



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

APPLICATION TO THE ETHICS & STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR DISPENSATION

Please note that each section **MUST** be completed. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes when completing the form.

1. YOUR DETAILS

Your full name: Mark Antony Strong

Council:

County: x

Town/Community:

Name of your Council: Ceredigion County Council

Your address: Tŷ Blodwen, Ffordd Brynymôr, Aberystwyth

Postcode: SY23 2HX

Contact telephone number(s): 01970636578

Email address: mark.strong@ceredigion.gov.uk

2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST

My wife Johanna F Breyer rents a garage from the Estates department at CCC, across the road from our property at the address above. In the last two years the Estates department have set out deeds, desk-based, to take possession of two lands – the garages and Cae Brynhyfryd (field) – for development as one single area.

What is the matter being discussed by the Council?

To enable me to discuss and vote on the area known as Cae Brynhyfryd separately from the area known as Brynymôr garages. I agree that I have a genuine personal interest in the area where we rent land for the garage, but historically the two areas have always been treated separately because of the access to them and their topography.

Describe your prejudicial interest in the above matter, including your connection with it:

A problem has arisen because a piece of work in an office has combined two areas that have historically always been treated separately. My personal interest lies with the garages, not with the field (Cae Brynhyfryd).

Where will the above matter be considered? (e.g. Cabinet, County Council, Town/Community Council)

This could be discussed with Parc Natur Penglais (The Council has appointed me on this) – Cabinet, County Council and Town Council.

Under which paragraph of the Members Code of Conduct (20th May 2016 edition) does your interest fall?

Parts 'D', 'E', 'H' (because of Parc Natur Penglais)

Code of Conduct 11, disclosure of personal interest, part 5

3. INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please provide additional (background/ factual) information in order to clarify/explain your interest further, and assist the committee considering this dispensation application.

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

Historically, before the Estates department joined the lands for its plan, Parc Natur Penglais asked for Cae Brynhyfryd to be included as part of the Parc. I supported them in this aim. Subsequently, the Brynymôr garages were joined into the plan. For me to enter Brynhyfryd field, I would have to walk almost 10 minutes uphill. Also there are cliffs of 10-15 metres in height above the garages and then a large area of gorse on a steep hill before reaching the field. It is not possible to see Brynhyfryd field from anywhere in my house.

I believe Brynhyfryd field is around 10 acres. The future of the field will be of interest to many homes in my ward, namely Cae Melyn, Ffordd y Bryn and possibly some houses on Queen's Avenue, and others from Glen Rosa up to Y Berllan and Plas Brynymôr on Brynymôr Road. These constitute between 80 and a 100 houses in the ward I represent.

The fact that the cliffs and the topography make developing this site as one unit almost impossible or unsustainable is what brings about my questions; also, the well-being of local democracy because the local elected member may not take part regarding the main part of the area in question. The area where the garages lie is very small in comparison with the area of the field. Therefore I ask for dispensation to discuss this matter about Cae Brynhyfryd fully, or alternatively ask the Committee to recommend that the two areas be treated separately by the Estates department.

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

4. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

The **Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001** prescribe the circumstances in which the Ethics & Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. The grounds for granting a dispensation are set out below.

On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

(a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;	<input type="checkbox"/>

(g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;	<input type="checkbox"/>
(h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION- FURTHER INFORMATION

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Ethics & Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case (i.e. Please explain how and why you consider that one of the grounds for dispensation is/are satisfied)

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

I believe that the Committee should grant a dispensation to allow for a better understanding of the topography of the area and also, not allowing the local member to take part in discussions and to vote because of recent changes on paper only, without knowledge of the geography of the area, would be detrimental to democracy in Aberystwyth.

An interest in one rented garage in a small area that has been added on to a substantial area in the ward and that has the potential to create great interest in the ward, would not be commensurate with preventing an elected member from taking part in an important issue in his ward.

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

6. REQUEST

Are you applying for dispensation to speak only or to speak and vote?

Speak Only:

Speak and Vote:

Please provide a reason for this:

This is for speaking and voting since this is a subject that could be important to a significant percentage of electors in the ward I represent

7. DURATION

What is the requested duration for this dispensation?

Specific:

Specific Meeting(s):

Please specify meeting date(s): _____

General:

6 months:

12 months: x

8. DECLARATION

I request a dispensation in respect of the above matter.

I confirm that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: Mark A Strong

Date: 8 May 2021

Please return this form to:

Ethics and Standards
Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion
Penmorfa
Aberaeron
Ceredigion
SA46 0PA
Tel: 01545 570881

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