

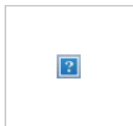
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: TO/JJ/00256/24 - Bedwas Tips reclamation
Date: 08 February 2024 10:31:07
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: TO/JJ/00256/24 - Bedwas Tips reclamation

Good morning,

Please see an additional email for TO/JJ/00256/24.

Thanks and regards,



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bedwas Tips reclamation

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email below the contents of which have been noted.

Firstly, it is important to stress that no permission has been granted for any such reclamation scheme to progress. Indeed, if such a major project was to go ahead, it would be subject to detailed scrutiny and public consultation as part of the formal planning application process. A scheme of this significance would also be subject to approval and permissions from a range of other statutory agencies before any work could start. At this moment in time, no formal planning application has been submitted to the council, however we are aware that a developer is currently in the process of undertaking a 'pre-application consultation'. Developers proposing major schemes are required to undertake this type of statutory pre-application consultation prior to submitting a planning application to the Local Planning Authority. It is important to clarify that the Local Planning Authority is not involved in this process. Therefore, residents should respond directly to the developer (ERI Reclamation) – see link - [Bedwas Tip - ERI Reclamation](#) and not the Local Planning Authority if they want their comments to be taken into account as part of this pre-application consultation process. If a formal planning application is received, then appropriate consultation will take place so that all stakeholders in the community have the opportunity to provide feedback, before the matter is determined by the Planning Committee. I hope this helps clarify the current position and please be assured that any such scheme would be subject to robust scrutiny and would also require a range of conditions and control measured to minimise the impact of any planned works.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat.Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.
Correspondence may be in any language or format. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 8:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Bedwas Tips reclamation

Hi,

I wanted to share my comments to [REDACTED] at ERI reclamation with you.

One issue that I did not address, because it's probably nothing to do with ERI is the political aspect to this.

The 2010 application to remove the tips and to provide a new road down from the tips to Newport Road, Trethomas had political repercussions. [REDACTED] approached the local residents and offered to back their stance. As a consequence the Labour Party lost a seat on the council. At the time [REDACTED] stood as an Independent.

If the plans to haul the coal miles away down through the Sirhowy Valley Country Park is the result of what happened politically over 13 years ago, then shame on the Labour Party.

Decisions should be made on what is best and I find it hard to believe that ruining access in one of the jewels in Caerphilly County Borough's crown is the best solution.

Hope to hear from you both,

To Whom it may concern.

I will be objecting to the planning application when it is made for a number of reasons & I will outline those reasons in the following paragraphs.

Cui bono?

Within the extensive consultation document the phrases "The proposed scheme will result in community benefits " "further enhance and improve the Bedwas area for the ecological benefit of the local area " "the proposal is to reclaim the Bedwas Tips for the benefit of Bedwas" make it absolutely clear that the Bedwas community will benefit.

Undoubtedly, ERI will also benefit, but it will be to the detriment of the residents of the lower Sirhowy Valley and those who seek exercise and tranquillity from within the Sirhowy Valley Country Park.

Ecologically and environmentally these plans will be a disaster for the Sirhowy Valley. "The landscape is an important natural resource with its character widely appreciated for its appearance and contribution to regional identity and sense of place." It appears that ERI believe that Bedwas and areas around are the only places of importance.

This is one of the reasons that I will be opposing the plans as outlined in BEDWAS TIPS RECLAMATION PROJECT PUBLIC.

It is disingenuous of ERI to intimate that the use of the haul road down through the Sirhowy Valley Country Park is a mere extension of its use by NRW contractors to haul felled timber. Felling operations in a particular location occur only occasionally and haul roads are closed for public access for fairly short periods of time. Closing the haul road to walkers, equestrians and cyclists for an extended period of possibly more than 7 years is unacceptable. The haul road is over open access land, of which NRW are the custodians. NRW's actions must always be in the best interest of the public. Although the haul lorries have hauled timber in recent years and taken it down the Blackvein and onto the public road network alongside Waunfawr Park, this has had little impact on traffic or local residents. For ERI to suggest that 500+ metres of 6 m wide haul road above Full Moon would be of benefit to the public after the planned removal of spoil from Bedwas Tips has ended, is ludicrous. There is more than one PRoW linking the haul road and Full Moon and all are well used.

"18 hauls per day" for about 7 years. It isn't clear whether the 18 hauls refer to the number of journeys where coal is being hauled or a total of 18 journeys per day. This cannot be compared with the hauling of timber.

Over the years there have been a number of landslides within the Sirhowy Valley Country Park. All of the landslides have been water related, but some have also happened as a result of land being excavated. Excavating 20m passing bays every 600m or so along the forestry haul road could well set off a landslide. Heavy lorries thundering down, even at 20 mph at a rate of 18 a day for a period of more than 7 years could do irreparable damage to the area. I understand that when a landslide blocked the cycle route the repair cost in the region of £0.75 million.

There are a significant number of public rights of way (PRoWs)which will be affected. The haul road crosses some of them and in certain places the haul road runs along the same route as the PRoWs. The consultation document does not try to address what plans there are to deal with PRoWs nor which PRoWs will be temporarily diverted. If ERI makes a planning application then I would expect to see a list of PRoWs affected and a plan for each individual PRoW. It is not clear when ERI uses the word "site" whether it's referring to the Bedwas Tips or the whole area affected by its plans. The effect of a development proposal on rights of way is a 'material consideration' for the planning authority in dealing with the scheme application. It is essential that the planning application includes every PRoW affected with detailed plans for diversions for each individual PRoW.

I did not attend the meeting between ERI personnel and local residents before Christmas 2023 because I was not aware of it. However, I have been told that in that meeting one of the ERI representatives stated that they have been advised by CCBC that the haul road down through the Sirhowy Valley Country Park is the only option open to them for removing the coal from the site. In 2010 CCBC had plans to reclaim the spoil from Bedwas tips and the proposed haul road was straight from the tips on a new road which joined Newport Road between Trethomas and Graig-Y-Rhacca. " In 2010, CCBC submitted a planning application for reclamation works at the Tips which would result in the reprofiling of the site close to what it would have looked like before mining works occurred on the site. Due to funding issues, this was not possible at the time. " Comments on documentation state quite clearly that those plans did not come to fruition because of the cost. There is no mention that the proposed new road over green fields and woodland were the problem. I would like to see minutes of the meeting where CCBC officers allegedly ruled out alternative routes for hauling away the coal.

It is a very short distance from the tips to Newport Road, Bedwas. Whilst this would not be pleasant for the residents

living close by, they are the ones who will benefit from the removal of the tips. This should be a consideration.

The adopted road from the ridge to The Crown Roundabout is a much shorter distance from the ridge than the proposed journey down through the Sirhowy Valley Country Park. Traffic lights could be used for the narrow road when lorries need to pass.

The adopted road from the ridge to Machen is a much shorter distance from the ridge than the proposed journey down through the Sirhowy Valley Country Park. Traffic lights could be used for the narrow road when lorries need to pass.

All routes should be considered and the pros and cons ^[1] of each route should be published.

I mention above that I was unaware of the meeting between residents and ERI personnel. I am a member of Caerphilly's Local Access Forum, the correspondent for the Open Spaces Society for Caerphilly County Borough and a walk leader for more than one Ramblers' group. If I was unaware of meetings to broadcast and discuss proposals then ERI really hasn't been doing the job of pre planning consultation. I believe that ERI should start the process again and ensure that all people who would be affected by the plans can participate in the consultation process and ask questions directly.

I have not addressed the public money that has been spent within the Sirhowy Valley Country Park over the decades and recently with the woodland and meditation area near Ynys Hywel Farm. That money will be wasted if the plans to haul lorries full of coal are given the go ahead. I have chosen to address the plans to deny access over public land. However, if a planning application is made then I will have had more time to study the plans and add to my comments.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[1] The criteria should be rigorously chosen and a proper scientific analysis must be done. Cui bono must be a significant part of this analysis.

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Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau sy'n atodol yn gyfrinachol a dim ond ar gyfer defnydd yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd atynt. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn ar gam rhwch wybod i reolwr eich system. Nodwch fod unrhyw sylwadau neu farn o fewn testun yr e-bost yw sylwadau a barn yr awdur yn unig ac nid yn angenrheidiol yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. I orffen, dylai'r person sy'n derbyn yr e-bost sicrhau nad oes firws ynghlwm nac mewn unrhyw ddogfen atodol i'r e-bost. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am unrhyw ddifrod achoswyd gan unrhyw firws sy'n cael ei drosglwyddo gan yr e-bost hwn. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog (yn unol â'ch dewis), ac mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill. Cewch ymateb yn unol â'ch dewis iaith os nodwch hynny i ni, ac ni fydd cyfathrebu â ni yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Caerphilly County Borough Council. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The Council accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email. We welcome correspondence in English, Welsh or bilingually (according to your choice) or in other languages and formats. We will respond in your declared chosen language, and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

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