

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – July 2011

Welcome to our regular newsletter.

Future Meetings. The shape of RMA meetings for the current year has now been finalised and is slightly different from what we said in our last Newsletter. Our next meeting, 5th September, will now be a joint meeting with the Community Council and will focus on next year's **Diamond Jubilee celebrations**. Please see below for further details. **Rhodri Morgan** will now be addressing us on 7th November (topic to be chosen nearer the time) and **Professor Ron Eccles** will now be talking about his work at the Common Cold Unit on 6th February. We are holding PC Huw Thomas's talk over to next year's cycle. Please ensure all these meetings are in your diary; they will all be in the Garth Room in the Old Church Rooms, starting at 19:30.

Jubilee Celebrations. As mentioned above, our General Meeting on 5th September will look at how the R&M Community should celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee from Saturday 2nd to Tuesday 5th June. (The Monday and Tuesday have been designated Bank Holidays). This will be a Public Meeting, open to all, so, if you have any ideas or know others who might have, do come along and bring them too. Have a few discussions with your neighbours and see what they say. 'Official ideas' include a 'Big Lunch' and we might have an extended 'Concert in the Parc' (normally in the Festival, which will be a couple of weeks before) on that weekend and end it with fireworks. Further ideas include the creation of a Jubilee Wood and the dedication of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. But we would like to have more.

Local Development Plan. Our last meeting on 6th June was shifted to the Comprehensive School to allow members the opportunity of entering into the debate over the shape of Cardiff's emerging Local Development Plan (LDP). This was a well attended meeting led by James Clemence of Cardiff Council. For those of you who were unable to be there, this new LDP is intended to run from 2006-2026 and could have a profound impact on our community. It would appear that the Welsh Government (WG) have set Cardiff some extremely challenging (many would say impossible) building targets to meet over the plan period. Everyone at the meeting commented that the predicted building rate (much higher than anything achieved even at the height of the boom) was ridiculous – not the least because the plan, if adopted, would not really be in place until 2014 by which time the rate of required growth would be even higher.

Given that the proposed plan is blatantly unachievable, why were we being addressed by a senior Cardiff Council official and encouraged to attend? It was rather easy to 'read between the lines'. Cardiff Council do not agree with the targets imposed by WG and wanted the weight of public opinion to demonstrate that fact. We were, in fact, asked at the meeting to consider two lesser targets. Even the lowest would be near impossible, and everyone said so.

The importance of the LDP to the R&M Community is simply that any LDP which shows housing growth has also to indicate where those houses will be built and, as part of the development of the plan, developers and land owners were invited to propose suitable sites. Two such sites would affect us in particular - the so called 'Waterhall development', which would place about 4250 houses between Radyr and Pentreban, and an area around Gelynis Farm for a further 300 houses. There was no indication of how the obviously necessary infrastructure (roads/rail links etc) would be achieved for these sites and our real fear is that they might be confirmed without a full understating of the potentially horrendous complications.

The 'consultation period' is now over and we can only hope that Cardiff are able to have satisfactory discussions with WG, based on the community feedback, and the plan which is actually drawn up makes some sense. Cardiff Civic Society (with whom we are affiliated through the Civic Trust) made an excellent submission which they copied to us. It effectively says 'if I were you, I wouldn't start from here'. We can send you a copy (via email) if you would like to see it, but we rather suspect it is too sensible to be adopted. You can see further details of Cardiff's proposals here: www.radyr.org.uk/bank/file7327.pdf .

PACT Meetings. We no longer include on our meetings agenda a report from our local Councillor. He now reports every month at the PACT meeting (next ones 14th July, 18th August, both 19:00 Old Church Rooms) and we do not wish to duplicate things. We encourage you to attend.

Parc Radur. Work on the hard standing area at Parc Radur is now completed. This area can now be used by children of all ages to play games (football, netball etc) all year round, particularly when the grass area is too wet for play – this park is subject to very poor conditions in wet weather. We had hoped the work would have been completed for us to use during the Festival for the ‘Concert in the Parc’ but it took longer than anticipated and will provide an improved community facility for the future. Cardiff County Council carried out the work at the request of our County Councillor, Rod McKerlich, to whom many thanks.

Parc Radur is probably the best large area in the village for community events and children’s play as there are some flat areas. The new hard standing at the bottom of the dell creates a natural amphitheatre. Links have been provided to take electricity supply from the tennis club from time to time (with their permission). It is hoped that not only the Association will make use of this improved facility but the wider community might organise events. The Council also took the opportunity to widen some of the pathways by using grasscrete along the edges. This will allow the occasional vehicle to access the park for maintenance and community events, preventing damage to the grass areas. The grass will grow through the grasscrete and soon be part of the natural parkland.

Unfortunately we have few areas in the village where such facilities exist. Radyr Sidings has a small play area alongside Radyr Woods; Radyr Gardens has the Multiuse Games Area (Arena), but much of the land is on a slope; Morganstown fields largely provides football pitches and skateboarding but has poor access; Windsor Gardens are splendid but too small for major events; and we are likely to lose the ‘Community Plot’ at Radyr Sidings. Before the development at Parc Radur we used to argue that the farm land and fields, now the park, was the lung of the village and at its centre. Let’s hope it remains that way!

Two walks in and around Radyr. Walk 1. Sunday 11th September at 14.30. Allan Cook will recreate the walk looking at the industrial heritage of Radyr and its surroundings as part of the Open Doors initiative of the Civic Trust for Wales. This relatively easy four mile walk on the flat follows established footpaths and will look at the Taff Vale Railway, the Glamorganshire Canal and feeder, the tramway between Gwaelod y Garth and Melingriffith iron works, the wheel at Melingriffith (which will be running specially for the walk), Gelynis Farm and the Norman Motte and Bailey. Duration about two hours. Free. Meet at the entrance to Radyr station.

Walk 2. Thursday 15th September at 19.45. A ghost walk around Llandaff. Experienced ghost hunter Jim Cowan will lead this walk for the R&M History Society. Cost £4. All are welcome. For details or to book phone Allan Cook on 2084 3176.

Christmas Celebrations. The Christmas event will take place this year on Thursday 8th December. With the support of the Community Council and the local traders and some luck with the weather, it will be even better than last year. We hope to have some Christmas lights to switch on in Station Road in addition to the usual Christmas trees above the shops and there will once again be an additional tree at the Sidings if it’s possible. The local businesses will be competing for the “best dressed window” and there will be craft stalls, a bar and BBQ and lots of Carol Singing. Santa may well drop in for a visit.....

Festival and Charity 2012. It is early days to be talking about next year but here is a quick reminder that the R&M Festival will run from Saturday 5th May to Sunday 20th May and we will be supporting the George Thomas Hospice charity. The theme for the Festival will be King Arthur/Camelot; look out for more information in future newsletters and the Radyr Chain. Note that George Thomas Hospice is now our charity for the year – until after next year’s Festival. That means that, if we run any events (such as at Christmas), we will seek to promote the charity and take the opportunity to fund raise for them. If you are involved in an R&M organisation that is considering donating funds to a charity, then do consider joining with us. Together we should be able to raise quite a respectable sum over the year. And, to wish even more time away, do let us know if you have a charity to suggest for future years. We are very open to suggestions, although we do have some criteria for making the decision. Again contact us if you would like to see a copy.

Look at the flowers. We hope you have noticed that the flower baskets have come to Station Road at last, and very nice they look. Many thanks to Cardiff Council for supplying them, even though we had to wait rather a long time! If you are at the Old Church rooms, have a look at the delightful flower garden that has been created by Park Road nursery by and for their children. The materials were donated by Pugh’s, to whom we also send our thanks. This little garden radiates with colour along with an abundance of healthy green beans - well done nursery staff and children.

Contacts. If you would like to comment on any aspect of this Newsletter or require further information, then either email the Secretary, Nick Hawkins, at rma@radyr.org.uk or ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 2250.