

## Bryncoch Action Committee

The submissions against the decision by the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to remove the Bryncoch Farm from the green wedge

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## THE BRYNCOCH FARM DEVELOPMENT

### The Foreword

At an open meeting held in the Bryncoch Community Centre on the 31 day of March 2007 the local residents who attended learnt that the Bryncoch Farm had lost its green wedge status and that this would lead to the development of some 200 houses on part of the farm land. There was overwhelming opposition to this decision by those who attended the meeting. It was agreed that a committee be established to coordinate the opposition to the proposals. The committee was open to anyone. At the first meeting the committee resolved that:-

1. The committee would not be a 'closed shop' and any interested party was entitled to attend meetings.
2. The committee would be non-political.
3. Although the committee would attempt to undermine the Inspector's recommendations, we would not be advising the Local Authority where in particular the development should be relocated.

The committee has met regularly and there have also been feedback sessions to the local community. The committee has enjoyed the support of many volunteers. It has been heartened to learn how strongly the community feels about the development and although traffic is the most sensitive issue, people are also interested in landscape, ecology/biodiversity etc. They are passionate about preserving green wedges. The link between Alfred Russel Wallace (one of the greatest of Victorian scientists) and the Bryncoch Farm has captured the imagination of all those who have attended the meetings. Many feel that there can therefore be a positive outcome to the process and that the land could be preserved for the benefit of Bryncoch and the wider community.

The only negative views have been expressed by those who have said that once the Council has made up its mind it will never change it. Nonetheless the cynics have made it clear that they do not want more cars, that we have had enough houses built in Bryncoch in recent years and we need green fields etc. We therefore commend our document to the members and officers and sincerely hope that you will give it your serious consideration.