

## **County Councillor Report for November 2015**

**Local Development Plan**; we await the outcome of the Inspectors' deliberations balancing satisfaction that the local case was effectively presented against the suspicion that few of our concerns will be adequately addressed. The issue of Green Belt being replaced by Green Wedge has taken a positive turn; a colleague and I moved a motion at Council supporting the retention of the green belt; this was amended slightly by the ruling group and we accepted the amended motion which was then passed with all party support and no dissenting voice.

**Planning application**: If any local resident wants to express opposition to any specific aspect of the submitted major plan I would like to hear from them. I intend speaking when this comes to Planning Committee and do not want to omit any valid concerns.

**Refuse Issues**: As usual, leaf fall leading to slippery footpaths is a current concern about which I am in regular dialogue with waste management team. Issues with black bins are abating aside from irritation with reduced capacity and with lighter bins being more vulnerable to strong winds

**Rogue motor cyclists**: Four more bikes have been confiscated while one offender has been imprisoned and another banned from driving.

**Speed disclosing sign**: I have asked that the device on the bend at Pugh's be moved to a spot on Heol Isaf on the approach to Min y Coed from the north where it will be much more useful.

**Radyr Weir**: details of this project are on the home page of the local web site. Neighbouring residents will be advised soon of a plan to work at nights doing preparatory work for concrete pouring. This work is not expected to be noisy and will be ended well before the end of November

**Radyr Station Access**; completion of the footbridge and lifts is delayed and is now projected for end February 2016. While the delay is disappointing the end result will be a station more useable by our community. There have been no developments in respect of possible new car park.

**Drains and flooding**; recent heavy rain has given a reminder of the risk of flooding and one elderly resident had a narrow escape; the rainwater was unable to access two drains which were blocked with leaves and other debris. If you see blocked drains please report them to C2C or me

**"Hostel" in Radyr Gardens**: this is no closer to a satisfactory resolution and our attempts to progress are hindered by the fact that no preliminary permission was required and, therefore, there is no regulating authority to which this may be referred

**Remembrance Day**: The usual parade took place with ever larger numbers of the younger residents participating. It was a great credit to our community and the organisers are to be commended, not least for avoiding the rain which fell on either side of the event.

**Cardiff Council matters:** in my capacity as chair of the Economy and Culture Committee, I am chairing task and finish enquiries into the new bus station, our city's maritime heritage and business rates; I am also part of a team examining how the community infrastructure levy will be applied to obtain from planned developments the cash to fund necessary infrastructure. While each of these is important, I am particularly concerned that Cardiff Council is short changed in respect of business rates as Cardiff loses nearly half of the rates collected by it (nearly 80 million pounds). No other town or city in the UK is milked to anything like this extent and further, Cardiff is given no financial adjustment for the costs of being a capital city as well as being the economic driver for the wider city region, At a time, when we approach the Council budget for 2016-7 with the looming possibility of cuts in prized services, it is vital that we negotiate more equitable treatment

**Single occupancy rebate of Council Tax;** a single occupant of a house may claim a reduction in Council Tax and to avoid retrospective large bills it is important that the Council is informed when single occupancy ends e.g. if a student graduates and returns to the family home

**County Councillor Rod McKerlich,** 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

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