

County Councillor Report for December 2014 and early January 2015

The next report will be the February version and it will be issued around 17th February

Local Development Plan; the hearings start on 13th January and run all-day, 4 days per week for 5 of the following 7 weeks ; R+MCC has worked with local residents and neighbouring representative bodies and has made detailed responses on a wide range of topics but clearly housing, transport, highways and infrastructure will be the principal areas of contention. Given the number and length of the hearings our case will be presented by our Clerk, Helena Fox, and me.

Planning application: the early application to develop the field at the south end of Heol Isaf will be opposed by R+MCC and by me in my capacity as County Councillor; we do not know yet when it will go to planning committee.

Community Infrastructure Levy and Planning Gain: R+MCC has offered a number of amendments to proposed CIL scheme and I have raised with senior officers our wish that planning gain from local developments should fund several projects in the ward.

Radyr Library: While we continue to hope that the plan to remove the “subsidy” to seven Cardiff Libraries will be dropped, I have met with officers to devise Plan B which would enable a continued library provision from the present building which would be transferred to the ownership of R+MCC at zero cost. R+MCC met with the relevant Corporate Director last week to clarify the deal on offer and this will be discussed at the budget setting meeting of the community council on Thursday 15th January. We support the views of those who attended the library protest and the 1400 people who signed the petition and we know that the current model of library provision is to be preferred but the choice may lie between a community run library and no library.

B.E.M. for Val Allen: congratulations to Val for being designated a **Brilliant Equine Maestro**

Youth Centre and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: the “subsidy” to these 2 schemes was to be withdrawn from 31st March 2015; at a recent meeting the date of withdrawal was deferred until the end of the summer term. This matter is also to be discussed at this week’s meeting of R+MCC.

Traffic Lights on Heol Isaf: the brief period of single lanes was due to a collapsed sewer and the extended period near Cheshire Home is to repair severe subsidence of a garden on the eastern side of Heol Isaf.

Christmas trees and Lighting Ceremonies; Despite an early heavy shower, the event was very enjoyable and hugely well attended; thanks to all who made it happen.

Sidings Issues: I am glad to hear that a Residents Association has been formed and I can report that Cardiff Council is on the point of transferring the “plot” back to Network Rail and we need to discuss what NR intends to do with it.

Disabled access to Radyr Station: This project will include the installation of a new stepped-footbridge with three lifts to help passengers to cross more easily between all platforms.

Currently, all three platforms are accessible via the stepped footbridge; however, the project will provide a fully accessible, step-free route to the station and platforms for the first time. Work is scheduled for completion in summer 2015.

Cyd Cymru and Smart Meter: a further round of energy price negotiations is underway shortly; this is cost free and without obligation; I recommend signing up and will send contact details to anyone who asks, I participated last time round and I will do so again as I am saving a significant amount on gas and electricity cost each month. In addition most energy suppliers are offering smart meters which allow remote meter reading and provide details of energy usage on a continuing basis; I also signed up to have these installed.

War Memorial; this will be cleaned by Cardiff Council staff

Misc. Highway Issues: The section of road on Llantrisant Road between Heol Isaf and Parc Radur will be resurfaced over 2 weeks starting on 18th January. Bryn Derwen area of “corrugation” near Caer Craig is due for early repair. Numerous potholes have been reported. Some rogue HGV drivers have been fined for illicit use of Heol Isaf. I was concerned that the footpath on the east side of Heol Isaf near Min y Coed was being undermined but inspection has found it to be sound though the fence needs attention.

County Councillor Rod McKerlich, 12th January 2015

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