and I think that it would be sensible to find out from the Welsh Assembly Government why it rejected the grant first. Is it because it did not score highly or because it did not meet the criteria? We need to know that, so that we can make a judgment as to whether to take it further.

**Val Lloyd:** I am in agreement with that. Is everyone else? I see that you are, so we will take it forward on that basis.

### 5 May 2009

**Val Lloyd:** Moving on to petition P-03-185 on Llantwit Major regeneration, it is interesting, is it not? We have had a comprehensive letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs.

**Andrew R.T. Davies:** The petitioners have been afforded a comprehensive debrief in the hope that further funding might become available for future applications. It is always lamentable when an application does not succeed, but it is a fact of life that these things happen. In the Minister's response, she has indicated that detailed negotiations are ongoing, and the Vale of Glamorgan succeeded in 80 per cent of its applications, so I am not quite sure where this petition goes from here—other than for the petitioners to be

asked if they are happy with the level of response from the Minister in offering a debrief.

**Val Lloyd:** They have had quite a lot of money for the approved projects as well.

**Michael German:** Presumably, they can always put new applications in, having had the advice as to what went wrong, and how they can improve.

**Val Lloyd:** Shall we close it, or write to the petitioners?

**Andrew R.T. Davies:** It would be good to write to the petitioners in the first instance just to seek their opinion on the detailed letter that the Minister has sent us. I cannot see how much further we can take this.

**Val Lloyd:** Nor can I.

**Andrew R.T. Davies:** Applications for grants are in the gift of others.

**Michael German:** Given that advice has been offered on how a future application might be improved, that is something that the petitioners need to be aware of. I would always recommend taking that advice. If someone says that you could have improved your application—

**Val Lloyd:** It is pointing you in the right direction.

**Michael German:** Yes.

**Val Lloyd:** Okay. We will write to the petitioner regarding their views.

9 June 2009

**Sandy Mewies:** We will move on to P-03-185, which calls on the National Assembly for Wales to support the appeal of the Boverton road regeneration scheme for Llantwit Major. Are there any comments on that?

**Michael German:** There is no more that we can do.

**Bethan Jenkins:** The petitioners seem to be happy.

**Sandy Mewies:** Shall we close the petition? I see that you are in agreement; thank you.

## Annex 2

## Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

### Petitions Committee

Leighton Andrews AM  
Deputy Minister for Regeneration  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-185

12 February 2009

Dear Leighton

#### **Petition P-03-185 – Llantwit Major Regeneration**

The Petitions Committee considered a new e-petition at its meeting on 10 February, which calls upon the National Assembly for Wales to:

"support the appeal of the Boverton Road Regeneration Scheme for the historic town of Llantwit Major, Britain's earliest centre of learning."

We understand from the petitioners that the scheme was submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government for funding by Creative Rural Communities, the rural regeneration section of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as part of the Rural Development Plan 2007-13. Despite strong community support as a major flagship project, the application was rejected.

The Committee agreed that I write to you to ask for details of the rationale behind the decision to reject the project application.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



**Val Lloyd**  
Chair, Petitions Committee

Elin Jones AM/AC  
Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig  
Minister for Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-185  
Ein cyf/Our ref EJ/00165/09

Val Lloyd AM  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



19/03/2009

*Dear Val,*

**Re: Petition P-03-185- Llantwit Major Regeneration (Boverton Road)**

I refer to your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 addressed to my colleague Leighton Andrews, Deputy Minister for Regeneration, I am responding as the project you refer to was submitted under the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13.

The Creative Rural Communities Partnership was awarded status to act as the Local Partnership for the rural areas of the Vale of Glamorgan, under the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13. The Partnership submitted 14 project applications for consideration, 1 was withdrawn by the Partnership during the appraisal process, 11 were approved and 2 were rejected. The total budget for the approved projects is £2,601,026 with £2,024,890 investment coming from the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13.

The Welsh Assembly Government wrote to the Vale of Glamorgan Council as Lead Body for the Creative Rural Communities Partnership on the 1<sup>st</sup> July setting out the reasons for rejection of the projects and offering to continue to work with the Partnership, perhaps with a view to a future submission under the second Business Plan period (1<sup>st</sup> March 2011-31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2013).

There is an appeals process and the Council, as lead body for the Partnership, did lodge an appeal against the decision on Boverton Road. The appeal has moved through the first 4 stages of the appeals process to date with the rejection currently still upheld. There are further stages to progress through, should the Partnership decide to continue with the appeal.

Alongside the appeals process Assembly Government officials have met with representatives of the Council, as the Lead Body of the Partnership (18<sup>th</sup> December 2008) to discuss the continuing reasons for rejection and also to look at how the project's

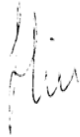


development can be furthered in the intervening period prior to any future submission under Business Plan 2.

One of the reasons given for rejection concerned the age of a study provided in support of the project, which was produced in 1996. The Creative Rural Communities Partnership intends to use around £8,000 of Rural Community Action funding from the current Action Plan year to update the study. The Welsh Assembly Government provides £148,908 funding to the Rural Community Action capacity building programme for 2008/09 in the rural Vale. This update to the study may aid future applications.

Another problem related to the necessity or otherwise of obtaining Planning Permission for the proposed capital works. After the end of the appraisal process the Council obtained a letter from their Planning department advising that planning is not required, which again may aid any future application.

Officials recently went on a site visit with Council staff and the Welsh Assembly Government's Rural Programmes team will continue to work with the Council and Partnership to look at available funding options including the possibility of a submission under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Plan for Wales under Business Plan 2.



**Elin Jones AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig  
Minister for Rural Affairs

