



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref AD/1380

Rhun Ap Iorwerth AM

October 2013

Dear Rhun

Thank you for email dated 9 September referring to two resolutions made at a public meeting of the Newborough Forest Protection Group held on 5 September.

You explain that you wish to bring the resolutions to my attention and invite my comments on them.

First resolution

Item 1 - The wider review of science is ongoing. When the review was first referred to the Welsh Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, he advised that there was insufficient evidence to properly review, or to reach a conclusion that would support large-scale interventions. He recommended that further scientific research work, small-scale trials etc. should be done, and he would then review the findings of this work alongside the existing material as each proposal came forward.

Further research was commissioned and the Welsh Government conducted an internal review on the specific proposals for small-scale pilot works to take place over the next two winters. It was concluded that there were no scientific objections to these proposals.

A review of longer-term scientific work, together with monitoring of the above pilot works, will be taken forward by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to ensure it is truly independent of Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales.

Item 2 - The public justification and consultation you refer to took place on 11 September and further liaison will be arranged as proposals progress.

Second resolution

My officials are currently working with Natural Resources Wales to improve communications with the communities living around Newborough Forest and to ensure that the wider economic benefits of the forest are maximised. Natural Resources Wales has recently upgraded the parking, interpretation and disabled access facilities at Newborough Forest, using Welsh Government funds; that programme of works continues. Many of the forestry works described in the Newborough Forest Management Plan 2010-2015 will improve the amenity and tourism value of the forest, and the timber harvesting and other forestry works themselves provide local employment. The proposals under discussion will remove two small areas of dead and unsightly trees, which amongst other things will improve the amenity and tourism value of those areas.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation and reassure you that the concerns of local people are being considered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Alun Davies AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food

