

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – July 2014

Welcome to our regular Newsletter – quite a lot to tell you about this time.

Cardiff Local Development Plan. Let us start off by reminding you of the closing statement in the LDP item in our last (May) Newsletter. We said:

“Cardiff Council have made it very clear that there will be no alignment of the development in the NW with the Metro and that a new bus will provide public transport in the meantime. This is a disaster for the future of Cardiff.

At the moment, we are not sure what to do about this now. The NWCG has been in touch with a number of influential people, including our AM Mark Drakeford and Roger Lewis, the Chairman of the new Cardiff Capital Region Board. They agree with what we are saying and we can only hope that Cardiff will either see sense or be forced to do so by the Welsh Government. There may be a ‘call to arms’ in the near future if they do not.”

We (the Association plus all the members of the North West Cardiff Group – R&MCC, Pentyrch, Creigiau, St Fagans, Llandaff, Gwaelod y Garth and Danescourt) – think it is now time for that ‘call to arms’. Cardiff Council approved the LDP on 26th June and, in doing so, ignored all the advice and suggestions made by the NWCG. Followers of the LDP thread on the R&M Soapbox (which we recommend you read) will have seen the reaction to the almost unbelievable assumptions on travelling built into the LDP. It would appear that Cardiff Council, possibly under duress from the Welsh Government (who want to up the pace on house building) and certainly encouragement by the landowners and future developers (who, we estimate, will walk away with around £1 Billion once the LDP is implemented), are ploughing on regardless.

The next Radyr Chain will contain a major article on the LDP so we will not say a lot more here but **one action, which we encourage all to take now, is to sign an electronic petition** that has been set up to request Cllr Ramesh Patel (who is responsible for delivering the LDP) to ‘*Amend the LDP to delay development in NW Cardiff so housing and transport aligns with the Metro and proper consideration can be given to Cardiff Civic Society’s plan for new, sustainable communities*’. You can do that by going to the R&M website (**click here:** www.radyr.org.uk) which has the link on the front page. There is also a link on the R&M Facebook page. **It is really important that as many people as possible sign this petition (there are 24,000 residents in the NWCG) to show the strength of our feelings. So please encourage your colleagues, friends and neighbours to sign it. This is a concern for NW Cardiff but it actually impacts on the whole of SE Wales.**

Finally, please note that Cllr Rod McKerlich has arranged a meeting in the Old Church Rooms to discuss a number of matters, including the LDP, for Monday, 28th July at 19:30. We suggest you attend.

Old Church Rooms. And now for some more positive news. The R&MCC has appointed an architect to draw up detailed plans for the total refurbishment of the OCR. In essence, we plan to demolish the old Police Station part (which used to be the toilet block!), reorganise the entrance (creating a new lobby), and build a new two-storey extension coming out onto the grassed area. The extension will contain a refurbished toilet block, a proper ground floor storage area and a further office above. The net result will be better access to all areas (and no steps), dedicated storage for the two main rooms, a better kitchen, and a much more open aspect to the front of the building. We have a lot of ideas about how the present facilities can be improved – if we have the money – including electronic access systems (no keys), new floor finishes, improved heating and lighting etc. Do get in touch if you have any ideas or can assist in this task (contact details at the end of this Newsletter). Once we have a good idea of what we want to do everyone will have an opportunity to comment. The job will not be cheap but we are lining ourselves up to make grant applications and the R&MCC will be able to draw down a loan based on the precept (as it did when the OCR was originally built). With a fair wind, we would like the work done in Summer 2015.

Film Night. We have firmed up on our plans for a regular Film Night. Specifically, they will be at 7:30pm on Thursday evenings in the OCR from September to March, plus a Matinee during half term. Due to license restrictions there will not be a bar (BYO!) and the price will be fixed at £4 (no concessions). We have booked our first tranche of films which will be:

25 September: The Grand Budapest Hotel

23 October: The two faces of January
28 October (Matinee): Maleficent
27 November: Belle
22 January: Boyhood (to be confirmed)

You will be able to buy tickets from Ener Chi, on line, or from Association members. We hope it all goes well.

Station Road. There are lots of changes happening in Station Road. Again to start with the positive, we hope you have noticed and admired the hanging baskets – which we have provided. They are starting to blossom well now and provide a splendid backdrop.

You will remember all the concerns being expressed over the reorganisation of the Post Office and the Newsagents? The idea was to amalgamate the two services on one side of the shop. The Post Office asked for comments, and got lots of them; all negative. Well, surprise, surprise, the instigators of this idea (dreamt up between Martin's and the PO) have come back in again for a measure up and decided it can't be done! It appears they had not noticed there is a pillar just to the right of the present counter of Martin's which, if taken down, would cause the building to collapse. So everything is now on hold while they scratch their heads.

One bone of contention with the proposed reorganisation was the lack of any apparent regard being taken of the closure of the NatWest branch, which shuts on 30th July; we said it would generate more business for the PO, so needed to be taken into account. You may have noticed that NatWest are now busy putting an ATM into their building (they could have done that years ago) and, we understand, will then be selling the building with some sort of proviso that it stays there. Are we alone in thinking that is bonkers? We already have an ATM in Martin's (not free, admittedly) and money is readily available from the PO for most of the week. By putting in an ATM now they will reduce the PO traffic and restrict the sort of business that could run in the bank building. Next, we will hear that the PO does not do enough business and that will be closed. Joined up writing?

Sadly, Vintage Gem has closed and moved to (much more spacious) premises in Taffs Well. They are now at Unit 3Ca, Garth Works, which is just next to the station. They were very involved in R&M matters whilst they were here and we wish them well. Do continue to visit them; you can find directions on their website.

On top of that, we have been told that Christian Aid are moving shortly and new tenants are being sought. So that is three properties looking for new enterprises.

As a final comment we feel we have to note that the Association tried very hard some time ago to get the Station Road traders to form some sort of self help promotional group. It is not too late for them to do so. The R&M Community deserves and would support a thriving shopping centre; support for the restaurant shows what is possible.

Litter Pick. The R&M WI tell us that it is 'Tidy Wales Week' from 15 – 21 September. As in previous years they will be supporting this event by doing a litter pick around the Mound Field area during the morning of **Monday 15th September**. We think that is a lovely idea and encourage groups and individuals to join them on the day. Do get in touch with either Pat Williams (2084 3843) or Gaynor Leaf (2084 3069) to let them know you are coming and for further information.

Christmas Lighting Ceremony. It may seem a bit odd to be mentioning this at the hottest time of the year but we do need to start planning early. This increasingly popular event will be held on Friday, 5th December and we would like to have more stalls, more activities etc. If you have any ideas, would like to run a stall (free) or know someone who might, or could provide some form of entertainment, then please get in touch with us.

Soapbox. Can we make a little plug for the Soapbox on the R&M site? We know it is a popular area and a lot of people do look at it but, if you want to know what is going on in the R&M Community, it is worth keeping tabs on the discussion. Current topics include the closure of Waungron Recycling Centre (there is a link to a petition to keep it open), the LDP (of course), work just about to begin at Radyr Station to provide disabled access, continuing – possibly resolved – problems in the Sidings area, how to report potholes in the road, and lots more. It is not just people complaining, it really is a forum where questions get asked and answered. Have a look!

Meetings. A quick reminder that our next meeting will be on Monday, 15th September when Mark Drakeford AM will be the speaker. Should be good. Make sure the date is in your diary. On 17th November, the speaker will be Andrew Williams, Head Teacher of Radyr Comprehensive School. Make sure that is in your diary as well.

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this Newsletter or require further information, then either email the Secretary, Nick Hawkins (rma@radyr.org.uk), or ring the Chairman, Dr David Silver, on 029 2084 4337.