

# THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust for Wales)

## GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms, Radyr, Monday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 8.00pm

**Present:** Garry Newbould (Chairman), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), Elizabeth Fraser (Secretary), Nick Hawkins (Vice-Chairman), David Cargill, Neville Evans, David Silver, Kieran Webster, Wyn Phillips, David Suthers, Betty Fitzgerald, Terry Fitzgerald, Maggie Roberts, Jane Morris, Antonia Wigley, Roger Watt, Edward Watt, Cliff Skidmore, Alison Skidmore, Val Allen, Lorna Clarke, Jerry Bray, Mary Reed.

**Apologies for Absence:** Allan Cook, Cllr Rod McKerlich, Beverley Lewis, Cyril Williams, Ailsa Bracegirdle Judith Marsh, Rose Dale

### Minutes of the previous General Meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008

The minutes were approved. Matters arising dealt with below.

### The National Eisteddfod of Wales - a short talk by Neville Evans

Neville started by thanking everyone in the community for their support during the two-year effort to raise £20,000 for the Eisteddfod. The final amount was actually £27,000 towards the total cost of staging the event (about £3,000,000). He explained that this "annual miracle" begins with a bare "maes" (field) and finishes with a giant 4000-seater pavilion, marquees, stands and exhibitions. One marquee is devoted to Science and Technology with the themes of Cosmology and Stem Cells. The festival lasts for 8 days from 2 - 8<sup>th</sup> August during which there are many competitions, cultural events and displays. A massive choir has been assembled which promises to be spectacular.

### Treasurer's Report

The final figures are not quite complete. RMA have made a surplus of about £700 from the Festival, slightly more than the estimate of £500. Some of this will be used to replace 2 gazebos that were damaged beyond repair this year. Danybryn Leonard Cheshire Home will be presented with a cheque for about £3400 next Sunday. Everyone is invited. (Action: Liz to send e-mail invite.) The Festival Queen will be especially welcome. (Action: Maggie)

### Community Halls

**Old Church Rooms:** The Hall is still being well used. Note that prices are increasing from September. £15 for the use of the rooms and £40 for party bookings (£50 for non-residents.) A new booking has been received from The Railway Travel Society. A BTEC course in Musical Theatre for young adults (and older) will start from the end of September, run as a social enterprise venture (profits returning to community enterprise). A volunteer working party carried out various maintenance jobs. Both primary schools have now agreed to prepare "time-capsules" that will be placed beneath the new stone roundels when they are ready. It is hoped that they will be cemented in place and not disturbed this time. It was noted with appreciation that the gardens that Norman Clewer has once again cultivated are looking magnificent in preparation for the Cardiff in Bloom competition.

**Morganstown Village Hall:** The Karate Club are to use the Hall in place of the table tennis club (one of the original users). The Hall will close at the end of August for redecoration. New doors and radiator covers are already in place. A meeting will be held next Monday to discuss the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert.

**Morganstown Chapel:** This is an old Methodist Chapel in private ownership that could be used as a residence or a community centre. The Baptist Church (RMBC) has applied for a grant from the Aggregate Levy Fund for a feasibility study into renovating the chapel using the specialist company Stone Ecclesiastical. It could be used for childcare, young people's activities and a service on Sundays. An article will be written for Radyr Chain. (Action: Kieran)

## **Radyr Sidings 2**

RMBC have started the process of setting up a trust - part of applying for Entrust funding - for a community centre on the site. They will be seeking discussions with Planning Officers and other interested parties. A steering group is being recruited and information sought on details such as what percentage of the 200m<sup>2</sup> of land can be used for "not-for-profit" retail facilities such as a coffee shop. An article is to be written for the Radyr Chain to encourage discussion and feedback of ideas for the site. (Action: Kieran) It was stressed how important it is to have firm plans for use of the land for the community within a very short time. Previously, land earmarked for the community has been lost back to developers for housing. Time is limited to 2 years after the developers have reached the boundaries of the plot. The association would like to be informed exactly when that date is. (Action: Cllr Rod McKerlich)

## **May Festival**

Three issues to be considered for the future are the length of the festival, the charities to support in 2010/2011 and to prepare the Festival Queen properly for her forthcoming duties. Suggestions for the future include curtailing the events to 10 days and having an Open Garden scheme (Action: Antonia). The Motor Neurone Disease Association is the chosen charity for 2009. They have already shown an active interest. Allan has organised some Arts events for next year. Jane made several suggestions such as the need for more activities appropriate for boys and more games in general. The next Festival Meeting will be in September.

## **Village Plan**

A good response was received from the youth and adult draft questionnaires sent out as a pilot study. It is still the intention to circulate the final questionnaire in September. There is a mixture of questions but in general they relate to issues that the Community Council and the Association feel they may be able to do something about. Cardiff County Council has been asked if they can provide an analysis service. Volunteers may be needed to help with the distribution and collection of the questionnaires.

## **Young People's Executive Committee**

Garry and Kieran facilitated a meeting with several young volunteers to produce a draft charter detailing what they would like to achieve, how they would like to be seen and how they will interface with the Executive and Festival Committees. Very successful!

## **Mound Field**

An article has been placed in the Chain about the long-term vision for the whole site to make it accessible and attractive to the whole community. A Council Officer, who is a local resident, is working with CADW to perform a survey of the Norman Motte with a view to improving accessibility and making more of it as a feature for visitors. The skate park - previously due for completion around the end of July - will be delayed. Gelynys Farm, Radyr Rangers and Pugh's were not consulted by the Council and petitioned against the plan. Objections included ongoing problems such as vandalism and drug abuse in the area that could become worse. Concerns were also raised about the unlit access to the proposed site and adult supervision of the area. It was pointed out that the park is temporary and if it is misused or not used at all it will be removed, wasting around £50,000 of the money received from planning gain. It is understood that Pugh's Garden Centre has funds available for a renovation of the Rugby Club and have suggested a one-way system for cars. The History Society is keen that the historical importance of the site is not forgotten.

## Any Other Business

- i. *Financial support for fund raising events* - Jane Morris asked the Association to pay the initial costs up-front for very successful events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the Strawberry Garden Party. Money is returned through ticket sales etc. and additional funds are raised for charity. **(Action: To be brought up at next Exec committee Meeting)**
- ii. *Complaint about not hearing the proceedings of the meeting* - A request was made to speak more loudly or for the sound system to be used. **(Action: Sound system to be used at the next meeting)**
- iii. *PACT - Partnerships and Communities Together* (previously Police and Communities Together). The Police organized the last meeting without consultation when many people, including the Chairman, were not available. It was felt that the meetings had become little more than an exercise for administrative purposes. It was suggested that control of the meetings should be handed back to the Community.
- iv. *Neighbourhood Watch* - The telephone link to warn others of problems is no longer working. A list of numbers and e-mail addresses were given to the police but nothing has been done. It was felt that the community are being short-changed since our Council tax pays for an equivalent of 27 Officers and we are only asking for one.
- v. *Sports Rep needed for Executive Committee* - Volunteers please.
- vi. *Multiple Venues for Meetings* - A small questionnaire will be e-mailed around asking for responses to which venues around the community would be suitable for future meetings.

**Next General Meeting Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008 - 8.00pm (OCR)**