

County Councillor Report for February 2016

Local Development Plan: this was adopted at the January meeting of Cardiff Council by 40 votes to 27; the 40 votes were cast by the ruling party and all opposition members voted against. I spoke and supported a “reference back” on the grounds that the Green Belt had been dropped in favour of the less permanent Green Wedge despite Council voting unanimously in favour of the Green Belt 2 months previously. I also repeated local concerns about traffic and infrastructure.

Acolaid Planning Application: Despite our local petition this application (to build 350 homes at the south west end of Heol Isaf with a similar scale of building on the other side of Llantrisant Road) was approved by 4 votes to 3. Nick Hawkins spoke against it as did I and a Councillor from Fairwater. I expressed concern about flooding arising from run-off of surface water, the presence of limestone causing sinkholes, loss of eco-system for a range of flora and fauna, grubbing out of ancient hedgerows and excessive housing density. I also insisted that site vehicles in excess of 7.5T laden weight should be obliged to adhere to the weight prohibition on Heol Isaf and it was agreed that these would have to attend the site using an alternative route.

Cardiff Council Budget for 2016-7; this will be debated at Council next week. I was approached by many residents expressing concern about cuts to the arts, services for vulnerable adults, school budgets and leisure centres; in each case I gave advice on how and where to lobby on these matters. The final draft of the budget reflects expressed concerns and has somewhat reduced the original level of rise in Council tax.

Bryn Deri: the draft capital plan in the budget contains a bid for new capital of £410K to ensure suitability of nursery provision and catering facilities

Speeding on Heol Isaf; I have often quoted speed figures produced by the speed disclosing sign near Maes yr Awel but these have been average speed and 85th percentile speed. A local resident made a freedom of information request to get actual speeds and these reveal some horrifying top speeds; As a result, I have requested planned dates for implementing 20mph limits around our local schools and I have asked for further consideration of the need for a pelican crossing near Min Y Coed. I will also raise this at the next Pact meeting on 7th March

Mobile branch of Nat West Bank: starting on Thursday 10th March and weekly on Thursdays thereafter this will be parked in the Methodist carpark between 9.30 and 10.15. This is a response to local objections when the branch in Station road was closed. Clearly this is for a trial period and it would be good if those who value the service could use it

Cleansing of Station Road: I have asked for an enhanced cleaning regime.

Proposed new car Park at Radyr Station: Network Rail is proposing the construction of a new carpark for 187 cars on the waste ground at the station. I believe that local opinion on this will be divided between those who fear that this will be a magnet attracting more traffic into a congested area and those who hope that it will reduce parking outside their homes.

Due to changes arising from “Access for All” the capacity of the existing car park will be reduced while the demand for car parking is steadily increasing on a trend which will be pushed up by planned new homes. In the absence of any new car parking facility there will be a steady and significant increase in parking in other streets anywhere near the station. I have a copy of the project plan and I will send it to anyone who requests it. I have pointed out the need for a survey to check that the road system can accommodate extra traffic and I have stated that it would be essential to have a controlled pedestrian crossing from the bottom of Kings Road to the station entrance.

Bus Times: from the end of March Cardiff Bus will be changing bus times with the effect of giving R+M a half hourly service.

Velothon; this year it will occur on 22nd May. If you are planning a journey around Cardiff on that day please check the routes.

Footbridge over the M4 to Bryn Derwen: this is being modified soon; I have asked for details as I hope this is in response to my requests that the footbridge be made safer. There has been regrettable poor communication over the dates for this work; had I been consulted I would have asked for it to be done during the school Easter holidays.

Refuse Collection/ Reclamation Centres: When the refuse collection is altered due to weather conditions I aim to advise residents ASAP via the R+M web site. People visiting reclamation centres should be advised that they will need photo ID as Cardiff is seeking to avoid the heavy cost of treating and disposing of waste imported by Vale residents.

Youth Club: R+MCC are in discussion with YMCA to see if there is a basis for operating a youth club in the area.

County Councillor Rod McKerlich, 16th February 2016

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