

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 25th September 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: David Silver [Chairman], Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), Eric Blackwell, David Cargill, Allan Cook, Roy Godier, Karen Wright, Cllr Rod McKerlich & 13 members.

Apologies: Tom Evans [Vice Chairman], Raymond Rivron, Cllrs Ralph Vaughan and David Suthers, Emma Clegg, Julie Davies, Douglas Hogg, Judith Marsh, Anne-Marie Phillips.

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ian Thomas - Age Cymru: creating an age friendly Wales

The Chairman introduced Ian Thomas. He has been Age Cymru's Chief Executive since December 2013 and has worked for two housing associations in community care based roles. In 2005 he was appointed as the Alzheimer's Society first Welsh Director, and in 2009 became the Society's Director of Operations (UK). Prior to taking up the post of CEO for Age Cymru, Ian was Director for Scope Cymru. He has also been an Associate Lecturer in Social Science for the Open University for 25 years. He is an advisory board member for Health Inspectorate Wales, and sits on the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group. Ian's specialist interests include housing with care and support, person centred approaches in care, demographic care planning and working within a civil society framework. Ian has a deep rooted passion for making Wales a better place to live and he is driving forward the Age Cymru vision of creating an 'age friendly Wales'. He also happens to live in Radyr.

Ian started his talk by quoting Lloyd George; "A society is judged by the way it looks after its elderly people". What does that mean? It means giving them respect, dignity and looking after people correctly.

Age Cymru was formed in 2009 by the merger of *Age Concern* (which mainly supported local communities) and *Help the Aged* (which had a national dimension). He noted specifically that Age Cymru is a National Charity specifically for Wales, not a 'UK national charity'. It works closely with Age Scotland, Age Northern Ireland, etc. The original organisations were founded in 1947, meaning this is the 70th birthday of the movement.

He highlighted the work done by Age Cymru. The most common help provided is financial - notably trying to minimize the impact of scams and swindles - but they also try to minimize the impact of loneliness and isolation. A 'Handy Van' service (trusted people fixing those little things in the home) is also provided in certain areas. All services are well documented in numerous publications - the elderly are not the easiest of people to connect with via social media.

What is 'age friendly'? He listed eight things that would make Wales Age Friendly, including equality, keeping people informed and included, good social and health care, making sure finance is not a problem, involvement with a local community and access to public transport. He noted, though, that the general quality of social care in Wales is not good. Communication is key; as noted before, older people prefer written media. Age Cymru also emphasizes the need not just to look after people now but look to their future.

Age Cymru's current priorities are tackling age discrimination, scams & swindles, improving health, wellbeing and care services, tackling poverty and increasing incomes and supporting age-friendly local communities and reducing isolation. They have set up success indicators to track progress and he noted that one specific target was to try to help elderly people get out of hospital quickly. Success, of course, is dependent on getting things done; influencing people. Age Cymru is well respected by Welsh AMs, who recognise and support its work.

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Ian concluded his talk by giving more detail of the scams & swindles campaign. The campaign is titled WASP (Wales Against Scams Partnership) and is supported by an increasing number of major businesses including banks, energy companies, police, etc. He gave an example of gas company representatives who are now trained to look for problems when entering a property (e.g. to read a meter) and alert the authorities if necessary. The campaign is being rolled out in 2017 based, of course, on a publication - which is currently out of print because there has been so much demand! It is being reprinted.

Ian answered a number of questions. These included the possibility that wealthier areas (like R&M) might actually be neglected because 'the authorities' perceived them as being less needful. His response was that money was always going to be tight and problems needed to be properly quantified before they can be tackled. He did accept that, in some cases, elderly people can be asset rich and cash poor, and not able to maintain or heat their homes. Such people do need to be identified and helped. He was also a bit concerned that funding was increasingly being directed towards the provision of services as opposed to the provision of a support infrastructure - authorities have a tendency to fight the fire as opposed to prevent the fire in the first place. Mention was also made of the need to provide more suitable social housing and have schemes to assist the elderly moving out of larger homes and into sheltered accommodation.

At the close of the talk, the Chairman thanked Ian for giving such an interesting and relevant presentation, given the number of elderly people in R&M and the Association's current nominated charity, Alzheimer's Cymru. He presented him with a token of the Association's appreciation.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 19th June 2017

The minutes were approved. It was noted under 'matters arising' that Kevin Brennan, our local MP, had graciously accepted the position of the Association's President in succession to the late Rhodri Morgan.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Festival finances had now been concluded and he was delighted to say that the Association had been able to present the nominated Charity, St John Cymru, with a cheque for £10,500, representing the monies raised by the R&M Community over the year.

The Association's Accounts stood at: C/Ac £4,305; COIF, £3,792; Reserve, £1; Total, £ 8,098. There were no questions.

Entertainment

Eric Blackwell provided details of the films that would be shown by the Film Club in the autumn season, starting with '*Their Finest Hour*' on 28th September.

Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, 8th December

The Secretary reported that plans were now well advanced for this event, which is jointly run by the Association and the Community Council. There would be a slight change in the arrangements for singing of carols at the three main trees but other matters would remain broadly the same. There was still an opportunity for new stallholders to express an interest but there were few spaces left. Everyone would be given full details of the arrangements nearer the time.

First thoughts on the May Festival 2018

The Chairman, who has now taken over leadership of the Festival Committee, reported that the framework was now largely in place. The theme would be 'Memories'. This linked well with the nominated Charity, Alzheimer's Cymru, and gave plenty of scope for imagination in the Festival Parade etc. The normal events were being arranged. The Wales International Academy of Voice would be performing in a lunchtime concert as usual, but in the first week this time; a harpist would be performing in the second week. The Concert in the Parc would be in the middle weekend

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because the final weekend coincided with the French Twinning visit. The Twinning Fellowship is arranging a Barn dance at the Comprehensive School on the final Saturday evening for their French visitors and would like to open it to the members of the R & M community as part of the Festival.

General R&M Matters

The following items were mentioned:

- **Alzheimer's Cymru.** An R&M Alzheimer's Group is being formed under the chairmanship of Mark Richards. They will be holding a meeting in the Library starting at 10:00am on Saturday, 7th October.
- **PACT Meetings.** Cllr McKerlich mentioned that the next PACT meeting would be held the next day, 26th September. There were a number of known issues in the community, notably speeding along Heol Isaf, overweight vehicles using Heol Isaf, and cannabis smoking. He encouraged people to come to this, and subsequent, PACT meetings, to raise their concerns.
- **Plasdwr.** Cllr McKerlich also mentioned that Redrow would be holding a 'drop-in session' at the New Schoolrooms on Thursday, 28th September. He briefed the meeting on a number of related issues, including:
 - Concerns were still being raised on the traffic implications of Plasdwr. Traffic lights would be installed at the end of Heol Isaf and also the entrance to Clos Parc Radur. Whilst this will stop the current blockage on the roundabouts, the phasing of the lights would be designed to prevent overloading the road in Llandaff; traffic will effectively be queued up the Llantrisant Road.
 - He confirmed that section of Plasdwr to the north of the Llantrisant Road would be brought into the current R&M constituency boundary - both for him and the Community Council. That would give him a very large constituency but there were no proposals as yet to bring in a second Councillor.
 - He wondered whether the R&M section of Plasdwr would continue to be regarded as such, sitting as it does next to Parc Radur. The houses were about to be occupied and the expectation will undoubtedly be that they will be in the catchment area for R&M schools. However, the Primary Schools have very few spaces and it is quite likely that new residents will find their children being educated in the new Primary School being built elsewhere in Plasdwr, effectively in Fairwater. This question of identity will be important as we bring the new residents into the wider R&M Community.
- **Station Road.** The Secretary mentioned that the issue of Station Road parking had been mentioned in the recent Newsletter. He asked whether members wanted something to be done. In discussion it was noted that the new Station Car Park was about 80% full but parking, notably along the bottom end of King's Road, was still full. This was not thought to be a problem as it forced drivers to slow down. There was also currently no evidence that additional cars were being attracted into Radyr at peak times. Overall, it was felt best to leave things as they are for the time being.

Any Other Business

Nothing raised.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 20th November 2017 commencing at 19.30 in the OCR. The speaker will be Chris Dale.