

North West Cardiff Group

Responding to the concerns of our communities

Creigiau Danescourt Gwaelod y Garth Llandaff Pentyrch Radyr & Morganstown St Fagans

Mark Drakeford, AM

Old Church Rooms
Park Road
Radyr
Cardiff CF15 8DF

By Email

June 9, 2014

Dear Mark,

Cardiff Local Development Plan – Cabinet Meeting June 12 2014

Thank you for your efforts to secure a truly sound LDP for Cardiff, rather than one that appears to tick the boxes. However, having seen the Report to Cardiff Cabinet for 12 June (attached) it is clear that, despite everything that we and you have said to the Council over the past 2 years, they have taken no notice, claiming that everything can be sorted by “Masterplanning”. This is like closing the door after the horse has bolted.

We were pleased to see that they are taking a robust stand on their lower housing figures and on retaining a Green Belt. However, we feel that our fundamental objections were too lightly pushed aside in the Cabinet Report. We have written to Cardiff Council's Cabinet Members in the hope that they will reconsider (attached). Failing that we must aim for the LDP to be changed by Inspector to include the Metro, phase in the new communities that it will serve, and revise boundaries for the Strategic Areas.

The expected tidal wave of applications has started to hit Cardiff, the latest being for Site D north of Junction 33. If permission is granted for this site without very strict conditions on access and phasing, we will have the prospect of yet more road-works and disruption while the City and its residents choke on the extra traffic generated. We feel we are being thwarted by a Council which has prepared an LDP based on wildly optimistic assumptions of modal shift and has consulted without taking notice of the responses.

Cardiff Council is clearly willing to give away hundreds of millions of pounds to landowners and house-builders to provide houses for the few while making the lives of tens of thousands of people immeasurably worse. If outline permission is granted, affordable housing levels and S106 contributions envisaged in Cardiff's “Masterplanning” principles will no doubt be negotiated down at detailed stages.

This is not the way the planning system set up in 1947 was intended to operate. Cardiff Council - and indeed the Welsh Government Planning Division - seems to be ignoring the need for integrated and sustainable planning in the headlong rush for jobs and houses at any price.

Progress on developing the Metro concept has been exasperatingly slow. And the Welsh Government Planning Division response to Cardiff's Deposit Plan called for more houses and deletion of the Green Belt, tacitly accepting the target of half of all trips to be by modes other than cars without workable alternatives to make this a reality.

If this bungled plan gets through to adoption without amendment we can look forward to pointless partial widening of our radial routes, less green space, more tarmac and more water run-off, more congested roads and unacceptably high levels of air pollution - very far from the norm for a 21st century European Capital City. The result will be the exact opposite of what is intended. With clogged roads and investment in the Bay and City

Telephone
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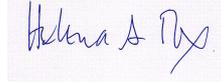
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Centre choked off who will develop brownfield sites in the south when lush green pastures of the north are ripe for the picking?

We are determined to fight on behalf of our communities - in any way possible - to try to ensure we get a fair and sustainable LDP adopted. We value the support you are giving to our campaign.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helena A Fox".

Helena Fox

Clerk to R&MCC on behalf of the North West Cardiff Group

Enc: Cabinet Paper 16

Copy letter to Cardiff Council's Cabinet 9.6.2014