

Kilvey Debate

The “Headroom” Crisis

The council’s own budget papers suggest we’re basically maxing out the city’s credit card for one leisure project. In 2026/27, there’s only £2.757 million of capital “headroom” left for the entire city — the same pot that’s meant to help deal with things like roads, schools, and urgent repairs.

But at the same time, the budget confirms £2.499 million of unsupported borrowing is being used specifically for the Skyline scheme.

So the worry is obvious: we’re using what little financial breathing space we’ve got to help fund a privately run gondola, while we’re facing a deep cost of living crisis and this will only bring part time job what could we use the head room Welsh government money for education new Tec jobs.

Paul Carr

20th February 2026 at 2:08 pm

Swansea council should be ashamed by the staggering amount of money they are wasting by ploughing it into the Skyline project, which will be the biggest white elephant ever.

Better the money was spent addressing the really appalling state of the pothole ridden roads throughout the city!

If the roads are not repaired with urgency no one will ever be able to reach the Skyline anyway!

Helena Rees

22nd February 2026 at 11:06 am

This scheme is a shocking waste of public money, and destruction of quiet open space.

The increased traffic will cause greater hazards, more pollution, increased noise and worse congestion in the area.

The wanton destruction of natural habitat will cause more unstable ground, greater water run off leading to potential damage to private properties, poorer ecosystem. Building works will churn up poisonous industrial waste, safely covered for decades. The works will, and are destroying the work of the community over many years, losing valued natural play space.

The construction itself will cause noise pollution, light pollution, more litter, all negatively impacting the quality of life.

The track record of Skyline is poor. Previous projects have caused environmental and property damage.

The project is in direct opposition to Swansea Council’s own purported plans (“environmental plan for green spaces” .)

~ Biodiversity Enhancement & Protection: Key actions include retaining veteran trees and hedgerows, creating,wildlife-friendly spaces, and using,site specific,native,plant,species,to,support,pollinators.™

Nature Recovery Action Plan: Developed with the Swansea Nature Partnership, this plan seeks to reverse the decline of nature, enhance biodiversity, and promote “gardening for wildlife” by using native species, wildflower meadows, and creating,woodpiles/ponds.™

This project will REDUCE green space, ACCELERATE the decline of nature.

It is a novelty which will require constant maintenance, and have a short usage life before potential users bore of it. When the company are forced to pull out due to poor sales, the site will be left to decay, and it will take decades until the scar is covered and reclaimed by nature once more. The Council and Skyline will have destroyed a valuable local resource used by many for many years, for a few years of damaging use.

<https://senedd.wales/media/ts0f1ekc/cr-ld16916-e.pdf>

State of Nature Report 2023

Our most recent report detailing the State of Nature in Wales has shown that one in six of our species is at risk of extinction. As a result, Wales is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. Some of the wildlife that has suffered the biggest population losses are the insects, flora and mammals that people may be less familiar with. Well-known species like the Atlantic Salmon and Curlew have also suffered critical declines in Wales. There has also been an increase in population and as highlighted in the report, action for nature can make a real difference.

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/wales/tackling-nature-crisis-wales>

Elizabeth Johns

22nd February 2026 at 5:02 pm

apart from the loss of wildlife, I have a really personal reason to be so very concerned by this terrible destruction and de-stabilisation of Kilvey Hill Lets Have a Think about it/Green Fingers Gardening Swansea Bay. My father worked for years with basic slag(as was disposed of on Kilvey. It was used to make fertiliser on the Margam site. Inhaling it in an accident, caused him a very long + painful death having to use oxygen just to survive. When our GP came on his passing in bed, he asked had he ever been a miner, and explained the slag had formed a hard ball at the base of each lung. dying from pneumoconiosis. Our council + Skyline know of this toxic waste on the hill, yet are ignoring the possible outcomes, just like that in New Zealand.

The Green Man of Kilvey

He was carved when the hill was thick
with trees,

when Kilvey wore green from foot to
crown

and the east side looked up to it.

Seen from Mumbles in the west.

Seen from the long drive back down the
M4 in the east.

The mast on its summit

a hard line against the sky:

you're home.

We grew up there.

Skipped school on its slopes.

First kisses in the shelter of pine.

Sunrise over the docks.

Sunset melting across the bay.

Fox slipping through dusk.

Rabbit breaking from cover.

Bees working the gorse.

Dogs pulling ahead along narrow paths.

He stood through it all.

Quiet.

Watching.

Weather darkening the grain of his face.

He stood when the Tawe ran wilder.

He stood through sirens and falling fire
when the Blitz found Swansea in the
dark.

Now he stands in the open.

Trees gone.

Ground torn and strewn.

No birds arguing in the morning.

No wind moving through branches.

He mourns.

For burrows crushed flat.

For nests taken with the trees that held
them.

For the low hum of summer

that will never return.

He mourns for us

for the children we were on that slope,

for the paths worn by generations of
feet,

for the thought that we could return
there.

Our lovely, ugly town.

So quick to lose what little beauty it
keeps.

So ready to trade quiet for noise,
roots for spectacle.

The centre empties.

Shops shutter.

Windows darken.

And still the hill stood.

Until it didn't.

The Green Man does not turn away.

He does not bless what's coming.

He stands in the raw earth

and grieves for a woodland that cannot
speak,

for a community that was not heard,

for a piece of the Eastside

left behind in hiraeth.

Stand before him now.

No shade.

No shelter.

No forgetting.

Just the hill, opened,

and the silence

where leaves once held the wind.

Gone.