



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Minutes of a MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 1 February 2018 at **7.45pm** at the Old Church Rooms.

Present: Cllrs H Lloyd Jones, R Vaughan, A Richards, K Webster, M Vatsaloo

In Attendance: Julie Hopkins, Ray Rivron (Friends of Radyr Woods)

- 148 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs K Ullah
- 149 To make declarations of Interest:** None
- 150 To Note and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 23rd November 2017 and 4th January 2018 were agreed and signed by Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones as an accurate record.
- 151 To receive an update:** Chair's Report was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. (**Appendix A**) (filed with these Minutes). The Report was received and noted and the Chair, Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones gave the Committee a verbal overview. The Chair asked if Councillors had any questions regarding Report. Cllr R Vaughan asked if all monies being spent were within the Environment Budget and Cllr H Lloyd Jones confirmed this was the case. Radyr Primary School had planted their Snowdrops on the afternoon of 1st February and Bryn Deri Primary School would be planting their Snowdrops at Willow Tree Close on Friday 2nd February.
- Ray Rivron outlined the following in relation to Radyr Wood:
Coppicing had been done by Cardiff Conservation Volunteers on 28th January and pictures have been posted on our Facebook page.
R&MCC had not yet received the Grant application form or the latest accounts for Radyr Woods and he would ask Caroline Dallimore to supply this.
The signpost is safe and will be put up again.
The Wheelchair friendly picnic bench will be assembled within the next few weeks.
- Ray Rivron was thanked for his contribution and left the meeting.
- 152 To discuss the War Memorial Flag Pole:** The issue with the Flag pole is that the "hole" is not visible and some form or "Marker" needs to be put there so that it is more easily located when necessary. It was agreed that Cllr Myles Vatsaloo will arrange to meet with Mike Clarke to discuss the exact location and take some photographs.
- 153 Any other business with prior consultation with the Chair:** See Attached Welsh Government Information leaflet **Appendix B** (filed with these Minutes). Radon in the Old Church Rooms. Park Road Nursery have raised this issue. Isotopes are active and can be inhaled which could possibly cause the onset of malignant diseases of the lungs. We may have to consider this in the OCR and it may be prudent for R&MCC to

monitor it. Measurement Detector kits are available which can be sent away for analysis. A recommendation would be made to Full Council to purchase the kit. Proposed by Cllr R Vaughan and seconded by Cllr K Webster.

Cllr R Vaughan asked if there are plans to buy and plant a permanent Christmas tree in Windsor Gardens as a long-term solution. Cllr H Lloyd Jones confirmed that this is a possibility.

The traffic issues from Kings Road to Heol Isaf were discussed and the possibility of the need for a roundabout, traffic lights or a gyratory system needs to be seriously considered. Two letters have already been sent to Cardiff Council by R&MCC to this effect and we have yet to receive a reply. R&MCC to send a third letter confirming that we wish to point out that there are blind spots on Kings Road and R&MCC are extremely concerned that this may lead to a tragedy for Pedestrians and Cyclists, and follow up with a telephone call. Cllr K Webster raised the need for another traffic assessment on Kings Road as there is a serious risk of pedestrians being knocked over. Cllr H Lloyd Jones to draft the letter.

Cllr A Thomas-Richards to draft a letter to the Rail companies and Department of Transport that deals with the use of Kings Road.

Cllr R Vaughan raised the issue of the LDP and feels that the battle is lost. We need to ensure that any new proposals received by the North West Cardiff Group are examined and any objections sent are reviewed by all local Community Councils.

Cllr R Vaughan raised the issue of the possibility of subsidence on Heol Isaf between Maes yr Awel and Min Y Coed. Cllr H Lloyd Jones reported that letters had been sent to the Cabinet Minister for Strategic Planning and Transport on the issue. There had been a reply that the situation was being monitored but there is no obvious signs of monitoring equipment. Furthermore, the last storm has reduced one of the large trees that was helping bind the bank to a stump, albeit a fairly tall stump. A copy of one of the letters had been in the bundle that the Community Council gave Mark Drakeford for consideration when he attended the meeting in January.

Since a landslip could possibly obstruct the railway line as happened closer to Radyr station a few years ago, joint working between Network Rail and Cardiff Council seemed the way forward.

A letter from the Community Council should be sent to the Cabinet Minister for Strategic Planning copying in Network Rail on this issue. Cllr H Lloyd Jones to draft the letter.

Cllr H Lloyd Jones would like the roles of Chair of Environment and Chair of Planning to be separate. It was suggested that in the Annual Meeting in May this be changed.

154 To put forward any items for the next meeting: Traffic issues in Radyr & Morganstown

155 Date of next meeting: The next Environment meeting will be held on Thursday 8th March 2018 at **7.45pm**. Time to be advised if Finance change to 8th as well.

Report for Environment Committee February 1st, 2018

Windsor Gardens

Gardening

We have abandoned the idea of planting alliums this year. We have discovered they need a lot of sunshine to flower. We will look to planting something else to give colour in the summer.

Granny Park

Brushwood

This has not been removed. Hopefully it will be taken away this month

The Sidings

Planters

Nothing to report

OCR

Planter

Planting this is on hold due to discussions with RMA re siting of BBQ equipment and possible resurfacing of floor surface. We hope that a temporary display of pansies will be in situ soon.

Pentwyn

Path

The path becomes a set of quite deep puddles every winter.

Cardiff Conservation Volunteers has walked the site. Possible ways forward have been discussed but not priced. CCV said they would need three days to complete the job but we need to work out the cost of the materials.

We will also ask David Barnes to look at the job.

In the meantime, we have budgeted for a possible spend of £7500 over the next two years.

Tree work

Orange has completed the treework in Pentwyn. The company has invoiced the Community Council for this work.

We have received e-mails from a nearby house, re the trees. We have replied and hope that we have found a mutually satisfactory solution.

Dan y Bryn

Benches

Still are not mended. The materials have been ordered. Hopefully we will soon see these benches repaired.

Tree work

We have been invoiced £2,214 for work done in Dan y Bryn by Orange

Making the path mobility scooter friendly.

We have had an estimate for dropping the curb at point of entry to the wood and then making the path suitable for mobility scooters and wheelchairs. This is a project that is highly desirable but not as high a priority as the path at Pentwyn.

Estimated cost £10,000

We have walked the project with the CCVs but the solution they could deliver is probably not the one we would prefer in the woods. So we need to have some more advice.

Appendix A

Radyr Woods

Tree Work

Orange has been informed that they have been awarded the contract for the tree work. We believe that this work will start very soon.

Tree 58 has been completely felled. We have been invoiced £240 for the second stage of felling the tree by Orange.

Signpost

This has come down during the Christmas period. It is not clear whether it has collapsed because its posts had become rotten or because it was helped to fall. The Radyr Woods wardens will let us know as soon as possible.

Issues

We now have a copy of the Friends of Radyr Woods constitution. The Clerk has filed it and it has also been uploaded to the Radyr Woods page on the web site. Apparently, although everybody refers to the volunteers as the Radyr Woods Wardens they are correctly called Friends of Radyr Woods.

They also informed us that a Risk Assessment would be sent to the Community Council's Clerk

Coppicing

CCV came Jan 28th and did some coppicing in the woods. We have budgeted for three days of coppicing in Radyr Woods.

Ffordd Las

We have ordered a new bench. There is a six-week lead time so we expect it to arrive in March. We also intend to ask Graham Moore if he will look at the shrubs around the seat and advise us how best to manage them.

Plaque Rhodri Morgan

We have contacted Julie Morgan who is very touched with the idea of putting a plaque up. She has promised to let us know which house her brother feels should carry the plaque.

Terms of Reference

Having terms of reference will be helpful. This is in abeyance for the moment.

Penrhys Pilgrimage

The Penrhys Pilgrimage Working Party has passed details to Pentyrch Community Council of a grant that could be pulled down to help repair the path between Pentyrch and Radyr. The relevant part of the path is in the Pentyrch Community Council. Several other grants have been applied for, some of which we may want to help with match funding as the projects would benefit the community.

Ash Path

The Community Council still needs to place notices at both ends of this path as part of the process of claiming it as a public right of way. We need to discuss the current situation with the Rights of Way Officer again.

Christmas Trees and Lights for the Trees

We have been informed of several options, but we have no firm details that we can report on at present.

The Mound

This is on Cardiff Council's land. However, the grass has to be hand raked after it is cut, and we were asked if we could find volunteers to help.

The grass in the field has been cut. The trees on the mound are growing and we have been advised these must not grow too high. We recommend that we remind Cardiff council of the need to keep all the growth on the mound bush rather than tree like. We have not yet reminded Cardiff Council about the growth on the mound.

Snowdrops

Both Radyr and Brynderi Primary are planting snowdrops for us this year. Radyr Primary on 1st Feb and Brynderi on 2nd Feb.

We can already see the snowdrops the schools planted last year and we look forward to seeing the new snowdrops joining last years. The aim is to have drifts of snowdrops at Willow Tree Close. Our thanks go to both schools for helping. It's wonderful to see the children making such a positive difference to our and their community.

Trees by Woodfield Avenue

The trees by Woodfield Avenue next to Heol Isaf were flagged up to us by a member of the community as a cause for concern. We asked the local tree surgeon to look at them and following his comments, we passed the matter via County Councillor McKerlich to Cardiff Council.

They have sent out their experts to look at the trees and have reported back that they consider the trees to be safe.

We do not own the land where the trees are, neither does Cardiff Council. However, Cardiff Council would have the right to deal with a tree that threatens the safety of the road. We can only ever act as a conduit of information re the trees to Cardiff Council if concerns are raised.

Bench by Woodfield Avenue and Heol Isaf

We have had to pay a peppercorn rent to the Plymouth estate for the bench for many years. However, in investigating the trees (See above) it turned out that the Plymouth estate does not own this land any longer. We have flagged this up and we have been advised that we will not need to pay in the future.

Willow Tree Close

Moles

There are mole heaps on Willow Tree Close. Although we cut the grass there, we have no management agreement with Cardiff Council for this piece of land.

Fallen tree

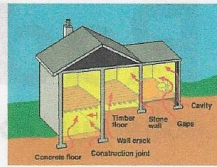
We asked David Barnes to remove the tree that had fallen down because we were aware the school children would be planting snowdrops there this week and we wanted to make sure it was safe. There is however a stump left.

We will write to Cardiff Council and ask them if they can remove the stump and also deal with the moles.

Radon

We have recently received information on this which we need to check whether or not the Community Council needs to take any action.

Appendix B



Radon Gas

Information for Childcare Settings

Cwllwm are collaborating with Public Health Wales and Welsh Government to raise awareness of radon gas and what this means for childcare providers in Wales.

Please find below some information about what radon gas is, how you can find out whether it may affect you and your service, and possible actions you can take.

We hope you will find this information useful not just as professional childcare providers and employers, but also to raise awareness for you, your staff and your families.

Please note: CIW will not be inspecting or asking for evidence about radon gas, however it would show good practice and reassure parents and staff if you have looked into it for your premises as part of your health and safety risk assessment and quality of care review.

What is Radon?

Radon is a colourless, odourless radioactive gas that comes from the rocks and soils found everywhere in the UK.

Where is radon found?

Radon is everywhere. Radon levels are low everywhere outdoors and for many areas indoors and the risk to health is small. Checks can be made on the premises you are in, whether you are looking after children in your own or rented premises, or as a childminder in your own home.

Radon Gas - Do you know the risks?

Health and safety legislation requires employers in radon 'hotspots', or with basements or underground rooms, to assess radon exposure.

Further information on radon in the workplace can found at the Health & Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/ionising/radon.htm

Where are the radon 'hotspots' (Radon Affected Areas)?

An indicative map of radon affected areas in England and Wales, produced by Public Health England and British Geological Survey, is available from www.ukradon.org/information/

Why is radon a risk to health?

The risk to health for most people is small, however the higher the radon levels and the longer the exposure to it, the greater the risk - especially if you smoke. Radon causes over 1,100 deaths from lung cancer each year in the UK.

Half of these deaths occur among the quarter of the population who are current smokers.

What level of radon is a cause for concern?

Radon is measured in Becquerels per cubic metre of air (Bqm⁻³). The average level in UK homes is 20 Bqm⁻³.

An Action Level of 200 Bqm⁻³ applies to homes. Homes with radon levels above the Action Level should take action to reduce radon.

A **Target Level of 100 Bqm⁻³** is the ideal outcome for existing buildings. For levels below 100 Bqm⁻³, your individual risk remains relatively low and not a cause for concern. However, when homes are between the Action and Target Levels, householders should consider reducing their radon level, the risk increases as the radon level increases.

What do you need to do next?

Check - if your property is in a radon affected area here <http://www.ukradon.org/information/>.

Measure - If you are in a radon Affected Area you should order a radon measurement pack for your home or workplace. Check whose responsibility it is if you are in rented premises.

Radon detectors are safe and simple to use, for example they can sit on a shelf. They are small hollow plastic shells containing a piece of clear plastic that records the damage caused by radon. The detectors do not emit anything and do not collect anything dangerous.

The amount of radon varies over time and from room to room in a building. The test is carried out over three months to allow for variations in levels. Testing is recommended in the living area and bedroom of a home as these are the rooms most used. In workplaces sufficient radon monitors must be used to represent all occupied areas.

Act - If the radon level is high you should explore the best method for reducing it, please refer to www.ukradon.org/information/reducelevels for further information.

Further information

For more information about radon gas, please visit

UK Radon Reference website
www.ukradon.org

Health & Safety Executive website
www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/ionising/radon.htm

Welsh Government
gov.wales/topics/health/protection/environmental/radon/?lang=en

Public Health Wales
www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/81979/

