

Monthly newsletter for February 2011

I set out some of the issues with which I have been concerned in the last month and I will continue to make this posting on a regular basis if it is helpful. I welcome feedback on the newsletter or requests for further information on any topic whether included below or not.

- **Floodlit All-Weather Sports Pitch:** for trial of one year we have permission to use it between 9am and 9pm from Monday to Saturday and from 10am to 6pm on Sundays. Fresh approval will be required after a year. Radyr Comp governing body is setting up a committee to settle issues around community use, cost of maintenance, supervision, management of bookings and charging regime. The funds are agreed and tenders will be issued soon; with reasonable weather it is on track to be available in September 2011.
- **Library:** The cost of demolishing and rebuilding Radyr Library was estimated at in excess of Â£1million and this was funded to a significant extent by a sum of Â£658K in the capital provisions set out in Cardiff Council budget in February 2010. This has been a long running process started in 2003; I became your County Councillor in May 2008 and set out to breathe fresh life into a stalled project. Having agreed a location and a provisional project and received a costing, I was content with the capital sum provided in the capital budget. Cardiff Council is ruled by a coalition of Liberal Democrats and Plaid and I am in opposition; I am not responsible for decisions they take and I oppose them when I do not agree. The 2 relevant executive members decided that, in the February 2011 budget, the capital sum for Radyr Library would be withdrawn; I do not agree with this decision and I have been involved in lengthy correspondence and meetings with these executive members and the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. At this stage, I am demanding the reinstatement of the original plan and the cash to fund it but i can not rule out being obliged to compromise and settle for a major refurbishment and possible extension. I am pressing our case with vigour and I am encouraged in so doing by the support of the various community representatives whom I have consulted.

I will make a full statement when discussions have reached a conclusion and that may not be for some time; it may involve a new design with a costing followed by a further round of discussion.

I am in no doubt that this is only a partial answer but I would be guessing if I attempted to make a stronger statement in the middle of very complex negotiations with a number of possible outcomes.

- **Potholes;** the gangs working in the area did a good job of repairs and some areas of repair have been put in the programme for further work; I sat on a task and finish scrutiny with two other councillors and our report has lead to greater funds being allocated to road maintenance.
- **Grit Bins:** I submitted a list for new bins based on comments made direct to me, personal observation and consultation with the community via the website. I will advise the result of this request when I know.
- **Refuse bins:** I met in Radyr with the officer responsible for lamppost bins and we agreed a number of new locations for bins and these have been installed. I met a different officer responsible for parks and he agreed to install much needed bins on the local stretch of the Taff Trail

- **Dog fouling**: this is a widespread problem but particularly so near and on both sides of the motorway bridge near the guide hut. I had this area cleared and have asked the dog warden team to make regular visits. I have asked for feedback on other bad areas and will have the patrolled. The new refuse bins placed in the area may assist
- **Snow problems**: I sent out my analysis of the problem and repeated this in Council when censuring the ruling coalition for its handling of the issue which affected many parts of Cardiff not just us. An action plan has been produced following an independent report and it addresses many of the points I made. It is intended that identified key routes will be cleared within an agreed time frame. We should be addressing whether and how this community can self help to give enhanced clearance.
- **Speed sign**; residents have expressed views and we now have to select a position in sunlight from the candidates proposed.
- **Parc Radur**: local residents have been consulted by R+MA about the area of hard standing and if there are no material concerns I will authorise the project to be funded from S106 funds
- **S106 funds**: given cost and timing issues with putting changing accommodation near the all weather pitch , there is a significant sum to be spent reasonably soon. I have some proposals in hand but am open to suggestions for a qualifying project.
- **Radyr Comp**: some pupils were creating a minor nuisance at lunchtime in the Parc Radur play area. I spoke to the Head and the school will attend the area regularly in the next few weeks
- **Park Road Closure**: subject to some minor legal formalities the bottom part may be closed for the festival fete as requested
- **Min y Coed**: Kieran Webster has volunteered to organise a petition pressing for improved safety on Heol Isaf in the area between Morganstown and Park Road
- **School bus**; A resident asked why there is no school bus from Radyr Gardens to Radyr Comp; I researched the matter and gave the (disappointing) reply.
- **Welsh Medium School**: the catchment area for Gwaelod School includes Taffs Well but not Radyr and Morganstown; there must be a historical reason for this which I have requested but I will try to unpick it.
- **Unadopted Roads**; As previously advised there are a large number of roads in R+M which are unadopted and this creates problems with refuse bins, street lights, gritting, maintenance of roads and sewers etc; I sat on a task and finish group which dealt with this problem among others. Our recommendations have all been accepted and this will lead to early progress in having this resolved.

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19th February 2011