

Footpath and Cycle Route Recommendations for Radyr and Morganstown.

December 2015

Summary

A task group was asked by Radyr and Morganstown Community Council to prepare a report in response to the Active Travel Existing Route Map Consultation.

There were two surveys one on walking routes and one on cycling routes. It was not feasible to answer these as the Community Council but one of the task group used the findings of the group to answer both surveys.

This report was also written so it could be submitted to Cardiff Council as the Community Council's response.

The group focused on primarily on safe routes for pupils to reach Radyr Comprehensive. Several routes were suggested. It also focused on routes to Radyr station.

The group also considered routes that Young Urban Professionals could use to commute to work.

The group was mindful of the desire to extend the Ely Trail and the potential for developing a section within the community's boundaries towards completing a link between the existing trail and the Taff trail.

There were several recommendations in the accompanying documentation to encourage cyclists. This report flags up those that the Community Council may be able to assist either directly or indirectly.



The task force at work.

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Cycling Routes to Radyr Comprehensive School and making existing routes safer

1 Radyr Station to Radyr Comprehensive School

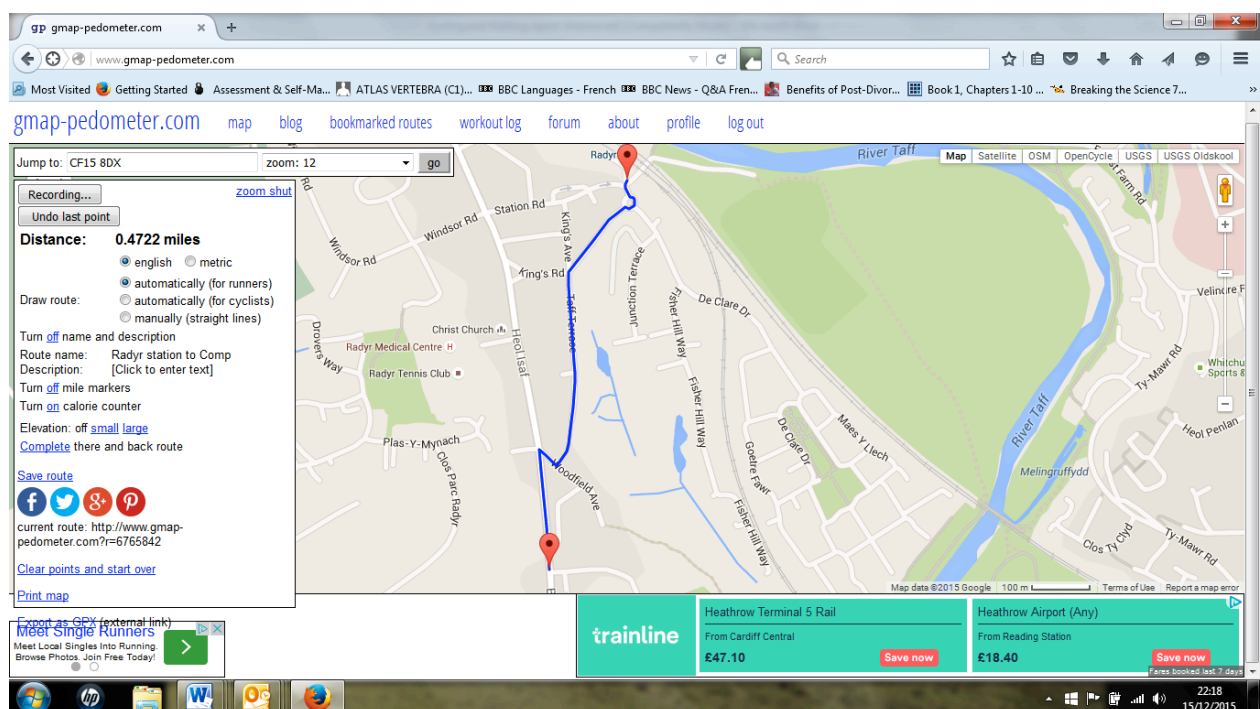
This is a busy area due to the station. The minimal traffic route would be to direct cycle traffic along the cul de sac of Taff Terrace and then up the bridleway to the top of Woodfield Avenue. Part of this bridleway is an unmade up road and so is wide enough to accommodate a cycle path beside the bridleway. It would need some surface treatment in places but this will have to be sensitively done to ensure there is enough room and the appropriate surface for a horse to also use the bridleway.

At the entrance to Woodfield Avenue there is no other option but to follow the busy B4262 Heol Isaf. Creating a cycle path on the Eastern side footpath of this road would help safety.

The suggestion is

- a) to improve the bridleway link to make it suitable for cycling as well as horses
- b) to mark a cycle way along the East side of Heol Isaf from Woodfield Avenue to Radyr Comprehensive
- c) long term.. to extend the pavement on the East side of Heol Isaf to make it possible to have a cycle path and a pedestrian path side by side on the raised pavement.

Difficulties envisaged. Persuading parents not to park on the cycle way.



This map can be seen on <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6765842>

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2. Route from Clos Parc Radyr to Radyr School.

The route is along Clos Parc Radyr on to Llantrisant road and then up Heol Isaf to the school

The suggestion is

- a) A cycle lane should be marked on the north side of Llantrisant Road to the roundabout.
- b) A toucan crossing to be installed at the bottom of Heol Isaf to enable the cyclists to cross to the east side of Heol Isaf.
- c) A cycle lane should be marked on the east side of Heol Isaf to join with the cycle lane marked from Woodfield Avenue at Radyr Comprehensive.
- d) long term to extend the pavement on the east side of Heol Isaf to make it possible to have a cycle path and a pedestrian path side by side on the raised pavement.

Since the traffic coming down Heol Isaf tends to swing into the middle of the road, there should be few problems encountered with extending this pavement.

3. Pentwyn to Radyr Comprehensive .. the High Route.

Another cycle route into Radyr Comprehensive, this could start anywhere near the Bryn Deri school and this can be accessed from Radyr Gardens in Morganstown by using footpath 17 (to which the report will return)

The route chosen starts at Pentwyn opposite Bryn Deri School.

There is a path through Pentwyn play area onto Pentwyn.

Close by there is a path linking Pentwyn with Windsor Close.

Cycle through Windsor close into Windsor Avenue.

Do not turn down into Windsor Road, but use an existing path into Drovers Way

From Drovers Way go into Plas y Mynach

From Plas y Mynach go into the bridleway Radyr Farm Road.

This meets Heol Isaf opposite Woodfield Avenue.

Cross the road onto a marked cycle path and cycle to Radyr Comprehensive.

This would remove the need for youngsters to cycle on most of Heol Isaf.

The route is shown in the map on the next page. It can also be seen at <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6765629>

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Observation at school times for Radyr Primary School shows that many parents are parking on the roads in Windsor Avenue. However the pavement on the river side of Windsor Avenue could be extended to allow a cycle path and a footpath. Many people do not realise this option exists. It will need to be signposted.

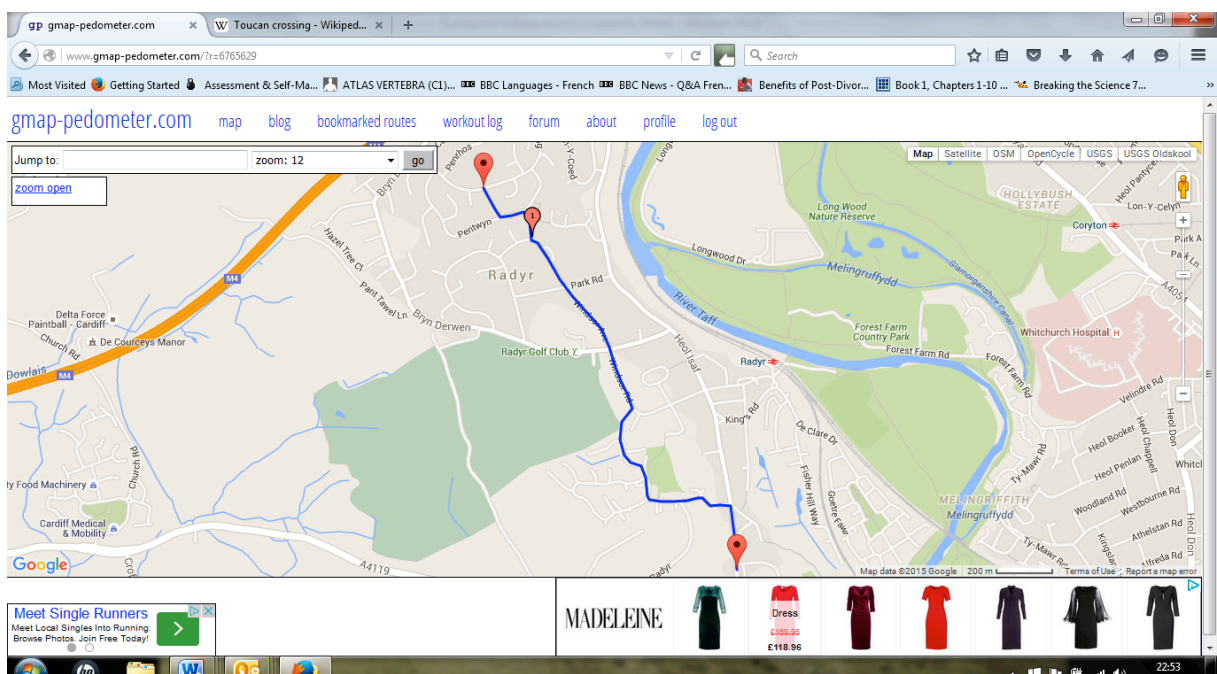
Also there is a footpath between Pentwyn and Maes yr Awel which could be used by pupils to avoid going on to Heol Isaf. This footpath could have its steps replaced by a ramp making it cyclist friendly. This would enable children in Maes yr Awel to cycle onto Pentwyn and then into Windsor Close as above.

The suggestion is

- to ensure the path connecting Pentwyn and Windsor Close is cyclist friendly
- to ensure the path connecting Pentwyn and Maes yr Awel is cyclist friendly
- to ensure the link from Plas y Mynach on to Radyr Farm Road is cyclist friendly.
- to signpost the route to the school
- to mark a cycle lane along Windsor Avenue
- to install a toucan crossing from Radyr Farm Road across Heol Isaf

Difficulties envisaged

Radyr Farm Road is a road, so it would not be possible to fit a barrier to prevent fast entry from the road onto Heol Isaf.



Task group Fiona Dubberley, Sally Evans, Helen Lloyd Jones

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Concerns

Footbridge 17

The footbridge 17 over the M4 is a major concern.

The suggestion is

- a) To make it a covered in footpath /cycleway.

There are many imaginative ways as to how this could be achieved but the posters for Samaritans either side of the footbridge speak of a need to make the bridge safer.

Footpaths that enable links to be made to reach this suggested route.

- i) The footpath between Penrhos and Graig Hir is mainly tarmac. However, there is one section that is made from slabs, which becomes dangerously slippery when it is wet.

The suggestion is

- a) To resurface the slabbed area for safety reasons.
- ii) The footpath between Penrhos and Cefn Coch is on a slope, and becomes very slippery when it has been raining. The path is made from slabs. .

The suggestion is

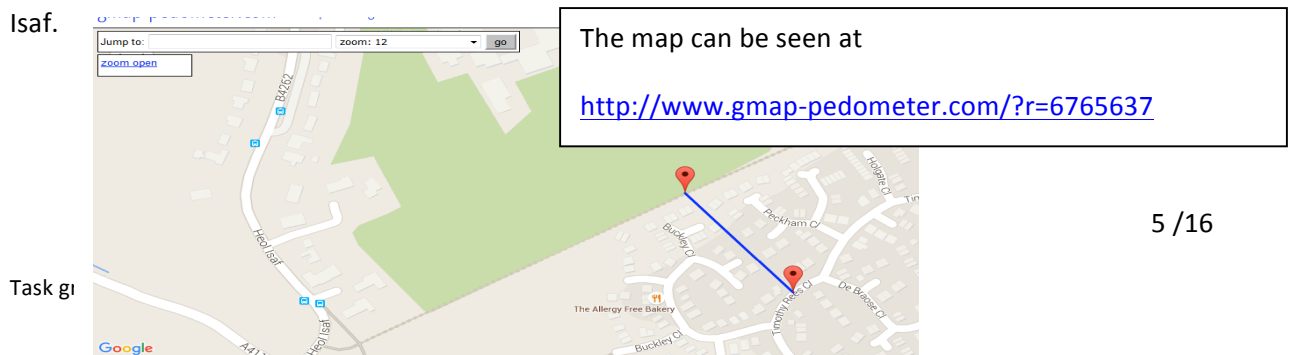
- a) To resurface the slabbed area for safety reasons.

4. Danescourt via Timothy Rees Court into the Danescourt side entrance of Radyr Comprehensive

The suggestion is

- a) The track beside 43 Timothy Rees Close and the Danescourt side entrance of Radyr Comprehensive needs to be made cycle, pushchair and wheelchair friendly.
- b) It would need a barrier at the Timothy Rees end to prevent uncontrolled exit onto Timothy Rees Close.
- c) Very little work is needed to make this possible and would provide a way for pupils in Danescourt to cycle into Radyr Comprehensive without using Heol Isaf.

NB This is just outside the boundary of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council but making safer cycling routes into Radyr Comprehensive should reduce the number of parents driving their children to the comprehensive every day which will have a beneficial impact on the traffic in Heol Isaf.



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5. Radyr Court Road to Hermit Wood behind Radyr Comprehensive and into the school grounds.

This can be used as a route for school children to reach Radyr Comprehensive and also as a route from Danescourt to Radyr station. It is in most weathers passable to cyclists.

Mr T Moon of 1, Radyr Court Rise has made an application for a modification of the route to become a bridleway which the task force recommends Radyr and Morganstown Community Centre support.

With wise management it could be both a bridleway and a cycle path.

The suggestion is

- a) Signpost the route
- b) Support the application by Mr T Moon

NB This is just outside the boundary of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council but making safer cycling routes into Radyr Comprehensive should reduce the number of parents driving their children to the comprehensive every day which will have a beneficial impact on the traffic in Heol Isaf.

6. Access to Radyr Comprehensive School using Path 47 and Path 50

Minor surface improvements are required on Path 47 and 50 to the south of Radyr Comprehensive School in order to create a cycle path.

This will promote greater foot and cycle usage, and link in to paths to Danescourt Estate and from those pupils using Llantrisant Road to access the school.

This path has problems with litter.

The suggestion is

- a) To ask the Probation Services if they can help with litter picks
- b) To ask Keep Wales Tidy if they can help with litter picks
- c) To ask Radyr Comprehensive if they will help with litter picks.
- d) To make the minor surface improvements

These two paths are underneath the pylons and it is possible that the electricity company might be willing to sponsor path improvements as it makes it easier for them to access their pylons.

- e) To ask SWALEC if they would be sponsor the path.

These footpaths are within the community of Radyr and Morganstown.

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7. Morganstown across the bridge over the Taff at Gelynis Farm to the Taff Trail and then to Raydr Railway station and up through Taff Terrace to Radyr Comprehensive

Currently this route involves turning off Heol Isaf and going to Gelynis Farm down a fairly steep hill.

The map on the following page is showing a possible route that could be achieved from Pugh's going along the Mound Field and the Playing Fields. This would avoid the steep hill.

Concerns

1. The route goes across the railway line.

The group considered two options,

- i) A subway
- ii) A cycle bridge

The subway option was ruled out for three reasons, cost of creating it, disruption to the railway and the possibility of flooding.

The cycle bridge especially if graded gently enough for wheelchair users and push chair users would be a good solution. For similar reasons to the concerns raised with Footbridge 17 this cycle bridge should be an enclosed bridge.

2. The route crosses the river Taff on a fairly basic bridge.

The recommendation would be for a higher specification bridge to be built across the Taff at this point.

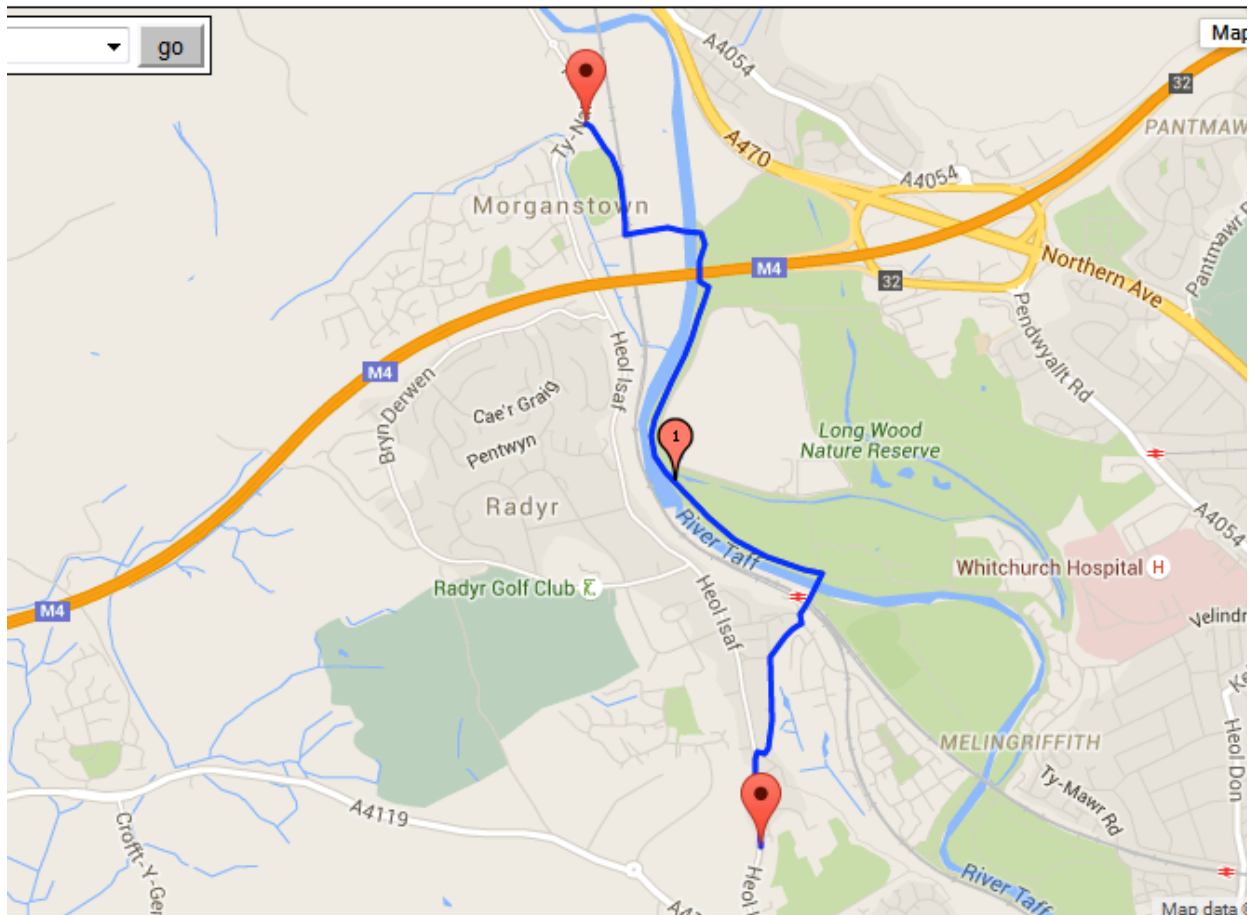
The suggestion is

- a) Network Rail should be approached re building a cycle bridge at the site of the level crossing
- b) A higher specification bridge should be built across the Taff.

We are conscious that this would be the link from any cycle route coming from Ely and Rhydlaf to the Taff Trail and as such the quality of this link should be improved.

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This map can be seen at <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6765639>

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8. Pantawel Cottages to Radyr Comprehensive school via Radyr Farm Road with an option of entering Parc Radyr or not before entering the Golf Club Lane.

This may be a route that those living in the “Tree Closes” near the Walnut Tree Close Play Area might find useful.

Radyr Farm Road starts on the B4262 just down from the Comprehensive School.

There are two options at this point

- i) Go via the top of the Parc Radyr Estate and on to the Llantrisant Road A4119 and then turn into Golf Club Lane

In most part it is a paved road serving as access only to a few homes, there is a short footpath section, however this is cyclable, or would only need minor upgrades.

There is a short section of the Llantrisant Road that has a pavement, and will be within the scope of the current LDP and has cyclepaths outlined.

- ii) Go straight on along Path 40 into Golf Club Lane

Golf Club Lane is a made up winding lane, requirements for traffic are minimal as there are only 2 farms on the lane, and although it connects to Ffordd Las at the top, it would not be the access point of choice for those houses.

From Golf Farm Lane enter Ffordd Las.

From Ffordd Las enter Bryn Derwen and then turn into Pant Tawel Lane.

The top of Pantawel lane does connect via a footpath to Pentyrch, but opening this up to bikes would take more work. This part of the footpath is outside the Radyr and Morganstown Community. It is very steep and would need some alterations to make it a cycle way.

If this path was improved it would connect Pentyrch into the Taff Trail via a non-vehicle route, rather than as currently via the busy roads at the A470 junction.

Historically the Pentyrch - Pantawel - Golf Club Lane route was the drovers' route between Pontypridd over the Garth to Cardiff. It is very narrow, with high ancient hedges on either side of much of the Golf Club Lane.

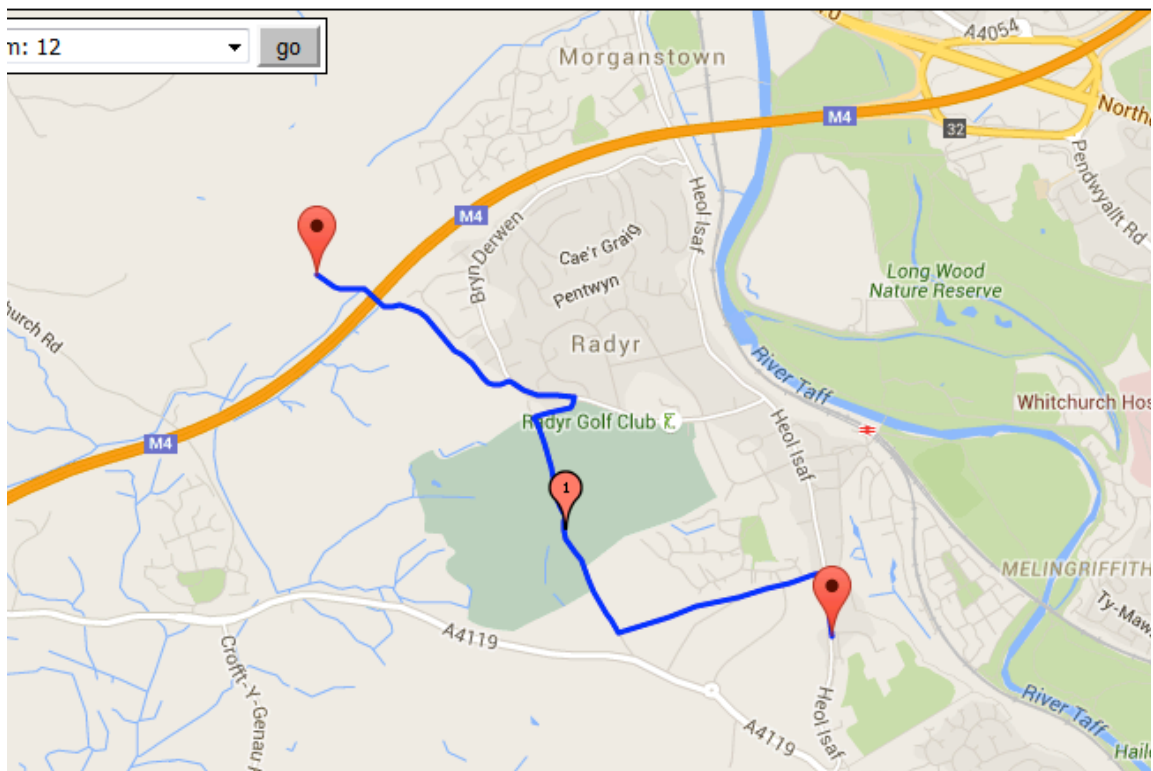
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The suggestion is:-

- a) Make the Golf Club Lane a vehicle access only lane.
- b) Make Pantawel a vehicle access only lane.
- c) Install a few passing places on Golf Club lane retaining the hedgerows as much as possible.
- d) Install a few passing places on Pantawel
- e) Put up signage of the route for cyclists.

The route can be seen at <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6766033>



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Routes for Young Urban Professionals and for Leisure Purposes.

1. Radyr Station through the Sidings to Llandaff and also on to Taff Trail close to Glantaf school

There is a track between South East of the Radyr Sidings estate alongside the river leading to Radyr Court Road. This route is shorter than crossing the Taff at Radyr station and following the Taff Trail because it avoids the large river meander.

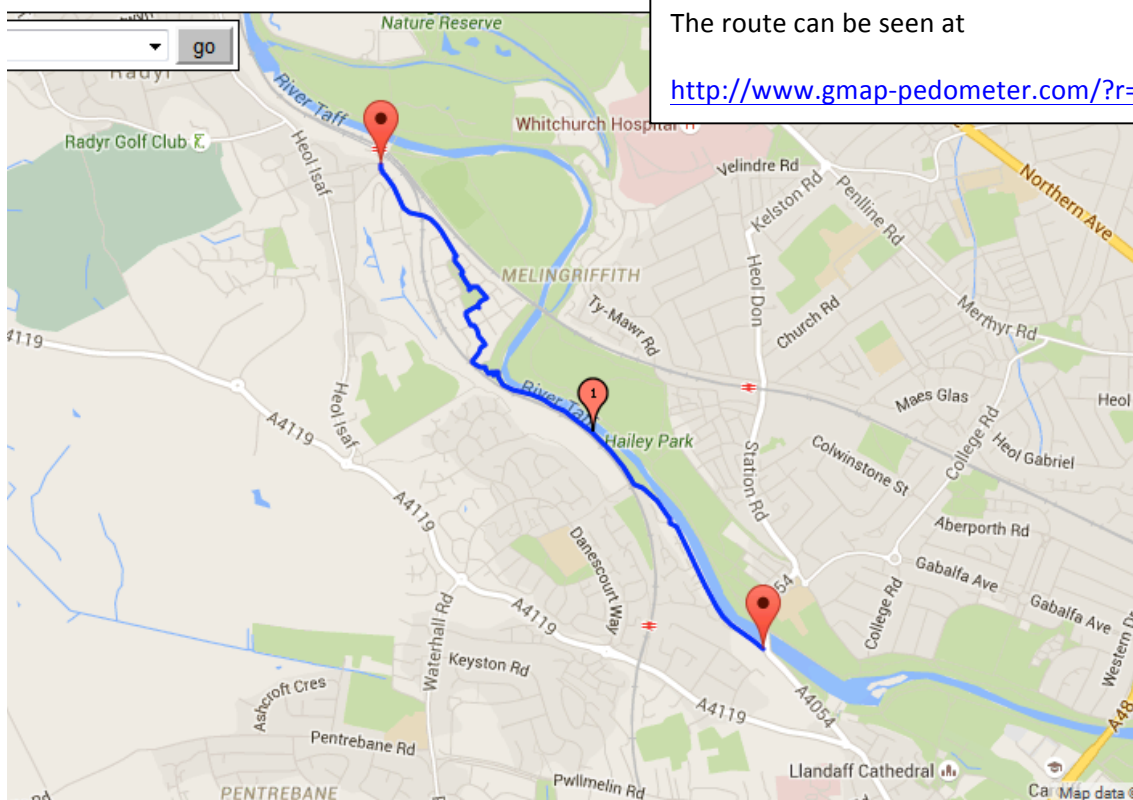
This should be made into a cycle path and clearly labelled as such, together with destination and distance signs.

The surface is tarmacked until the river crossing which has been converted into a cycle path.

The surface beyond the bridge till the route reaches Radyr Court Road is not so good but is adequate for cycling.

The suggestion is

- a) Signage from Radyr Station all the way to the end of Radyr Court Road
- b) Signage by the converted bridge cycle path indicating routes to Whitchurch and Llandaff North
- c) Improvement to track surface.



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2. Radyr Station behind the Cricket Clubhouse to Llandaff

It is also possible to walk the route to Llandaff starting at Radyr Station and going through the Cricket Club grounds.

Most of this route is also suitable for bikes

The suggestion is

- a) Footpath signage at present from Radyr Station across the Cricket Club and onto the cycle path
- b) Development of a cycle path behind the Cricket Clubhouse and on to the existing cycle path that has been created at the end of Ardur Hen to enable a direct cycle path from Radyr Station to Llandaff that does not involve going through the Sidings.

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Routes for Leisure Purposes

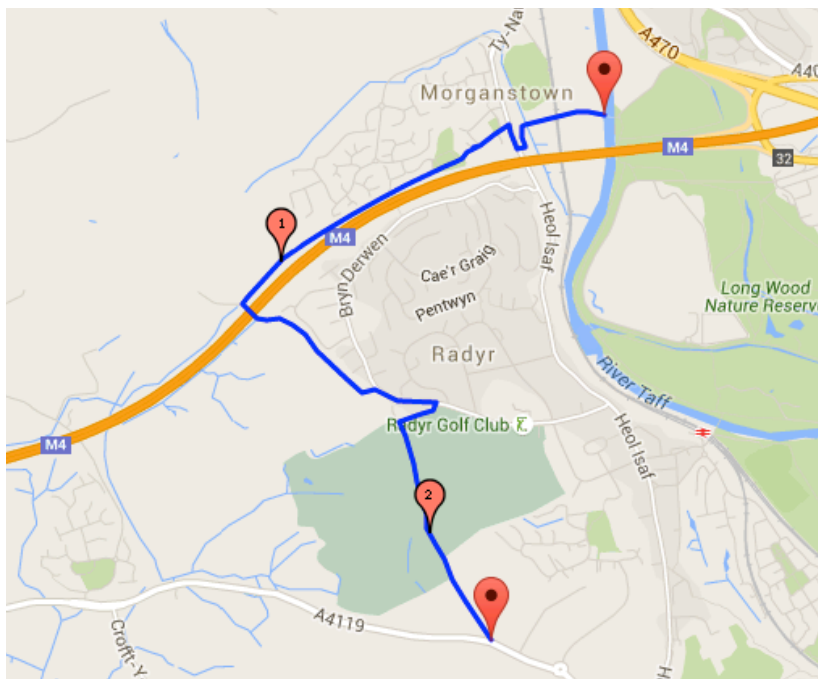
1. Cycle path from Llantrisant Road to the Taff Trail at Gelynis Farm

Cycle path is envisaged that would go from Llantrisant road near Ty-Gwyn Farm, along Golf Club Lane into Pant Tawel lane and meeting up with paths 22, 20, 18 and 7 and ending on Chapel Road in Morganstown. This cycle path would then take cyclists off Llantrisant Road and on to the Taff Trail.

Path 22 to the east of Pantawel lane has a rough surface, but is accessible to bikes at present. It has the feel of a disused railway or tram road.

Path 22 to the west of Pantawel lane is boggy and unsuitable for bikes at present, despite being marked on the OpenCycleMap.org as being a cycle route. It has not been used in this report

The route can be seen at <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6766049>



The suggestion is

- a) Make Pantawel Lane vehicle access only
- b) Make Golf Club Lane vehicle access only
- c) Install a few passing places on Golf Club lane retaining the hedgerows as much as possible.
- d) Install a few passing places on Pantawel
- e) Improve the path from Pantawel to Radyr Garden Estate. It is not made up but is wide and is for the most part cyclable and would only need attention in places
- f) Put up signage of the route for cyclists.

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2. Cycle Path from Rhydlafr to Morganstown using the dismantled Barry to the Rhymney Valley line. (The Rhymney Branch)

This route may well be the logical route for a Radyr By-Pass in years to come.

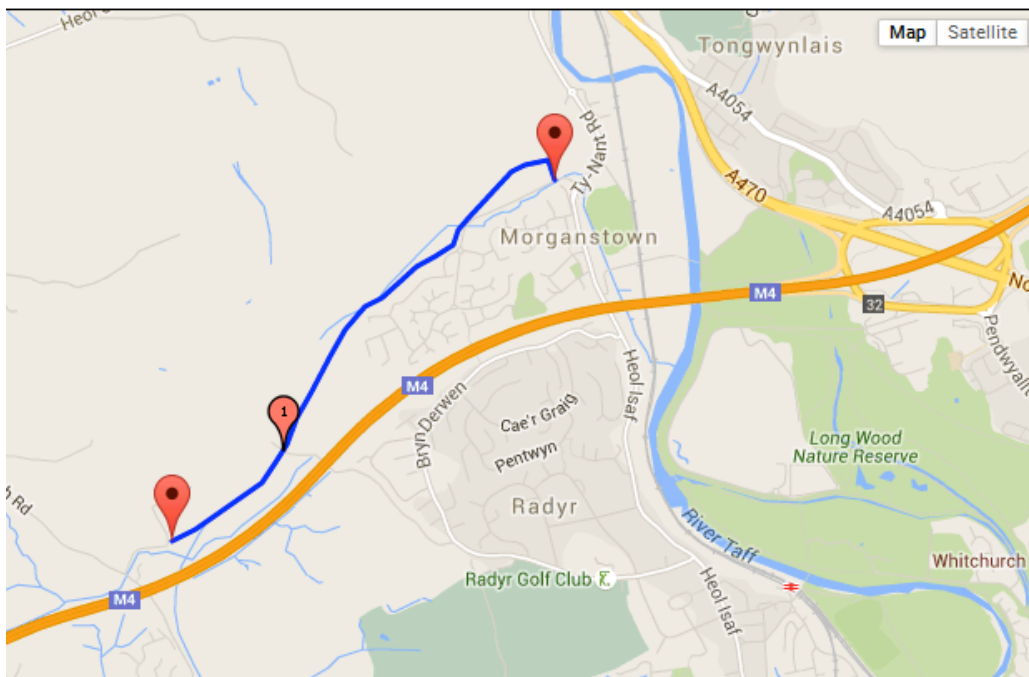
This is a link that would fit in with extending the Ely trail and give another option of joining the Taff Trail. It is envisaged that it would feed into Heol Isaf near the Ty Nant and then there could be a toucan crossing to take cyclists into Pughs and onto the Mound Field and then towards Gelynis Farm bridge crossing to the Taff Trail.

The route uses the dismantled Rhymney Branch almost until the allotments near Ty Nant are met and then turns to follow the alignment of the allotments and then makes a sharp turn to reach Ffordd Treforgan by Tynant Inn.

The route has been shown as starting at Rhylafr near the PaintBall activity centre. It can then feed into Llantrisant road at Rhydlafr.

It is suggested that

- a) The process of acquiring the land into public ownership should be started.
- b) That when the route is opened, even if it becomes a by-pass for Radyr there should always be a protected cycle path on this route.



This route can be seen at <http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=6765640>

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Bike Hire

Bike Hire schemes such as the very successful one in London should be considered.

Suggestions for locations in Radyr where bikes could be hired are:-

- a) By Pughs at Morganstown (on the Mound Field Side)
- b) By Radyr Station
- c) By the shops opposite Bryn Deri School.

Secure storage of bikes

It is suggested that:-

- a) Radyr station should have a storage area for bikes
- b) Radyr Comprehensive School should have a storage area for bikes.

Four free bike stands are available through Park your Bike schemes.

<http://www.keepingcardiffmoving.co.uk/cycle/park-your-bike>

It is recommended that the Community Council apply for these and use them outside the Old Church Rooms.

Bike Skills and Training

It is suggested that Radyr and Morganstown Community Council look at ways in which they can support bike skills and training not only for the children in the community but also for adults.

Adult Cycle Training is available and can be contacted on

Phone: 029 2078 8528 **Email:** cycling@cardiff.gov.uk

It is recommended that this information is posted on the R&M Community Council web site.

It is suggested that Bike Skill and Training sessions could be run during Radyr and Morganstown Festival Week.

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Footpaths not mentioned within the cycling routes that need attention

Footpath 25 which leads up past the ruins of the Garth cottages is extremely boggy at the lower end, and walkers are making large detours to avoid the most difficult areas, this eroding the surface of the surrounding field.

It is suggested that a board walk is created on this path to make it more accessible throughout the year, and stop further damage to the field it crosses.

Signage

It was noted that signage for footpaths could be improved and that there is almost no signage for cycle paths.

Litter

It was noted that litter is an issue on the path that becomes Path 27 from the Guide Centre towards Willow Tree Close. This path runs parallel to the Motorway on its south side.

It was noted that litter is an issue on Path 47, 50 and 48 around Radyr Comprehensive School.

It is suggested that the Guides should be asked if they would help with litter picking on the path behind the Guide Centre

It is suggested that not only is Radyr Comprehensive School asked again if they would help with litter picking on the path around its perimeter but also that the Probation Services on 02920 660612 should be contacted to ask if they too could help. The task group was advised that Path 48 is actually on land owned by Radyr Comprehensive school.

Conclusion

The task group realises that some of the suggestions may at present be aspirational but would recommend that they are incorporated into the Village Plan (maybe this will take the new name Place Plan to satisfy new planning recommendations) so that the Community Council has positive suggestions towards improving Cycle and Footpaths that could be made if funding becomes available,