

# **Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Local Development Plan**

## **Written Statement by the Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee**

The Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee was established in 1997 in order to contribute to the work of protecting and looking after the AONB. Members include local Councillors, members of Community Councils and representatives of local organisations and agencies such as Friends of Llŷn, the Agricultural Unions and the National Trust. Members discuss national and local issues, including planning matters, and contribute to the work of preparing and reviewing the AONB Management Plan.

### **Comment 784**

#### **1. Which part of the Plan is considered unsound?**

Policy TWR 5 - Touring Caravan, Camping and Temporary Alternative Camping Accommodation

#### **2. Which tests of soundness are not met?**

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a geographical area which has a statutory designation under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. Planning Policy Wales (Issue 8, 2016) states that the main objective while designating an AONB is to safeguard and enhance its natural beauty. It is noted that the AONB has the same status as the National Parks in terms of visual beauty and they should be afforded the highest status of protection from inappropriate developments. It is also noted that planning policies should place a large emphasis on safeguarding and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

It is known that there has been an increase in sites and numbers of units of Touring Caravans, Camping and Temporary Alternative Camping Accommodation in Llŷn. Information available on the Gwynedd Council website (Track and Trace) confirms that a vast number of applications for this type of development have been approved in the past 10 years.

Some parts of Llŷn and Anglesey are under considerable pressure from touring caravan sites and these developments have had a negative impact on the beauty of the landscape in some parts. This is addressed as one of the hot topics in the AONB Management Plan.

In addition, there is a recent trend to leave touring caravans on site throughout the season (March - September) which increases the visual impact.

### **3. Why does it fail?**

The main basis for designating part of Llŷn as an AONB in 1957 was the varied and interesting coastline and the beauty of the landscape. Approximately a quarter of the peninsula, a total of 15,500 hectares, is included in the designated area. The majority is coastal land but it also extends into the land to include Foel Gron and Garn Fadryn.

It is not believed that the environment and special visual beauty of the AONB and the adjoining area, have been recognised in the policy. Therefore, it is not believed that the policy complies with Planning Policy Wales.

It does not appear that a full analysis of the increase in sites and units has been carried out and the impact of these developments on the environment - particularly within and adjacent to the AONB and the Special Landscape Areas.

### **4. How can the plan be made sound?**

It is believed that the policy should be more restrictive in terms of Touring Caravans, Camping and Temporary Alternative Camping Accommodation developments within and adjacent to, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.