

## Monthly Newsletter for March 2011

- **Radyr Library**: I have had a series of meetings with members of the Council Executive and senior officers and, as yet, I have not succeeded in persuading them to reinstate the capital sum of £658K which would permit a brand new library to be built on the current site at Park Road. The Community Council has made a separate attempt to achieve this aim. If neither of us succeeds, we need to ensure that the promised refurbishment and extension is both handsome and also adequate to meet the demands of our growing community. It is not a reason for settling for a refurb but the period of closure would be markedly less.
- **“Community Plot”**: As previously explained this plot is only available, under the legal agreement, to the community for the purpose of building a library or health centre. It might have been possible in 2005 to persuade Taylor Wimpey (TW) to agree a change to this prescriptive wording and, in 2005, it was evident that neither of these would be built on that land. All attempts in 2008, to persuade TW to do this, were met with total refusal; I strongly deprecate the attitude of TW because, in my view, they have built and sold the houses upon which the deal was predicated but TW is acting within the strict wording of the agreement. If the library is to be refurbished, it is probable that TW will only consent to this with the pre-condition that the “community land” is relinquished
- **Snow problems**: I have requested a large number of grit bins as have many other Councillors and our requests are being pondered. The Council commissioned a snow report and I moved a censure motion on the performance during recent snowfall. An action plan has been agreed and will be implemented but this will only ensure that agreed main roads are cleared within an agreed time span. I would be interested to hear if members of our community believe that we, as a community, should agree our own plan to augment this basic clearance operation.
- **Welsh medium education**: the inclusion of Taffs Well in the catchment area for Gwaelod School is a longstanding agreement with Rhondda C-T which would be very difficult to unpick.
- **Taff Tidy**: a group of volunteers (including the R+MCC clerk and myself) tidied a section of the River Taff between Radyr Station and Radyr Weir. Further similar projects are planned.
- **Scramble Bikes**: these are a local nuisance as well as being a Cardiff-wide problem; recent damage was done to the cricket pitch. Police and council officers are out to catch offenders who will find that their bikes are confiscated.
- **Radyr Weir**: in a return to its industrial past, the weir will be used to generate electricity for sale to the national grid at a price which gives a good payback for the project. This project should be made a feature of the Taff Trail with good explanatory signage and a picnic area.
- **Motte and Bailey**: plans are afoot to enhance this area and they will be driven, in the main, by council officers and R+M History Society
- **Footpaths between Radyr Sidings and Hailey Park**: this is an ambitious project to create pedestrian/cyclist access from Sidings to Llandaff and it will also create a pleasant circular walk linking with the Taff Trail near Hailey Park. A key part of the scheme is to renovate the derelict railway bridge over

the River Taff to make it usable by pedestrians and cyclists. This is expensive (about £250 K) and above the allocated funding but I am exploring other ways of covering the cost; the next part of the project will be to continue clearing and resurfacing footpaths. I would be pleased to receive comments on this plan.

- **Rubbish Bins**: in addition to those installed in the local streets, some have now been installed on Taff Trail; I hope this will lessen the problem of dog fouling.
- Sports Pitch at Radyr Comp: This is now proceeding and I will advise shortly the proposed management and charging regime
- **Local Development Plan (LDP)**: candidate sites have now been proposed by developers and, in early May, comments on the suitability of these sites may be submitted. There are a few sites in and around R+M but the main concern will be the Waterhall site which has been submitted on behalf of Plymouth Estate. If accepted in full, this would infill all land between Radyr and Llantrisant Road and on the other side of Llantrisant road it would extend to St Fagans and Fairwater. In excess of 4000 houses could be built with serious impact on local infrastructure. Again, your comments are helpful in constructing my opposition to this development. In this regard, our problem is not Cardiff Council but the Welsh Assembly whose officers appear to believe that only Cardiff should carry the responsibility for development of this region of Wales. They forecast that the population of Cardiff will grow by 42% between 2008 and 2033 while surrounding local authorities will have growth ranging from -2% to 5% in the same period. This projection will have obvious, serious consequences for Greenfield land in Cardiff.
- **New PCSO**: Jessica Southam has taken over this area
- **Speed sign**: I await views on the optimum site for the malfunctioning sign by Cheshire Home. The target should be to put it in sunlight where it best reduces traffic speed.
- **Bus Service to Radyr**: I have proposed some enhancements of the service to increase frequency of service and reduce journey time.

Cllr. Rod McKerlich

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011

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