

Bodfan

Abergwynnogryn

LL33 0LH

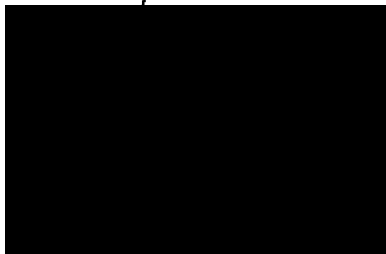
Sep 14, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

This is a letter of objection to conwy.gov.uk/rldp (400 houses at Walfordfellah.)

I have already sent it via e-mail.

Yours,



Wloyd Jones

CONWY C.B.C
19 SEP 2019
FINANCE DEPT.

I wish to protest against the proposal to build 400 new houses on a greenfield site at Llanfairfechan.

These are my objections.

Wales has two outstanding features: its natural beauty and its unique culture. Huge new greenfield estates are a direct threat to both these fundamental Welsh attractions.

The region is already struggling to cope with rapid growth, and building yet more houses would destroy its unique character for ever, turning it into a vast dormitory belt for people working on the border or beyond.

These expansion plans, driven on by the Welsh Assembly and local councils, have been drawn up by officials who may not have any roots in the country and therefore may not have any empathy with the history and the wishes of the Welsh people.

Wales is famous for its beauty and tranquillity, and building lots of new homes for people escaping from urban chaos will destroy the coastline's beauty as green space is eaten away. We could end up with houses all the way from Chester to Caernarfon.

There aren't enough jobs to go around as it is, and besides, the ancient culture of the region is under extreme threat; yet more population growth would all but eradicate the Welsh language.

There are many thousands of houses lying empty as it is – why not govern the number of homes which people can own, or force them to let to local people at a decent, affordable rent?

World population is reaching dangerous levels, so we should be doing our bit towards keeping the lid on human expansion. We should do everything we can to preserve the natural world from an ever-increasing urban sprawl.

Please stop destroying our habitat, or we'll have very few animals or birds left: remember, it's their world as well as ours.

The amount of time allowed for public consultation is laughably short, implying that the Assembly and local councils want to force through their plans without hearing the public, or allowing due time for proper assessment of the likely impact of their building programmes.

When I moved to Llanfair in 1977 I encountered a magical little town, full of life and vitality. The pubs and chapels were packed and people mingled and chatted on the streets.

There was a strong community feeling and I heard great stories about the legendary exploits of the village bobbies, PC 66 and PC 99. The pubs were full of amazing characters like Bob Gas, who could tell you how to tame a horse with a marble. It was a fun place to be.

And Llanfair is still a great place to live. It's changed a lot over the years – the pubs have gone quiet, people don't chat so much and the influx of new people has been

quite bewildering, but the heart of the community is still beating.

All that is about to change, with plans for 400 new houses and a school on a massive estate on the Bangor side of town, extending as far as the cemetery. Our cheerful little village-nearly-town will become a different place. It will lose its unique character. Here are ten reasons to oppose the plan.

- 1) The town is already bursting at the seams. You can hardly drive through it at times. What's the point of turning it into a continuous bad experience?
- 2) The Health Centre and pharmacy are already at full stretch. Getting an appointment will be even harder. Ysbyty Gwynedd is also fit to burst. There is no police presence in the town. In short, all our essential services will be stretched to snapping point.
- 3) Please go and look at the field. It's one of the most beautiful along the coast, with an old oak tree and a well. That's why it's called Cae Ffynnon – the field of the well. Admire its curves and contours. Imagine it covered in houses. And the next field along will disappear too. Sadly, that's what the money men want to do to your locality.
- 4) That field, full of natural greenness, shines light into the village like a gigantic satellite dish. Get rid of it and the whole town will be much darker.
- 5) The farmland between Llanfair and Bangor is just about the last green corridor along the coast – and this development would be a substantial nibble into that land. There's a lot of idle chatter about overpopulation and climate change, as if they were happening somewhere else. But this is how it happens, here and now – on your doorstep. Goodbye nature, hello concrete.
- 6) The plan for a new school is just a lure. We'll also be promised "affordable homes" – as if anyone would be fooled by that sort of thing any more. The vast majority of the new houses will be expensive middle class homes, well out of the reach of our young people. Most of them will be bought by incomers fleeing urban conditions, and in doing so they will replicate the conditions they're fleeing from.
- 7) The developers will make a fat profit and the council will be quids in. Let's see now... 400 x £2,000 community charge per household will yield roughly £800,000 a year. Kerching! That'll pay for a new Conwy Council Director of Voles and Bats. Oh, hang about – there won't be any voles or bats, will there? So let's keep the town roughly as it is – a little gem on the (still beautiful) North Wales coast.
- 8) What about the Welsh culture and language? There are official rules now concerning the likely impact of development on this important area. The Welsh Assembly aims to have a million Welsh speakers in Wales eventually; but you can kiss goodbye to the Welsh way of life in Llanfair.
- 9) The council could and should do much more to help the town's young people in other ways. How about converting the empty, unused Heath Home – a council property – into flats? How about buying the old Co-op building and converting it into flats? How about putting a compulsory purchase order on the old butcher's shop near Llan Newsagents – left to rot for years – and then convert it into flats? But no, it's

easier to sit back and let fatcat developers move in. We're not fooled by the school. There's almost certainly an unwritten agreement between the council and potential builders: the school comes for nothing if an enormous new estate is nodded through.

Come on Conwy Council, please don't destroy our lovely little country.

**Lloyd Jones,
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(a Llanfair resident for 36 years)**