

In accordance with Procedural Rule 10.5, the permission of the Presiding Officer is sought, to present this Urgent Motion to Full Council 08.3.23.

The subject of the motion has arisen between the deadline for the submission of motions and the date of the meeting. We believe that the motion requires an urgent decision in the public interest which cannot be dealt with by other means.

Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors S. Emanuel and W. Jones

Unfortunately, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) last week erected signage on the Pen-tych woodland path warning hikers that no public access was permitted due to the route being unsafe through “multiple landslips.”

The Treherbert ward is proudly the home to some of the most beautiful landmarks and views in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf, with the Pen-Pych table top mountain being the jewel in the crown.

Pen-Pych is a major tourist attraction and local landmark, attracting thousands of hikers each year, which in turn provides an invaluable boost to our local economy.

The loss of this pathway is devastating to the local economy and the communities that comprise the Treherbert ward, and as local Councillors, we are dismayed that NRW did not seek to engage with us or notify us before taking this action.

Whilst the safety of residents and visitors is paramount, and it is right to warn hikers not to use unsafe routes, we are disappointed by the absence of communication from NRW in outlining any attempts to make the path safe or their future intentions for the area.

Having already made representations to NRW as local Members, we would urge Council to note the following:

- The significant impact that the loss of Pen-Pych will have to the local economy at the top of the Rhondda Fawr and the rest of the County Borough.
- That our natural assets are there for all to enjoy – they act as a unique selling point for our County Borough.
- That whilst safety is always the foremost consideration, local Members should always be engaged on such matters where possible.

We would ask that Council therefore resolves to:

- Urgently request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales and the relevant Welsh Government Minister to establish the future intentions for the Pen-Pych woodland trail and to make representations on behalf of the residents of the Treherbert ward regarding the importance of the site.

