

Monthly Report for August 2012

Local Development Plan: as reported the draft strategy will result in over 10 000 new houses being permitted in North West Cardiff. It is impossible to prevent this other than by reasoned argument. My concerns, which I am raising as a member of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, are that the plan is not clear on how necessary infrastructure will be funded, that the generous provision of greenfield land will allow developers to cherry-pick but will not necessarily create new houses at the projected enormous rate and that the projections on demand for housing are based on contentious population predictions. I repeat that I am willing to call a public meeting to brief local residents on the proposals

Railway Bridge Project: the first stage of this project is on track to start soon with the total refurbishment of this lovely bridge to create a new pedestrian and cycle crossing over the Taff

Rivers Group: I went out with this group of volunteers on a recent task to tidy up our stretch of the River Taff; on one morning we gathered 20 bags of small rubbish and plastic, 11 vehicle tyres, bikes, gas bottles, traffic cones and 20 kgs of scrap metal. I am hoping that they will expand their activities to deal with invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed which is growing apace on the Taff Trail. New volunteers will be made very welcome.

“Community Plot”: there is local concern that this will be used to construct 9 additional homes despite the existing congested roads. I regret to advise that I opposed unsuccessfully this new plan and did so without any other local support which was a factor in planning permission being granted

Daffodil Planting: I am looking for volunteer groups to plant on local open spaces a free supply of bags of 500 daffodils due to flower before St David’s Day; they are tall, scented, yellow large cupped Narcissus type daffodils. Please contact me if interested in beautifying our villages in this way.

Highway schemes: I have submitted a number of schemes to make our local roads safer but, mainly due to a lack of funding, little progress has been made. I have asked for a senior officer to make a site visit to discuss my various proposals.

Village Centre: there are many suggestions on how this might be improved but there are conflicting interests and little consensus on the optimum solution. To make progress we need to gain consensus and locate funding in which context I point out the preceding topic in this report.

Radyr Station: shortly after being elected in 2008 I had a number of meetings with Network Rail and Arriva to create disabled access to Radyr Station and to deal with the parking problems created by the station. I am delighted that by next year there will be disabled access but the parking issue is on-going. It would be possible to create more parking spaces but this would entail purchasing land to build an additional 2 storey parking lot, installing machinery to collect payment and employing staff to monitor this; it is likely that daily parking fee for existing and new parking spaces would be in the range £3-£5. It might be that this would not

help congestion in surrounding streets. Another approach would be to increase the rail fare between Radyr and Cardiff to the same level as Taffs Well but I was reluctant to push that point.

Dog Poo Bags: these are available free in Radyr Library and dog owners should be encouraged to use them to dispose safely of dog waste. On the other hand, new enforcement procedures are being used to catch offenders who allow dogs to foul local streets and footpaths.

Refuse collection: Our local residents are among the best users of this service but there have been some enforcement visits to educate offenders about fly tipping and incorrect presentation of refuse.

Home Insulation: many local homes would qualify for free installation of a high standard of home insulation and I can provide a contact number for a free assessment of your property

Various local issues: Drains blocked by silt and outbreaks of ragwort have overtaken potholes, fly-tipping and overhanging hedges in the last month but all continue to be reported to me and dealt with by Cardiff Council (in the case of potholes not always as quickly as residents would wish)

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