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Guard prison plans closely

I agree with
**Councillor Iwan
Thomas' sensible
suggestion**
(**Merald, February
12, 2000**) that a
project board be
set up to put strict
restrictions and
conditions on the
proposed prison
plan for
**Caernarfon and to
monitor the
planning
application
process
vigorously.**

**This is what
democracy is all
about.**

**If the conditions
are not met then
the proposed
development
should be
rejected. A prison
with 1,000
inmates is too
large for the area.
It would not be a
prison for North
Wales. It is
obvious that what
the Prisons
Department
wants is a new
prison to serve
the north-west of
Britain.**

**The politicians
and Gwynedd
Council shouldn't
deceive
themselves and
the electorate
that the Home
Office decision is
the result of their
lobbying. The
decision was
made in London
independent of
their
representations
and according to
the particular
needs of the
Prisons
Department and
not the needs of
the people of
Gwynedd.**

RONALD DAVIES
Caernarfon

Heads in the sand?

The supporters of the Caernarfon prison plan are surely putting their heads in the sand.

The Home Office has all the powers it needs to make sure that the Prisons Department gets its way whatever the people of Caernarfon and Felinheli, let alone the citizens of Gwynedd, may want. Those who support the plan should come out publicly and state the obvious.

If the proposed development is to be subject to certain conditions in order to make it a Welsh prison, built, maintained, serviced and supplied by Welsh companies based in Gwynedd, with Welsh-speaking warders, then what we need immediately is what Councillor Ioan Thomas has called for, namely a project board. Such a board should set out the conditions in preparation for the time when the outline planning permission will be sought. It should also be ready for a struggle. Membership of the board should not be for the gullible and the faint-hearted.

STEPHEN S PARRY
Caernarfon

Prison questions

Having read arguments for and against the proposed prison to be sited outside Caernarfon, I'm baffled as to how our politicians and councillors who are in favour of the development seem so certain that it would be beneficial, especially when so many questions remain unanswered.

Among these issues are the following: How many inmates' families from England and north-east Wales would be relocated to the Caernarfon area under special housing needs regulations? How many prison warders already employed in HMP Walton and other prisons in England would be allocated housing in the Caernarfon area? How many inmates would populate the prison? Would it be a bilingual prison? Would local companies get the contracts for construction and maintenance and the supplying of food and other goods?

Are we being misled by our representatives? I very much hope not. We need to know the truth. Now is the time for our representatives to demand answers to such questions from the Prisons Minister and the Home Office before it's too late.

RAYMOND LEWIS
Rhosbodraol, Caernarfon