

P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land - Anglesey- Correspondence form the petitioner to the Clerking team, 10.09.2013

Dear Sian

Thank you for forwarding a copy of Carl Sargeant's letter to William Powell AM, Chair Petitions Committee.

The comments are duly noted, but the fact remains that whilst Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 should, in theory, prevent the resurfacing of the land, it does not prevent the destruction of vegetation and the modification of the landscape for vehicular use: basically, anyone can cut and drive large dirt tracks across any common land with impunity. In the worst case scenarios, little of the natural heritage would be left for the enjoyment of local communities. Furthermore, under the 1832 Act, if no greater protection is provided for common land, in this particular instance, it is likely that 'rights of access' will be applied for after twenty years and then, of course, vehicular trespass will be legitimised. We would welcome improved statutory laws to protect the common land in Wales. Common land should be for the benefit and use of the whole community and should also enhance the experience of visitors to Wales.

We feel that we must repeat what we have stated in previous correspondence to the committee, that Petition P-04-343 shows the strength of feeling over the destruction of amenities on common land and augments the preceding paper petition containing over 300 names which called for the protection of Marian Common, Llangoed. We fully support the petitioner and the views of Mr Lewis Davies in his letter to you dated 30th May 2013. We fear that, unless there are stronger statutory laws to prevent the acquisition of common land for private development, Marian Common, and other commons in Wales, will be lost forever to the detriment of local communities and the natural environment.

We have recently spoken to members of the community who are also concerned about the protection of this land and who agree with the statements above.

Dr Karen Pollock & Mr Tom Pollock