

## Campaign for historic listing fails

ATTEMPTS to try to save a Port Talbot Victorian building from the demolition ball have failed.

Last month councillors approved the demolition of Royal Buildings and Customs House in Talbot Road, where [Coastal Housing](#) wants to build 46 flats with shops on the ground floor, despite some concerns about its historical importance.

Historic monuments body Cadw said at the time that, while the building was of architectural and historical importance, it was not considered significant enough to warrant listing.

Further concerns were raised by [Bethan Jenkins](#), AM for South Wales West, and campaigner Ian Shakeshaft, which led to more discussions being held between Coastal Housing and Cadw. But now Cadw has confirmed to Miss Jenkins in a letter dated March 30, that the "building does not satisfy the listing criteria."

Coastal Housing has welcomed the news, but Miss Jenkins said she was "incredibly disappointed."

She added: "We must celebrate our history and seek to maintain buildings of note like the Customs House and the Royal buildings so that generations to come can understand where they came from.

"We have already asked the minister's office what avenues for appeal are open to us."

A Coastal Housing spokesman added: "It was always our intention to preserve key features of architectural interest and we have already photographed and catalogued those features of any merit.

"We will now be working closely with our architects and planners at [Neath Port Talbot Council](#) to see how these features can be incorporated."

A commemorative plaque recognising its importance may also be included.

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