

A New Library for Radyr and Morganstown!

We have a marvellous opportunity for a purpose-built 21st century library for Radyr & Morganstown. The project is being led by Cllr Rod McKerlich with the support of the Community Council (R&MCC) and Radyr & Morganstown Association (RMA).

The purpose of this article is to give you as much information as we have and ask you to let us know where you would prefer the new library to be. There are two possible sites and both have pros and cons which we set out below. The choice is between the existing site in Park Road, Radyr and a new site on the designated 'Community Plot' on De Clare Drive, Radyr Sidings.

Cardiff Council has £600,000 in its capital budget for a new library and there is another £400,000 in community gain money from the developer of the Sidings. This should cover almost the whole cost. The community gain (or S106) money must be spent by October 2012 which means that any decision should be made quickly so that we do not lose the £400,000.

A little background on the Radyr Sidings site: when planning consent was given for the housing development at Radyr Sidings, a plot of land was set aside for either a health centre or library and cannot legally be used for anything else. With a new health centre open, we know that this land can only be used for a library. If not, it will revert to the developer and be used for housing. With some 530 households at Radyr Sidings this new part of our community makes up 1 in 6 of all households in R&M.

Below are the pros and cons for both sites:

Existing : Park Road, Radyr

Pros

- The library has been on this site for some 30 years and is well-established in the centre of the community
- Convenient for use by Radyr Primary School opposite
- On a bus route
- Cardiff Council has a costed plan for a building a little over half as big again as the existing library
- Village Plan Questionnaire : most respondents wanted the library to stay at Park Road

Cons

- During construction of a new library there will be no library service for 15 months at least
- During construction traffic congestion in Park Road will be severe
- No new parking will be provided with the new building

- Planning objections may be raised by neighbours, which could delay construction
- The existing site constrains the new building because of its limited size and shared ownership with the NHS who own the old health centre
- Does not spread R&M's facilities into a major new part of our community at the Sidings.
- The community plot at the Sidings will be lost to the community and returned to the developer for more housing.

Community plot at De Clare Drive, Radyr Sidings

Pros

- Clean clear site for faster construction
- Bigger site than at Park Road with opportunities for a larger library with more community facilities : approximately two to three times the size of the old library
- Parking spaces will be included
- A new facility in a new part of the community will help to integrate the whole of R&M
- No loss of library service during construction
- Convenient for Radyr Comprehensive School
- Cardiff Council will still own the Park Road site which might have a new use or be sold
- Village Plan Questionnaire : most respondents wanted a new community space which this larger building could provide

Cons

- No costed plans to date
- Currently, no bus service planned
- Not central to the whole community and far to walk for some residents

If you would like to express your preference for either of these sites, please complete the reply with this article and return it to the Old Church Rooms or email to the address provided.

The Community Council and the RMA have discussed these alternate sites and feel that the better site is at the Sidings. It is important to spread our community facilities throughout R&M and this is a chance to do that. R&M has grown and changed dramatically in the last ten years and both the RMA and R&MCC strongly encourage the integration of the new areas with the long-standing ones. As a community we have outgrown Park Road library and a much larger library would be used by the widest range of community members and could provide meeting rooms and exhibition space for everyone to use. The community plot

at the Sidings will become housing if the new library is built on Park Road and the RMA and Community Council feel that this would be a serious loss to the community as a whole and the people who live at the Sidings in particular.

We have an exciting opportunity for a 21st century library and community space and we look forward to the official opening as soon as we can make it happen.

Please let us know what you think by May 1 either by completing the reply slip with the Chain or by email :

clerk@radyr.org.uk or secretary@rma.radyr.org.uk

Radyr & Morganstown Community Council

Radyr & Morganstown Association