



Mr Simon Gale
Director of Prosperity and Development
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
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CF37 1DU

By Email: Simon.Gale@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

Ein Cyf/Our ref: qA2168547
Dyddiad/Date: 30 October 2024

Dear Simon Gale

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – SECTION 77 CALL-IN REQUEST
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(WALES) ORDER 2012 – DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 18(1)
CONSTRUCTION OF AGGREGATES RECOVERY FACILITY
FFOREST WOOD QUARRY, COWBRIDGE ROAD, TALYGARN, PONT-Y-CLUN,
PONTYCLUN, CF72 9XD
APPLICATION NO. 22/1149/10

1. The Welsh Ministers have been asked to call in the above application for their own determination. I am authorised by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to consider whether the application should be called in for determination by the Welsh Ministers.

Policy

2. The Welsh Government's policy on calling in planning applications is set out in Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, February 2024 (PPW). The Welsh Government considers Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), as elected bodies, should be left to make decisions about development proposals wherever possible. The Welsh Ministers do not, in practice, call in many planning applications and will only do so where the proposal raises issues of more than local importance. The consideration of a request

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

to call in an application is not about the acceptability of the development and whether planning permission should be granted; it is concerned with who should make the decision.

Application

3. The planning application is for construction of an aggregates recovery facility on the site of the operational Fforest Wood quarry in Pontyclun, which would process and reclaim aggregates from waste spoil tips on the site, as well as from waste imported from other sites.
4. The main reasons for the call-in requests can be summarised as follows:
 - Wider implications across Wales in relation to the interpretation of planning permissions granted decades previously when road infrastructure, development and traffic were significantly lower than current levels;
 - The need to take into account prevention, the long-term impact or involvement of the community as set out in the Well Being of Future Generations Act (2015);
 - Possible conflict with Welsh Government policies relating to active travel, road safety, clean air and climate change;
 - Possible impact on ancient semi-natural woodland which is in conflict with Welsh Government's Environment Act; and
 - Concerns regarding the accuracy of data and documents supporting the application.

Consideration and Decision

5. Consideration has been given to the concerns expressed in the call-in requests (summarised above), the contents of the LPA's planning officer's report to the Planning Committee and other relevant information.
6. Given the scale and nature of the proposed development and the extent of its effects, I am content that it does not give rise to issues which are of more than local importance. The scheme is not likely to significantly affect sites of scientific, nature conservation or historic interest, or areas of landscape importance. The application does not raise novel planning issues or issue of national security and no other relevant issues are raised.
7. In view of this, **I do not consider the application should be called in for determination by the Welsh Ministers** and it is now for your LPA to determine the application as it sees fit.
8. This decision not to call in the application should not in any way be taken as a reflection of the planning merits of the development.
9. **In exercise of my powers under article 31 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (DMPWO), the direction issued by Welsh Ministers under article 18(1) of the DMPWO on 10 July 2024 for planning application 22/1149/10 is hereby cancelled.**
10. It would assist us if a copy of the planning decision relating to this application could be sent to my colleague, Nicholas Iles (e-mail: Nicholas.Iles@gov.wales).

11. A copy of this letter has been sent to Technia Environment and Planning Limited, agents for the applicant.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Butts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hywel Butts

Pennaeth Gwaith Achos Cynllunio / Head of Planning Casework

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio / Planning Directorate

Arwyddwyd o dan awdurdod Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio, un o weinidogion Cymru.

Signed under authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning; one of the Welsh Ministers.