

Parks Forum Wales
Managing and developing Green Spaces

CG
12/1/09

Rosemary Butler
Committee Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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DP/AJC
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Dear Madam

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED PLAYING FIELD (COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DISPOSAL DECISIONS) (WALES) MEASURE.

Further to your letter of the 12th of December reference the above, I would advise as follows.

Re: the proposed measure, I would offer these following views.

1. *Is there a need for an Assembly measure in relation to community involvement in decisions by local authorities whether to dispose of playing fields?*

I fully support the proposal above for full community involvement in any local decision by local authorities to dispose of any local playing field, any subsequent decision should then take into consideration the view of all the local interested parties.

2. *What are your views on the key provisions set out in the proposed measure.*

I would fully endorse the proposal for local authorities to undertake a comprehensive impact assessment as to the release of the said playing fields. Such results from the impact assessment should form part of any decision and subsequently be available for public comment.

I would agree with the proposed principal definitions as laid out in Section 2.

I would feel that the proposals outlined in Section 3, impact statement, should be as per the proposed document. With specific reference to "the locality" or area where the playing field is located.

I fully support the proposals for local authorities to prepare and make its decision known, as laid out within Section 6.

Concerning the statutory consultees, I would agree with the listed bodies outlined in the proposals.

Finally, I would agree with the powers of the Minister in relation to stop issues and remedial direction to local authorities, (Section 7).

3. *What are the practical and financial implications of putting these provisions in place.*

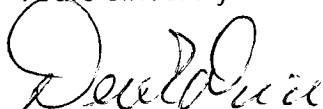
I feel both the practical and financial implications of the provisions are well within the current capacity of local authorities in Wales, indeed it may be prudent for the local authorities to either charge for any reasonable costs incurred when completing this arrangement, as required in the proposed measure or to establish a schedule of any costs and charges incurred. The proposed measure should act as a safeguard against the loss of facilities or venue, which can or will provide a high value to the health of the local community.

4. *Will the proposed measure achieve its overall purpose and aim.*

I believe this proposed measure will form an integral part of the Welsh Assembly's legislation and aim to develop a healthy population via the regulation from loss of local areas or venues used by communities.

I have made the above points on behalf of the "Welsh Parks Forum", in doing so I accept my name can be published for public scrutiny.
Finally, I would be prepared to attend any committee on behalf of the Welsh Parks Forum.

Yours sincerely



Derek Price
Chair of Parks Forum Wales

Caerphilly County Borough Council