

County Councillor Report for May 2014

Bus Service: I have raised the reduced bus service at Council and at Environment Scrutiny; I stated that this cut will save little or no money but will create hardship; other Councillors in north Cardiff agreed with my concerns. It was agreed that Ramesh Patel, Cabinet Member for transport, be asked to write to Welsh Government and Cardiff Bus to point this out. It was also agreed to ask Cardiff Bus Commercial Director to appear before committee to explain rationale of each imposed cut. I have asked that the redundant bus shelter at Ynys Bridge be moved to Lougher Estate and I have obtained agreement to my suggestion of an additional bus stop on Bryn Derwen. I point out that the new 66 service operates in the morning and does give a service to Morganstown; it also gives connection to Canton.

Nat West: I raised closure with UK Chief Executive of Nat West and received an explanation but no change of policy. With other local representatives I met Rhian Head, Local Director, and Mark Douglas, Regional Director for Wales, on Tuesday 20th May. We pointed out that the closure is contrary to assurances given two years ago and that it is premature given the current lack of alternative facilities for paying-in. We did get some concessions but on the substantive point of closure they were immovable.

Post Office: I have sent a detailed letter in reply to consultation document about proposed changes which seem perverse as they give a worse service without making any obvious financial saving.

Road Repairs: I have asked for an immediate assessment of repair to Craig Hir which is of poor quality and this is being done. The damaged areas on Llantrisant Road have been repaired and the area near Ynys Bridge is about to be done. I have reported many pot holes and these have been repaired

Pavement of Heol Isaf: last year I arranged a site visit with a highways engineer so that he could hear the concerns of Cheshire Home residents about the risk of being diverted in a wheel chair onto Heol Isaf. Martin, a resident, pointed out the numerous hazards and the current repair is intended to address the worst of these.

Local Development Plan: later this month we shall see the final draft of the plan before it is presented to Cardiff Council on 26th June for approval. Unless the final draft provides for extended phasing of local building works, I believe that I and your other local representatives will be arguing that the plan is unsound on account of failing to address the acknowledged problems of roads and transport systems being grossly overloaded. Accompanied by members of the North West Cardiff Group I met the responsible cabinet member and senior council officers to explain our concerns; subsequently I expressed these to the Leader of Cardiff Council at a private meeting.

Speed disclosing sign near Maes yr Awel: I have asked that this be repaired.

Household Waste Reclamation Centre: I pointed out the nonsense of closing Waungron Road, the best used HWRC and the one best placed to serve the north west of our city and an area which has a high level of recycling; this folly is compounded by closing it before

opening a new facility at Wedal Road and before the Wedal Road site has obtained planning permission- local residents are opposing strongly this plan.. None of our HWRCs was operating properly due to poor working practices and appalling management; the users of the site were not properly directed as to the proper bins to use and, consequently, a contractor was employed at outrageous cost to post sort the intake- a necessary process to meet the Welsh Government imposed recycling target. Frankly, my suggestion was to keep the site open and discipline the management and staff but this was not accepted

Cold Calling zones; It is possible to prevent cold callers from visiting a given area but not to prevent cold calling by telephone. Please contact me if you are interested

Radyr and Morganstown Festival : at the conclusion of another festival I would like to thank the principal organisers and all helpers for a huge array of events which gave us great pleasure as well as raising a substantial sum for the designated charity, LATCH.

HMS Dragon: I attended the Freedom of City ceremony and also enjoyed a tour of the ship which uses wonderful technology to operate in such diverse ways as shooting down offensive guided missiles attacking a convoy and protecting against pirate attack

Neighbourhood Management: I am appointed as chairman of this committee which seeks to harness various support organisations and make them coordinate their efforts to alleviate concerns *of the residents of North West Cardiff*.

Education; during the last month I have been part of a selection panel seeking to bring much needed senior resources to advance the improvement of our school system.

Rod McKerlich

19th May 2014