

County Councillor Report for November 2013

Local Development Plan: the response made jointly by Community Council, me and Community Association will be submitted soon to meet the stipulated timetable; the text may be accessed via the R+M website.

Street Sweeper: instead of a dedicated sweeper we will be visited regularly by a team and time will tell if this results in a lower standard. I have identified areas of pavement made hazardous by leaf fall and these are being swept by machine but too infrequently.

Western Power Distribution: if damaged paths and verges have not been properly repaired please advise me.

Radyr and District Good Neighbours: I greatly regret that this charity may have to wind up as a result of its annual Council grant being withdrawn; this organisation finds volunteers to assist elderly people in a wide range of ways and this responsibility will fall upon agencies which will use paid help to assist. I deeply regret this short sighted expedient but have not been able to prevent it.

Restaurant in Station Road: I am glad to say that this will re-open under new owners quite soon and I wish them well; their other restaurants offer a package which should appeal to our residents.

Council Budget and refuse collection: the green bin collection has been put for the winter months on a 4 week cycle rather than a two week cycle; this was done just as leaves were falling from trees and without advance warning or consultation. I have raised in Council the concern that if black bins are put on a 4 week cycle this will be a health hazard in hot weather for those who have domestic pets with the obvious arising of waste. At present the ruling party in Cardiff Council has asked for views on refuse collection and on areas of potential budget savings; given the scale of savings they seek, I would urge concerned people to participate in these consultations. As an opposition finance spokesman, I have pointed out several techniques used in industry and commerce which have enabled companies to survive and prosper and these measures are overdue in an organisation which is probably the largest single employer in Wales.

Yellow lines round War Memorial: the consultation attracted a large response which is under consideration

Sidings: I am hopeful that, after intervention from the County Solicitor, Taylor Wimpey will decide to put the much discussed plot into an acceptable condition but this is not finalised.

Winter gritting routes and grit bins: I have maps showing these and will share them with any one who has not seen them

Arriva Trains: I have raised with this company concerns that train users may be wrongly accused and heavily fined for seeking to travel without payment when Radyr Station has a ticket office which is not manned continuously and when the automatic ticket machine is

unreliable. I am promised a considered reply early next week and, if it is unsatisfactory, I will refer this to the Office of Rail Regulation.

Off Road Bikes; these are causing a nuisance and I have asked the Police to repeat successful operations on the Taff Trail which lead to offenders having their motor cycles impounded.

Other Pact Issues: an elderly lady was propositioned by a man wearing a hoodie in Station Road on a recent Sunday evening but she found assistance in Spar; clearly she was alarmed but otherwise she was unhurt. In addition there has been a spate of thefts from garages and motor vehicles in the Sidings area.

Electoral Roll: this is now being updated and it would assist if residents use the telephone service promptly to preserve their voting rights.

CYD CYMRU: this is an organisation, backed by the Welsh Government and Cardiff Council, which seeks to reduce fuel bills by gaining registered householders willing to provide some information about their usage. It will then seek a provider and offer the price obtained to all registered persons. There is no obligation to switch to this provider so this seems to be a sound scheme. . Phone 0800 093 5902 or access www.cydcymru-egni.com

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