

# THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

## GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cyril Williams (Chairman), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), Nick Hawkins (Secretary), David Cargill, Allan Cook, Elizabeth Fraser, Beverley Lewis, Wyn Phillips, and 15 members including Cllr Rod McKerlich.

**Apologies:** David Silver (Vice Chairman), Kieran Webster, Ailsa Bracegirdle, Gerry Bray, John Hobson, Clive Morgan and PC Huw Thomas

### Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Approved. All matters arising covered in the agenda.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Festival accounts were now complete. £3807.43 had been collected on behalf of the charity, Tŷ Hafan, and he proposed that this should be topped up to £4000, giving the Association a surplus for the Festival of £1003.88 (against a budget of £500). This was agreed. The Association had paid for the printing of 3000 copies of the booklet 'What is there to do in R&M' which had been distributed throughout R&M together with the Village Plan. 1000 copies of the Welcome Pack cover (which will go primarily to new residents) were about to be printed. The Association's retained amount currently stood at £6321, (£1674 on current account, £4647 COIF).

In view of the higher risks associated with mounting more expensive outdoor events during the Festival, possibly with no sponsorship, it was agreed to increase the Association's Reserve Limit from £5000 to £6000.

### Good Neighbours

Sue Philpott and Karen Whitecross addressed the meeting regarding the roles and current financial status of the Radyr & District Good Neighbours Scheme. It was noted that:

- The Scheme was set up over 20 years ago.
- The "District" in the title covers Radyr, Pentyrch, Gwaelod-y-Garth, Creigiau (for Pentyrch lunch club) and Danescourt.
- It provides much needed support for over 100 clients (oldest client 104) such as transport where needed to the lunch clubs, doctors, shopping, hospital etc; it also provides escorts for those who need extra help. In effect, it fills the gap normally met by friends and relatives.
- The Scheme works closely with other agencies such as Age Concern but is fundamentally based on one part-time co-ordinator, 10 Committee members and 80 unpaid volunteers. It is estimated that these volunteers give around 2500 hours per year to the Scheme, worth around £20,000.
- The Scheme is funded by a Cardiff Council grant which has remained the same for eight years. The Community Council also contribute and various other grants have kept the Scheme going. However, at present, expenditure exceeds income by around £2,000 per year, of which the organisers find about £1,000.
- Overall, the Scheme is vital to an ageing population and an injection of funds arising from being the Association's nominated charity for 2011 would allow it to continue with confidence over the next few years.

In discussion, surprise was expressed that the Good Neighbours Scheme was in any form of financial trouble. Questions were asked about how other similar schemes operated and how they were funded, and whether they had similar problems. However, it was conceded that the local scheme was worthy of support.

It was therefore agreed that the Radyr & District Good Neighbours Scheme would become the Association's nominated charity for 2011. It was further agreed that the George Thomas Hospice (which had previously been considered for 2011) would be the nominated charity for 2012. It was noted that Good Neighbours Committee members would do all they could to support the set up and running of the Festival but that some aspects, such as finding 'celebrities' and key draw prizes, may have to be more 'home grown' than usual. It was also noted that one event in the 2011 Festival would still be reserved to raise funds for Kyle Hughes, the Radyr Comprehensive School pupil injured on holiday in 2009.

## **Festival 2011**

David Cargill reported that the first meeting of the Festival 2011 Committee would be on 27<sup>th</sup> September. He mentioned that everyone on the Committee would be expected to 'roll up their sleeves' and work on behalf of the whole Festival, not just on one specific event or for one organisation. There would be problems in 2011 arising from the late Easter and the fact that schools would be closed until the Tuesday after the Bank Holiday. Partly as a result, and partly due to problems in 2010 with the core team sustaining multiple events in one day, the decision had been taken to ease the time table a little. Nevertheless, space had been found for some new events, a Treasure Hunt linked to the Wardens Walk in Radyr Woods, a Morris Minor Rally at the Sidings, a WI event and an 'Open Gardens' scheme. The theme for 2011 had not yet been chosen.

It was noted that a hard standing in and a power supply to Park Radur would ease set up arrangements there immensely. Cllr McKerlich thought this should not be too difficult to organise.

## **Hall Matters**

**Old Church Rooms:** It was noted with pleasure that the Association had won a Community Building Grants award from Cardiff Council of £4250 towards the £7319 (including VAT) cost of replacing the windows in the Garth Room and acquiring a new front door. The work would be done by Castle Windows of 3 Llwyn Bryn Melyn, Radyr and it was hoped to have it completed during half term week starting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Bookings remained buoyant.

**Morganstown Village Hall:** It was noted that MVH had failed in their application for a Community Building grant on the basis that any organisation that had received a grant in the previous three years was excluded. Nevertheless, the new ceiling and the refurbished radiators had given the Hall a fresh appearance. Thanks were expressed to Mike Diment for putting up the mosaic and cockerel which had been gifted to R&M by the St Philbert Twining Association.

## **Community Issues**

See report from Cllr McKerlich (below).

## **Village Plan Projects**

Progress was reported as follows:

**Publicising what we have.** Completed but brochure needs to be kept up to date on the website and reprinted from time to time.

**Identifying help needed.** Cyril Williams would shortly be issuing a letter to all local organisations.

**Local walks etc.** The first walk had been defined. Others would follow.

**Mound Field.** Cllr McKerlich had called a meeting for 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**Welcome Pack.** 1000 copies would be printed shortly.

**Youth activities.** Largely covered in wider Festival events.

**Hanging Baskets.** Still staggering on. Animals had been delivered and had been painted (by Keith John). Now awaiting an installation date.

## **Any Other Business**

**General Meetings.** The Chairman mentioned that future general meetings would take a new form. There would be a key speaker on a topic of interest to the R&M community, followed by a short session dealing with essential business. It was hoped that this would encourage more people to attend Association meetings and improve the profile and awareness of RMA within the community. The first speaker, at the February meeting, would be Dr Chris Partridge (Cardiff Tidy Towns Officer).

**Report from Cllr McKerlich.** The following items were noted:

- A local project was in prospect which would use Radyr Weir to generate hydro-electric power. It was thought that it would be possible to generate sufficient power to serve half of County Hall. The project would have many facets and it was hoped to involve local schools.
- He had met with the new Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent of police and reiterated concerns over the lack of effective police cover in R&M, despite the major contribution the community made to police funds.
- There would be a Community Council meeting on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the area of Radyr Woods (about 25% of the total) which had been put up for auction by the Plymouth Estates. The whole area had been maintained by Radyr Woods Wardens for many years, funded by the Community Council. The aim was to ensure the area is retained as an amenity for the community and not lost to some third party who may wish to cordon it off.
- The new Chief Executive of Cardiff Council would be visiting R&M on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr McKerlich planned to talk to him about his concerns with suggestions of major developments on the borders of R&M. Following the recent failure of the Cardiff Local Development Plan, proposals (notably from the Plymouth Estates) are likely to be made to develop the whole area between Radyr and St Fagans.
- He was still talking to Arriva trains about the provision of disabled access to Radyr Station. He advised that train operators had an obligation to facilitate disabled people travelling and, if someone could not get on the train at Radyr, Arriva trains could be required to provide a taxi from there to Cardiff Central.
- He reported on the successful repair of the burst water main in Heol Isaf and said he thought the whole operation, including local communications on the website and elsewhere, had been much better managed than two years' previously. There would be an article in the next Radyr Chain about this.
- The planning application for the new library in Park Road would be submitted within the month. It would be about 2½ times the size of the existing library. Delays had been caused by the need to redesign the mezzanine level.
- There would be a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September to discuss the future of the Mound Field and the surrounding area. Specific people had been invited but the meeting was not exclusive if others wished to have an input.
- Maes-y-coed and Min-y-Coed had been resurfaced again following the failure of the first attempt.
- A new bus shelter was due to be installed near the flats on Heol Isaf. A new time table was about to be introduced.
- He was delighted to report that the play park in the sidings had, at long last, been handed over to the Council. This meant that the troublesome picnic benches, located too close to properties, could be removed.

In response to questions, Cllr McKerlich confirmed that the speed bumps near Cefn Coch were to specification. As many people were complaining about the size of the bumps as there were asking for similar ones to be put in elsewhere on Bryn Derwen.

There was also discussion on the future of the Community Plot on the Sidings. The Community Council had written strong letters to Rhodri Morgan and Kevin Brennan asking for their support in securing the plot for the community. However Cllr McKerlich felt that the only way of making progress would be for the R&M community to raise a large petition and embarrass Taylor Wimpey by concerted and very visible public disturbances at their offices.

Concern over bad behaviour at the Arena (MUGA) was mentioned but it was agreed this was a topic that should be dealt with in PACT meetings.

**The Corn is Green.** Members were reminded that the Fluellen Theatre Company would be at Morganstown Village Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September performing the classic story of an English school teacher working in a small Welsh coal mining town. Tickets were still available at £8, (concessions £7, those in full time education £4) from Allan Cook (2084 3176), Cyril Williams (2084 2250) or Veg Vendor, Station Road.

**History Society.** Members were reminded that Dr Amelia Pannett (who did the survey on the Mound Field) would be talking to the Society on 11<sup>th</sup> November about the work of Cambrian Archaeology and the Morganstown Motte. All are welcome.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Old Church Rooms.