

Ms Virginia Hawkins  
Clerk to the Committee  
Sustainability Committee  
Welsh Assembly  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

T S DALLAGHAN

### ACCESS FOR CANOES

Dear Ms Hawkins

I would be obliged if you could bring to the attention of the Sustainability Committee this letter of objection to the proposed access to inland waterways paper.

I am an angler who is a member of the Maelor AA on the river Dee. This beat extends over 6.5 miles of the DEE below LLANGOLLAN there are 186 members there is a thriving youth section and a disabled and pensioners section this club contributes to the local community by encouraging young people to get involved. In the past access agreements have been made with Local canoeing groups however the WCA have instructed them to ignore and break these agreements and paddle wherever they like!

I also manage a private stretch on the Dee at PEN-Y-LAN near Ruabon there are 14 rods on this stretch who all pay an annual rental, The beat covers approximately 1.5 miles On both these stretches there is no rights of access and on the Pen-y-lan there are notices making it clear that it is private and trespassing will be liable to prosecution I strongly oppose any change in to the law relating to access or trespass. The legal position is clear and understood by all including the canoeists, who knowingly are flouting the law on the instructions of the WCA—are they to be rewarded for this? I dread to think of the consequences already I have had to make paddlers at Pen-y-lan leave a small island on the beat which is an Otter sanctuary and SSSI giving freedom of access to them would be a disaster as it will encourage paddlers from Liverpool, Manchester, Birkenhead, Chester and the midlands. Both the beats I refer to have people dedicated to improving the environment on the river.

Anglers both local and nationwide contribute significantly to the local economy with an unrestricted access to canoeists anglers will move to other rivers in England, and abroad thus losing income to the local community.

I sincerely urge you not to proceed with this project it will have far reaching negative consequences.

As in all disputes resolution can be achieved by discussion/negotiating/ and agreement, Anglers are willing to come up with solutions already they have offered 6 months of controlled access November to April.

All anglers pay for the right to have access to land in order to fish they also have to have a state licence failing which they are liable to substantial fines and possible prison—what consequences are the canoeists for their current illegal actions? And what do they pay to paddle ?

Anglers as you know are a huge body of voters far in excess of the questionable 10 thousand the WCA claim.

Anglers are a law abiding group seeking an equitable and just solution to this matter that will avoid the inevitable confrontation if this foolhardy project goes ahead.

Finally it is worth mentioning that large compensation will be sought to offset the lost revenue from this plan if it goes ahead.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.S. DALLAGHAN', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

T S DALLAGHAN  
MANAGER PEN-Y-LAN SPORTING ENTERPRISES