

## **County Councillor Report for December 2013 and January 2014**

**Radyr and District Good Neighbours**; I regret that there will be no reprieve and this fantastic charity will cease activities in March 2014. While seeking support we had conversations with the Health Minister, Commissioner for Older People and Age Connect who run 5 similar schemes in other areas of Cardiff. It was clear that our organization offers a wider range of services and is the most efficient such provider in Cardiff and it is obvious that much of the needs it served will now fall upon statutory bodies. The Committee and volunteers deserve grateful thanks for wonderful work done over more than 20 years but now ended in a piece of short-sighted vandalism.

**Western Power Distribution**: I have advised WPD of some areas which require restoration after the recent work and they promise that this will be done when the weather is more amenable.

**Yellow lines around War Memorial**: following consultation, officers have decided to go ahead with this scheme.

**Network Rail**: work on the track was very noisy and disruptive to nearby residents; I complained to Network Rail and asked the Council noise abatement team to monitor this nuisance.

**Radyr Weir**: this scheme to generate hydro electricity has now gone out to tender and work is likely to start in late summer

Leaves on pavements: these were a considerable problem in December and it took several prods to get any sweeping done

**Xmas Tree Lighting**; this was a great success and attracted even more residents than last year. Our thanks are due to all organisers and helpers and to our choirs of local primary children.

**Old Church Rooms**: after 25 years, the Community Council is making the final mortgage payment and legal formalities are well advanced to make this building a totally owned community asset. It was a farsighted commitment all those years ago and the triumphant success is due to those who made this early decision and to the volunteers who have maintained and run it ever since.

**Sidings Issues**: apart from the saga over the unsightly plot which is now in the hands of the County Solicitor, there are several other issues with Taylor Wimpey which are causing concern to local residents. A main issue is the poor state of the play area which is a bog rather than the local asset we envisaged. I have raised all of these issues with T-W but, perhaps as a consequence of the wrangle over “the Plot” a company, which was never very cooperative but started to improve, has reverted to previous standard.

**Cardiff Council Budget and its local impact**: we have already seen changes to refuse collection frequency, loss of our street sweeper and withdrawal of grant to Good Neighbours

but as we start to assess the outcome of these changes we should consider that the ruling party in Cardiff Council is seeking to cut expenditure by £50 million; this is some 35% of the take from Council Tax and is about 18% of the expenditure which the executive can legally pare. In repeated debates the executive has made clear its opposition to using modern business methods to run services more effectively and the only alternative will be a “slash and burn” approach to the provision of services. The details will emerge soon and I will summarise them in next month’s newsletter.

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