



Our ref: MA/NB

Ask for: Matthew Aplin

 01656 644218

Date: 7 December 2018

 matthew.aplin
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

David Rowlands AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

By Email Only
seneddpetitions@assembly.wales

Dear David Rowlands AM

Third Party Rights in Planning Appeals

Thank you for your letter of 2 November 2018 regarding third party rights in planning appeals.

As Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, I have two roles. The first is to investigate complaints made by members of the public who believe they have suffered hardship or injustice through maladministration or service failure on the part of a body in my jurisdiction. The second is to consider complaints alleging that members of local authorities have breached their Code of Conduct. I am responding in connection with the first role.

I welcome any initiative to increase the voice/strengthen the rights of members of the public in relation to decisions of public bodies which may impact upon their amenity/way of life. However, although we have received a number of complaints where a complainant has alleged insufficient weight has been given to the representations of third parties, the evidence has not always supported this assertion.

The Committee will no doubt be aware that the matter of third party rights of appeal was considered, and rejected, by the Independent Advisory Group to the Welsh Government in 2012, and did not feature in the subsequent legislation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Bennett', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Nick Bennett
Ombudsman