

# ***PORT EYNON COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

## **Cyngor Cymened Port Eynon**

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### **Summary:**

## **Port Eynon Community Council Statement on the Proposed High Ropes Project**

Port Eynon Community Council has raised serious concerns about the proposed development of the overspill car park to provide an 11-meter high “High Ropes” climbing frame, with the use of Welsh Government Brilliant Basics grant funding for development within the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Community Council notes that community engagement to date has been limited, with presentations not adequately publicised or delivered in dual languages, and that earlier discussions with the Community Council indicated a lack of local support for the proposal. It also highlights the failure of a similar scheme at Stouthall in Knelston which raises questions about the project’s long-term viability and value for public funding.

In the Community Council’s view, the proposal does not meet the key objectives of the Brilliant Basics funding programme. Rather than alleviating visitor pressure, it is likely to increase traffic and congestion in a village already under strain during peak periods, while the loss of overflow parking could place additional pressure on local infrastructure and services.

The Community Council is also concerned about the project’s compatibility with Welsh Government climate and sustainability commitments, noting the potential for increased car journeys, emissions, and ongoing maintenance impacts, without evidence of a published climate or mitigation assessment.

As the site lies within a protected AONB, the Community Council emphasises the need to prioritise the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. It expresses concern about the visual and environmental impact of tall structures and associated infrastructure near sensitive dune habitats, in the absence of publicly available landscape or ecological assessments.

Finally, the Community Council questions the level of inclusivity and community benefit offered by the scheme, suggesting that costs may limit access for local families and that many residents would bear the impacts without clear corresponding benefits. It also calls for greater transparency in how the project was assessed against the Brilliant Basics funding criteria and whether alternative, less harmful uses of funding were fully considered.

The Community Council concludes by urging a review of the project and advocating for investment in sustainable infrastructure, accessibility, environmental protection, and climate resilience projects that more closely reflect the aims of the Brilliant Basics programme and the needs of the Port Eynon community.

Port Eynon Community Council, 23 January 2026

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