

County Councillor Report for February 2015

Local Development Plan: we have completed 4 weeks of hearings and next week comes the final round unless the Inspector calls for supplementary sessions. With the involvement of our partners in NW Cardiff your Community Council has presented an enormous body of oral and written evidence; the preparation of the evidence has been done largely by the Clerk of R+MCC, Helena Fox, and this was a huge piece of work executed with great competence. Helena and I presented the oral evidence and we were backed by expert planners and traffic consultants. I am in no doubt that we have won the debate but, until the inspectors' report is lodged, we cannot be so confident that we have "won the war".

Radyr Library: as residents will know the plan to withdraw the subsidy was put on hold but it is not clear how long the reprieve will last. The cabinet of Cardiff Council will shortly consider its new strategy and then R+MCC will have to decide how to respond. The response will need to take account of the huge local concern that we might be left without our local library.

Youth Centre and D of E Award Scheme: at present the Cardiff Council plan is to continue with the D of E scheme but make it self-funding while closing the youth centre at the end of the summer term. I am involved in series of meetings to try to rescue the youth centre but it is not clear that this can be achieved. I would be glad to hear of any resident or local organisation that has ideas to offer.

Highway issues: Drysgol Road has been resurfaced; I am aware of numerous pot holes and have reported them for repair.

Cardiff Bus: I have asked for a site meeting with the operations director of Cardiff Bus to discuss the bus service to Morganstown as the local contention is that he has materially reduced the quality of the service without reducing costs in any way.

Waungron Road: I know that a number of local residents are unhappy that this HWRC has closed and that several people tried unsuccessfully to attend the recent protest meeting which was only for Fairwater residents. In Fairwater the cost of the community poll falls upon Cardiff Council; if one is commissioned here the cost would be levied on the Community Council as we have one. I agree that Waungron Road should not have been closed and I have argued this case in Environment Committee and in full Council. The argument for closure was that the quality of recyclable material was poor due to users putting material in the incorrect skips. As a result, all output had to be sorted by a third party at enormous cost. In my expressed view, a resident, who was prepared to take material to Waungron Road, would be prepared to put it in the correct skip if properly guided. The lack of appropriate guidance by the work force was a failure of supervision and the best solution would have been to keep Waungron open and control the staff better

Cardiff Council Budget: this will be debated on Thursday February 19th with several treasured local services under threat. As opposition finance spokesman I will be arguing for a better system of controlling internal cost pressures and I believe that I have the financial evidence which vindicates this view.

County Councillor Rod McKerlich, 16th February 2015

E-mail: rmckerlich@cardiff.gov.uk