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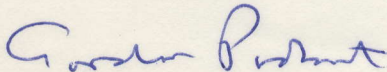
Date: 9th December, 1982
Your Ref:
Our Ref: RJB/SAD/M31(9)

Dear Sir,

WELSH RACING DRIVERS' ASSOCIATION BOOKLET

...
The Honorary Secretary to the Welsh Counties Committee has forwarded papers re the above to me which I have read with interest. The idea which the booklet explores which seems to be your Association's guiding light, is one in which I am both closely interested and already involved. The attached brochure describes Bryn Bach Park, Tredegar which numbers amongst its various sketch proposals a motor racing circuit. The circuit design and layout has already been the subject of extensive consultations with motor racing interests but finance has been and has remained a huge obstacle. My assistant Mr. R. J. Brain would be pleased to discuss this proposal in greater detail at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,



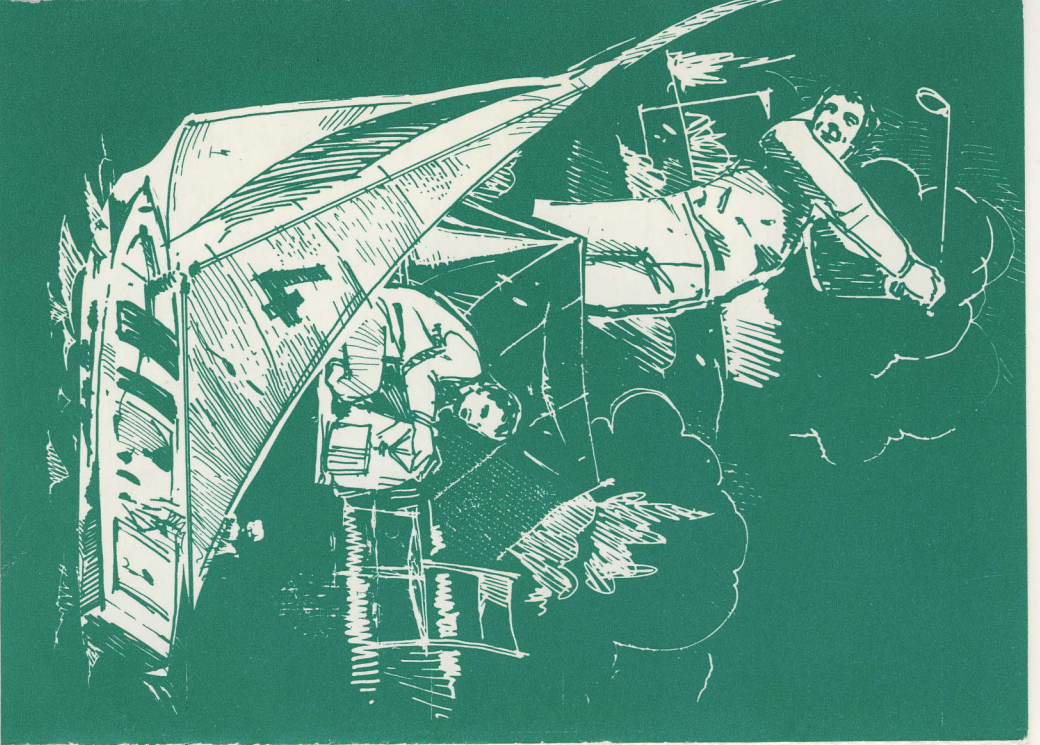
County Planning Officer

R. E. Allender, Esq.
10 Gaer Park Lane,
NEWPORT,
Gwent.
NPT 3ND.

Please address correspondence
to the County Planning Officer.
If you telephone or call
please ask for:

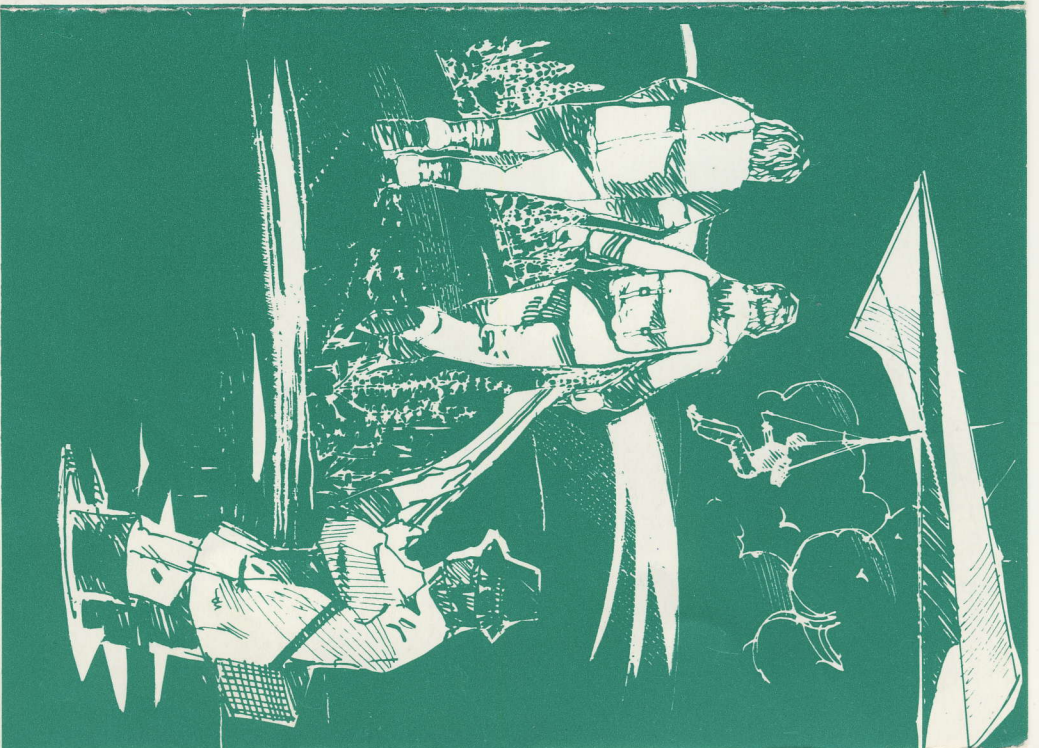
Mr. R. J. Brain

Tel. Ext:691



WASH STATE

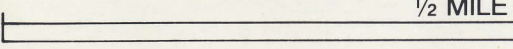
Bryn Bach Park



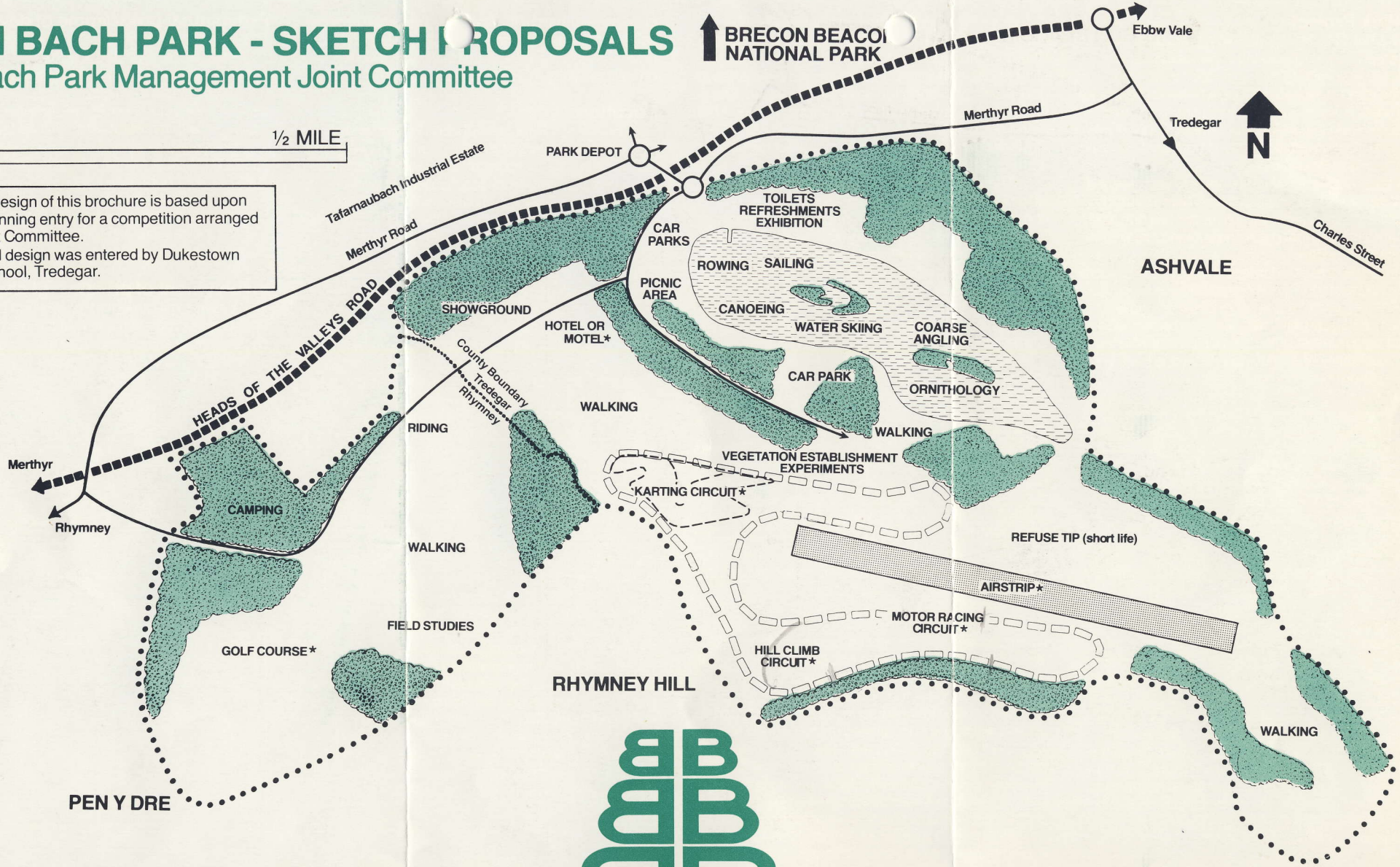
BRYN BACH PARK - SKETCH PROPOSALS

Bryn Bach Park Management Joint Committee

↑ BRECON BEACON NATIONAL PARK

SCALE  1/2 MILE

The cover design of this brochure is based upon the prize winning entry for a competition arranged by the Joint Committee. The original design was entered by Dukestown Primary School, Tredegar.



Bryn Bach Park



The Park Project

The Bryn Bach Park project covers a big area of old mine and surface workings, the reclamation of which is now complete.

The idea is to establish a park between Rhymney and Tredegar which will meet local needs but which will also provide leisure and recreational opportunities for people from a wide area round but mainly centred on the heads of the valleys area.

A thirty six - acre lake has already been formed and a programme of tree planting is being started. New grass is already growing over the five hundred - acre park and controlled grazing is being organised over much of the land.

Once the grass and trees have become properly established and the lake is completed, it will be possible to provide for a number of recreational activities. Just how many activities can be provided will depend on a number of things, not least of which will be the availability of money and decisions have yet to be taken about how the park is to be run and maintained.

There are a great many possible uses for the park. The whole approach to designing the project, including the formation of the re-claimed land and lake has been one of flexibility, so that existing ideas and undoubtedly those which will arise in future years can be put into effect. Details can (and have) changed but the overall aims of the project are the same.

Aims of Project

- (1) To continue the policy of improving the scenery in the heads of the valleys area to make better use of waste land.
- (2) To make more opportunities available for recreation both in the immediate locality, in the heads of the valleys area generally and eventually to make the park attractive to visitors from South Wales and beyond.
- (3) To help provide alternative facilities to those already in existence nearby (for example, the Brecon Beacons National Park) where there is a danger of there being too many visitors. The park would in any case provide a range of activities for the most part different from those to be found in surrounding areas.
- (4) To help provide more jobs locally.

Current position

The land reclamation part of the park's development is now complete. The Welsh Development Agency and the National Coal Board (Open Cast Executive) have been mainly responsible for reclaiming and restoring the grassed areas of derelict land at a cost of about two million pounds so far.

It is now up to the local authorities who are committed to the park project (Gwent County Council, Blaenau Gwent Borough Council and Rhymney Valley District Council) to ensure that the park is managed and developed along the lines set out above. The first priority is to control what is now happily a park. This is being done by the appropriate officers of all the Councils concerned, largely through the full time warden, Mr. Ken Carter.

There is a management committee - The Bryn Bach Park Joint Management Committee - comprising members of Blaenau Gwent Borough, Gwent County and Rhymney Valley District Councils and this committee will continue to steer the project.

One of the first decisions taken by the joint committee was to draw up a management plan for the park and to employ a Park Warden to help manage it during the important early stages. The Countryside Commission has helped with a grant for this purpose.

An important part of the Warden's work has been to maintain contact with local people, clubs and societies, so that the public's ideas can be considered when looking at the future development of the area. Pupils of Dukestown Junior School have already helped in this by taking part in a competition to find a design which can be used as a basis for publicity material for the park.

The Warden's name is Ken Carter and his address is Bryn Bach Park, Park Chambers, Tredegar, Tel. No. Tredegar 3774, Extension 44.

There is also an assistant Part-Time Warden and the Warden's Office and Store has been built at Tafarnaubach, overlooking the park.

The thirty six-acre lake is now complete. The lake has been lined with material to prevent the loss of water and to encourage plant growth. The ground around the edge of the lake has been cut up a great deal by heavy machinery being used by the engineering contractors. Clearly this activity makes the area unsafe for children to play in or near and so access will not be encouraged until all work is finished.

Over the rest of the park area, the Warden, assisted by local unemployed people under the Manpower Services Youth Opportunities programme is establishing a series of walks within the park so that people can at an early stage visit the area.

Much of the experimental work is already under way to improve the drainage of the site and to find out which are the best type of grass and trees for this park and how they are going to be maintained in the future. To help in this, small parts of the park will be fenced off until about 1985 so that there will be no interference from grazing animals or from people who will be allowed onto limited parts of the park during this period. Experiments will also be carried out to measure rainfall, temperature, and the way that water

collects over part of the area. This work will provide useful information to help at decisions about future uses in the park, particularly about water conditions likely to occur in the lake.

Location

Bryn Bach Park lies between Rhymney and Tredegar, two thirds of it in the county of Gwent and one third in Mid-Glamorgan. It is close to the heads of the valleys (A.465) trunk road and the Brecon Beacons National Park. There are over 150,000 people living within ten miles of the park and well over 4,000,000 live within easy travelling distance.

The Site

Over 500 acres are owned or will shortly be owned by the Councils involved.

Much of the site lies on an outcrop of coal measures, which was extensively worked by small mines early in the industrial revolution. Mines were gradually abandoned, leaving behind large derelict areas known as 'patches'. More recently, coal has been removed by the N.C.B. (Open Cast Executive). Coal recovery and subsequent restoration removed some small disused reservoirs and the area covered by the park was otherwise used for the grazing of sheep and ponies.

Proposals

Outline proposals have been prepared for the park by the Joint Management Committee. These are illustrated on the sketch plan.

A wide range of activities will be possible on the lake, including possibly, water ski-ing and power boating, as well as the quieter pastimes such as rowing, sailing, canoeing and fishing.

It is felt that the allocation of space and of particular times to the various activities will prevent a conflict of interests and will also maintain an important safety element. Bryn Bach lake has been designed particularly for recreation. Its water is not used for drinking or any other purpose.

Elsewhere in the park it should be possible to provide facilities for motorsport, golf, riding, camping, an amenity centre and a hotel or motel. Facilities for walkers are already being provided and it is anticipated that picnicing will be encouraged as well. It has been recognised that car parking facilities will also need to be provided in more than one area.

Contact has been made with local interests to discuss the possibilities for go-karting, model aeroplane flying, hang gliding and powered aircraft flying at the park. The joint committee would welcome any suggestions from members of the public either as individuals or as organised groups.

Provisional programme of development

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1982 | Completion of lake construction and planting of lakeside areas. |
| 1981/82 | Provision of first lakeside car park and access to site. |
| 1982 + | Development of lake activities, beginning with the establishment of a fishery and confirmation of lakeside planting. |
| 1982/83 | Provision of water and electricity services. |
| 1983 + | Encouragement of private and club investment where it is guaranteed to the satisfaction of the Joint Management Committee that the public interests are safeguarded. |

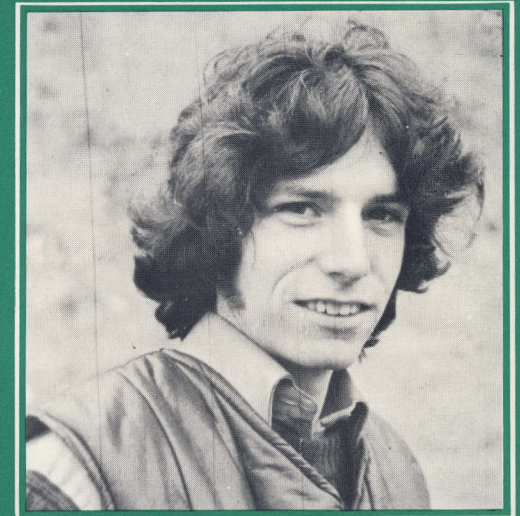
Involvement of private and club interest

Private investment of money and facilities will be encouraged in certain areas of the park as the project develops and always provided that the aims of the project are not affected. Particular projects which will involve investment of private money are starred (*) on the proposals plan.

Contact

If you have any suggestions or ideas about how the park should be developed, please contact Mr. Gordon Probert, County Planning Officer, Gwent County Council, County Hall, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 2XF, or telephone Cwmbran 67711. Extension 691.

Mr. Probert is co-ordinating the project on behalf of the Bryn Bach Park Joint Management Committee.



Bryn Bach Park Warden, Ken Carter.