



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council **Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan**

Minutes of a MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on Thursday 7th June 2018 at **7.00pm** at the Old Church Rooms.

Present: Cllrs Helen Lloyd Jones, Ralph Vaughan, Myles Vatsaloo, Kieran Webster,

In Attendance: Julie Hopkins, Jim Goodwin (Radyr Woods Warden/Friends of Radyr Woods)

- 11 To Elect a Chair:** Cllr M Vatsaloo took the chair. Cllr K Webster nominated Cllr H Lloyd Jones, Cllr R Vaughan seconded. Cllr H Lloyd Jones was voted in as Chair of Environment Committee.
- 12 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr K Ullah
- 13 To make declarations of Interest:** Cllr H Lloyd Jones (Chair of Environment) declared an interest under Minute number 16 in that she is the Chair of the Penrhys Pilgrimage Group.
- 14 To discuss Terms of Reference:** No terms of reference presented. Cllr M Vatsaloo to take this forward.
- 15 To note and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 3rd May 2018 were duly noted and signed by Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones as an accurate record.

Radyr Woods – Jim Goodwin, Radyr Woods Warden gave a brief update on Radyr Woods.

Some tree work has been carried out but nothing recently.

Signpost – No change from previous meeting.

Boardwalk – It was suggested R&MCC buy extra boards to keep in reserve whilst the colour is still available. Recommendation to look into the cost of this with a view to purchase.

Coppicing – The coppicing that has been done by Cardiff Conservation Volunteers was the best we have seen and this compliment was passed onto CVV who were very pleased.

Chairman's Oak – Cllr R Vaughan to plant an Oak during Nation Tree Week which takes place between 24th November and 2nd December 2018. Clerk to check with the Woodland Trust to determine if R&MCC are entitled to a free Oak.

Easter Egg Hunt – Cllr A Thomas-Richards to look into this.

Grant – Radyr Woods Wardens will be submitting a Grant Application for 2018-2019.

Footpath 48 – This is in danger of erosion. R&MCC have informed Cardiff Council who will look into this.

Wheelchair Friendly Picnic Bench – Radyr Woods Wardens are hoping to install this during July and also remove the remnants of the old Boardwalk. No date has been set as yet but it will be sometime after 15th July. Cllr H Lloyd Jones will put this on Social Media.

Jim Goodwin left meeting

- 16 To receive an update:** The 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 Cllr H Lloyd Jones gave the Committee a verbal overview.

Windsor Gardens.

It was suggested that we defer Gardener Graeme Moore's visits to October, November and December. The Christmas Tree Receiver will be installed this Saturday 9th June.

Capping stones – Some Capping Stones are missing and will need to be replaced. Recommended to ask the R&MCC Handyman to look into this.

Railings – Some of the railings have broken and a decision will need to be made as to whether R&MCC remove or replace the railings. R&MCC will request an estimate from the Wrought Iron Centre in Cardiff for replacing the railings.

WW1 Notice board – This has been erected but was found to be leaking during heavy rain. R&MCC to contact Manufacturer regarding this.

Pentwyn Park

Bryn Deri Primary School have started a project to determine what interesting trees can be planted in the Park.

R&MCC are awaiting a Report from Arch Utility Services regarding draining the Path.

Ash Path – See attached Report for correspondence from Cardiff Council.

Christmas Trees – Recommending ordering two 20-foot Christmas Trees for the Sidings and Windsor Gardens and one 15-foot Christmas Tree for Granny Park.

The Mound – R&MCC to remind Cardiff Council about the tree growth on the Mound.

War memorial – The War Memorial has been cleaned and the Flag Pole receiver has been capped with a metal top so is now easy to locate.

Footpath Committee – There are 50 paths in the Community and R&MCC could consider setting up a Footpath Committee. See attached Report for further information.

Dog Poo – There is a great improvement in the amount of Dog Poo in Radyr & Morganstown since R&MCC put out posters and Cardiff Council Enforcement Officers have patrolled areas of greatest concern.

Ffordd Treforgan – R&MCC may like to consider putting Benches along this road. Cllr K Webster to identify where these could be located.

Neighbourhood Deep Clean – Please see attached Report for further information.

17 Any other business with prior consultation with the Chair: None

18 To put forward any items for the next meeting: None

19 Date of next meeting: The next Environment meeting will be held on Thursday 5th July 2018 at **7.45pm**.

Meeting Closed

Environment Report for 7th June 2018

Windsor Gardens

Gardening

The existing daffodils are growing blind. These need to be replaced. **Recommendation** We buy wild daffodil bulbs for planting in September or early October. **Action** Clerk. Graeme Moore came in May. He is also going to come the same day as the Christmas tree support is constructed Saturday June 9th by Centregreat and will make sure the gardens are left looking tidy. We will ask him to produce a plan for the management of Windsor Gardens.

Recommendation: We suggest that after this Saturday, we defer Graeme's visits to October, November and December which are better times for any planting we may decide to carry out.

Capping stones

It has been pointed out that there are some capping stones missing. We have had the existing ones looked at. We have been advised that they were made in concrete. We will have difficulty matching the shape of the existing ones. It would be wise to replace the missing ones with as close a match as possible. Not having a coping stone means that water can run into the pillars and in cold weather turn to ice. Over a period of time this process erodes the pillar.

Recommendation We ask the Handyman to measure up the existing capping stones and to see if he can find similar ones we could use. **Action** Clerk

Railings

Some of the railings have broken at the point where they are inserted into the pillar. One set of railings can be lifted up. Apparently children use them to haul themselves up, so it is a concern that other railings could break under the weight of a climbing child.

Decision We have to make a decision do we replace, or do we remove these railings.

Notice Board

The notice board has been erected in the park. There is a leak in the panel part. **Action** Clerk to contact the supplier.

Granny Park

Brushwood

We thought this had been removed but there was another pile the other side of the tree which was not picked up. **Recommendation** Clerk to sort.

Planter

The Planter that Ann Jones looks after for us has been planted with summer flowers. Ann is letting the tulips die down naturally so the bulbs will flower next year. Expect a splash of colour by end of June again. Mil o ddiolch Ann.

The Sidings

Planters

We have paid the lady who lead the planter planting session for the plants used. We look forward to seeing what the Sidings group will do with the planter this summer. Thank you Sidings Planter group!

OCR

Planter

The planter looks lovely. Thanks to the Clerk for planting it up.

Pentwyn

Path

The path becomes a set of quite deep puddles every winter. We have found a drain in the park.

Our situation has changed here as we now know we own the boundary. This means that we can look at different solutions such as building a retaining wall and putting drainage within the wall to bring any excess water into the park away from the path.

In the meantime, we will continue to investigate the possibility of draining one puddle to the drain in the park as recommended by the Welsh Water engineer. There is equipment that can be hired which would enable us to determine where the drain in the park goes.

We have checked with British Gas and SWALEC and there are no gas pipes or electricity lines in Pentwyn Park.

We have had Arch Utility Services (SW) Ltd, Unit 2, Ynyshir Ind Est, Llanwonno Road, Porth CF39 0HU 07894007816 01443687396 to the park. Cameras have been put down the drain in both directions. We have not yet had the report, but the advice was that it would be feasible to drain the second puddle into the field drain (which is probably not a field drain as it has a plastic pipe inside it)



When we receive the report, we will need to make the decision re draining the second puddle.

We have also had more advice re the first puddle which we will follow up as soon as possible.

Dan y Bryn

Benches

The benches are both mended, and both use recycled plastic wood.

Radyr Hawkweed

We have been advised that there is no longer Radyr Hawkweed in Radyr Woods but there is some in Dan y Bryn.

Making the path mobility scooter friendly.

We will keep this as a regular comment until we can find a solution that would work. No progress this month.

Fence on approach to Dan y Bryn

There is a fallen down fence which needs repairing on one side of the path. This appears to belong to the adjacent house.

Brynderi school has asked whether they could use Dan y Bryn for environmental study work. We are delighted that the wood has returned to a state where the school feels they could use it.

Radyr Woods

Tree Work

Tree work has started in Radyr Woods. A combination of the very cold and long winter going straight into a very warm spring with birds nesting has slowed down the rate at which the tree work can progress. The area near Junction terrace was used for training sessions on use of chain saws. There is still some clearing up to be done there. The contractor is aware of this and intends to see to it.

We are aware that the Tree Survey outlined work that should be done in the first six months and then in the next two years. We have decided to make sure all the work that was to be done in the first six months has been completed and paid for before we move into the next tranche of work.

Signpost

This has come down during the Christmas period. It is being kept safe and will be put back this summer by the Radyr Wardens.

No feedback as yet.

Issues

The Community Council has asked the Friends of Radyr Woods (known as the Radyr Woods Wardens) for a Risk Assessment.

Environment Protection Act 1990 has a section re litter, which enables an authority to serve a penalty on an offender. There have been cases of fly tipping of school furniture into Kingfisher Pond. Should these offences reoccur, the Act may be of use.

Boardwalk

The damage to two boards over the winter has been put right. The Community Council should consider buying some reserve boards from the same supplier while the same colour is available.

Recommendation Clerk to ask the Chair of Radyr Woods Wardens for the relevant details and then a decision re: funding their purchase can be made.

Coppicing

Jim Goodwin reported that the coppicing done by Cardiff Conservation Volunteers was the best he had seen. We have passed the compliment on to the CCV and they are very pleased.

Chairman's Oak

The Chair of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council will plant an oak during National Tree Week.

Action Clerk to ask Chair of Radyr Woods to determine date of planting. Determine whether we are entitled to a free oak. Buy oak, if necessary.

Easter Egg Hunt

There appeared to have been a private Easter Egg Hunt in Radyr Woods. The Community Council may like to consider doing an Easter Egg Hunt for the community. Dan y Bryn should also be considered as a possible location.

Action Angharad Richards.

Grant

The Radyr Woods Wardens will be submitting a grant application for 2018-2019.

Footpath 48

This is in danger of erosion from all the water pouring across it from the flushes on the school grounds. We have informed Cardiff Council's Lead on PROW and had a positive response.

Ffordd Las

Graeme Moore has looked at the shrubs and is willing to improve the area as part of the winter program.

Plaque Rhodri Morgan

We need to follow this up. **Action** Helen Lloyd Jones.

Terms of Reference

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

Penrhys Pilgrimage

Work is still going on to bring the pilgrims' way into a good walking condition.

Ash Path

Sadly, despite all our hard work and the tremendous effort by Val Allen to collect the signatures needed, historically there was evidence which prevented the claiming of the right of way. Relevant correspondence from Cardiff Council in italics below:

RADYR : PROW CLAIM, SECTION 53 WILDLIFE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981-RADYR RAIL ASH PATH, CARDIFF

Thank you for your correspondence dated 21st September 2017 in connection with the above and an application to record a PROW at the Radyr Rail Ash Path adjacent to the cricket ground.

This path has been the subject of a claim previously and historic evidence has proven it does not qualify to be recorded on the Definitive map.

It was originally proposed to be recorded on the 1954 map, but was subject to a British Transport Commission objection based on the fact that due to a 1907 easement there was an agreement for railway maintenance of the then, Taff Vale Railway but no rights permissive or otherwise for the public at large.

British Rail too measures throughout the 1970's in correspondence with the PROW team to clearly show there was no intention to dedicate as highway.

It appears from the claim forms that people are trying to claim historic usage dating back to 1975 to record a PROW before the 2026 closure deadline for historic paths .

Under that regulation a path would have to have qualified pre 1949 and therefore one would look at a period of 20 year usage pre 1949.

It is clear that both in 1949 and subsequent claims, indeed by The Ramblers Society themselves the path does not qualify since the railway have proved contrary dedication.

Christmas Trees and Lights for the Trees

We have been informed of several options with respect to planting trees and for supplying cut trees this winter, but we have no firm details that we can report on at present.

We are recommending that we order two 20-foot trees for the Sidings and Windsor Gardens and a 15-foot tree for the Granny Park. This will mean we should have some spare lights.

We would like to see these lights amongst the ordinary trees in Windsor Gardens around the perimeter. We would need to have an electricity plug the other side of the path.

Recommendation Costs of putting an electric point to be determined, including cost of reinstating any damage done to path.

The Mound

No change from last month but it would be wise to remind Cardiff Council about the trees on it.

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. **Action** Clerk

Bench by Woodfield Avenue and Heol Isaf

Left on until we are sure we are no longer being invoiced. The invoice used to arrive in January.

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

Nothing to report.

Rail fares

Rail fares requesting that Taffs Well should be in the same zone as Radyr to make it less attractive for commuters from outside Radyr and Morganstown to use Radyr Station. We prepared a letter re our concerns which the full council endorsed and then sent. We have had no reply as yet.

We have mentioned the problem to Mark Drakeford but we have not formally written to him.

Heol Isaf

Possible subsidence. We prepared a letter re our concerns which the full council endorsed and then sent to Cardiff Council. Acknowledgement of our letter which says, "The matter will be investigated, and a full response sent in due course".

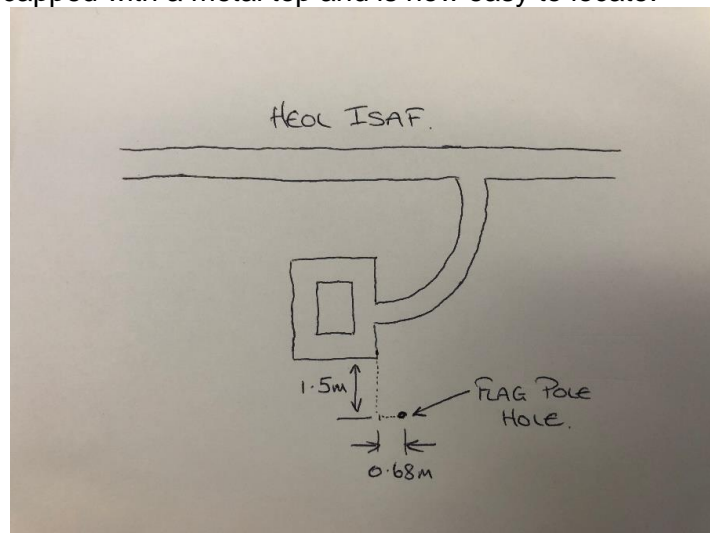
We will continue to leave this on the agenda until we have had a response that reassures the community council.

Naming Pathways and Back Lanes

A call has been made from Cardiff Council. for any small connecting paths or back lanes to be given names. If anybody has a lane they would like to name, please let us know.

War Memorial

The War Memorial has been cleaned. It appears that the stains are engrained in the stone. The responsibility for the War Memorial belongs to Cardiff Council but at present David Barnes cuts the grass and keeps it look good gratis. There is a flagpole receiver close to the memorial which we aim to mark so it is easy to find in November. We now have a map, see below. The receiver has been capped with a metal top and is now easy to locate.



Himalayan Balsam

We have been asked to consider having a Himalayan Balsam bashing session in July. Just pulling the plant up and leaving it, if done before it has gone to seed is enough to control its progress.

We are delighted to report that the school children in Bryn Deri are helping us map the extent of Himalayan Balsam. We hope they will also help us to pull some up.



Ragwort

There is a lot of Ragwort in Morganstown and this is dangerous to horses. It may be possible to arrange a Ragwort removal day in August with the help of Keep Wales Tidy.



Footpath Committee

There are 50 paths in the community. The Community Council could consider setting up a footpath committee consisting of walkers who would be willing to keep an eye on a few designated paths which would enable the Community Council to pass information on quickly if any path has a problem. Several dogwalkers have indicated they would be willing to help.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

It has been suggested that fitting some outdoor fitness equipment in the community might be appreciated. The feasibility of doing this should be investigated.

Dog poo

This was a problem that was flagged up on the RMA Facebook site. The Community Council put out posters asking people to deal with dog poo properly. Cardiff Council Enforcement Officers have patrolled the area which was causing greatest concern.

Inspection of that area this month shows a great improvement. Well done, dog owners of Radyr and Morganstown.

Ffordd Treforgan

This is a long, steep hill to walk. The Community Council might like to consider placing some benches along the side of this road.

Trees by Heol Isaf and Woodfield Avenue

These are not on Community Council land. It has been pointed out that one tree, a holm oak does not look healthy and this information has been passed to Cardiff Council by the County Councillor.

Neighbourhood Deep Clean

We have been scheduled for a neighbourhood deep clean this week by Cardiff Council. The areas chosen were Heol Isaf and The Green according to the maps we received this week. We are pleased Radyr and Morganstown are on the schedule. The decision for which streets to choose came from LEAMS Data. Next year, we hope to engage with this scheme better.