

## **County Councillor Report for November 2014**

**LDP and local planning application:** the pre-hearing on December 4<sup>th</sup> will inform us as to duration of hearings and basis of apportioning time slots; we have a considerable body of representations and will then decide the strategy enabling these to carry maximum force at the actual hearings which will be in January and February 2015. The planning application will not be considered until Redrow file the master plan for the whole site and time has been allowed to consider this.

**Pact Issues:** *I have raised with the police inspector that HGVs are using Heol Isaf as a transit route and asked that drivers be prosecuted when there is evidence of this. I will ask that planning conditions be attached to the large development at the southern end of Heol Isaf to prevent delivery Lorries coming to the site via Heol Isaf. By copy of this I am asking PC Huw Thomas to give advice on siting of mobile CCTV in Sidings when this is available. We had 2 witnesses who witnessed an act of fly-tipping and the alleged culprit claims that the number plates were stolen the day before; given the high incidence of fly tipping and the cost and inconvenience of clearing it, it is essential that the offender should be prosecuted unless it can be proven that the number plates had been stolen*

**Aftermath of heavy rain in August:** I am in contact with some of the householders whose homes were flooded and relevant council officers have been consulted with the intention of minimising risk of a repeat performance. One house on Heol Isaf suffered a major erosion of the rear garden and this is being made good by Railtrack (this is the cause of temporary traffic lights on Heol Isaf). I am concerned that a section of the footpath is at risk of similar erosion and I have asked for this to be surveyed.

**Business Rates:** the ruling party used its large majority to vote down my motion demanding forceful representations to the Welsh Government to increase from 60% the Cardiff Council share of business rates generated in Cardiff; apart from being reasonable and in line with English practice, this would have compensated Cardiff for the special costs of being the capital city as well as host to 80000 commuters who come here to work each weekday. Their decision is the more regrettable in light of the outline, significant cuts to services announced last week; as yet I do not know the details of how these cuts will touch Radyr and Morganstown but I will know these soon and will inform residents about these.

**Annual Report;** County Councillors are encouraged by the Welsh Assembly to inform via an annual report their local communities about the work they do. I attach my report for the last municipal year and point out the various duties I perform in Cardiff Council which are not so evident to local residents as the work which I do in the ward.

**Moving Traffic offences and parking outside schools:** Cardiff Council has now the authority to levy fines for such offences as unauthorised use of bus lanes and blocking hatched, yellow boxes. These will be monitored by a combination of fixed and mobile cameras and will result in £70 fines for offenders. This takes effect in early December. Cars fitted with cameras will detect illicit parking outside schools with effect from early January; this offence will also carry a fine of £70.

**Pedestrian Bridge over M4:** A scheme is being designed to increase the heights of the parapets and this will be implemented next year; this follows representations which I made to Edwina Hart with support from Mark Drakeford.

**Radyr Weir Hydroelectric Scheme:** this has been much delayed partly due to multiple changes of cabinet members but it is now planned for construction in mid-2015

**Sidings issues:** The “plot” is being transferred to Network Rail and I will contact the company after transfer to discuss possible uses of the area. Areas of faulty pavers are being repaired by Taylor Wimpey. Acting on feedback from the public meetings I have approved a plan to subject the area to a statutory 20mph speed limit and this will now go out for local consultation.

**Disabled access to platforms at Radyr Station:** the work has been badly delayed (I am informed that this was due to imprecise knowledge as to the location of underground services) and will be complete in Spring 2015

**WW1 Exhibition and Remembrance Day:** the display on 24<sup>th</sup> October was inspiring and was the result of a great effort by a team of volunteers lead by Mike Diment; particular credit is due to the pupils in Y6 at Bryn Deri whose contributions were both moving and outstanding. The Remembrance Day Parade and service were equally inspiring and it was lovely to see so many local children on parade. It was noticed that the Cenotaph is looking slightly grubby and I have asked if Cardiff Council will clean it or authorise local volunteers to do so.

**HGV vehicles:** these are not allowed to pass through Radyr and Morganstown though they can enter to make a delivery. Residents have reported vehicles using Heol Isaf as a transit route and I have reported these to the local Police Inspector;

**County Councillor Rod McKerlich,** 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

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