

## **Report for Environment Committee October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **Windsor Gardens**

Graeme Moore will spend another four days in the gardens before the end of October. Please note that the shrubs need pruning which will make the gardens feel a bit bare. It may take a year before, we see the shrubbery back in its former glory.

**Event** Planting a Liquidambar tree as a thank you to three previous councillors, Mike Diment, Chris St Leger and Sue McKerlich. This is to be funded by the Councillors. Date November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Jim Goodwin to organise details. The Brownies have been approached to see if they would like to join us. Although we are not yet sure of the exact time, somewhere between 11:15 am and 11:30 am, we do know that by 12 noon the event will have finished. We would be delighted to see new councillors at this event as well as those who have served for longer.

### **Granny Park**

#### **Planters**

No sign as of Sept 28th. Paperwork definitely completed.

#### **Bench**

We had considered staining the wood with an oil based wood stain. Somebody has cleaned it, possibly using bleach. We will now wait until the spring before we do this, to enable the bleach (if that was what was used) to have been diluted out.

#### **Brushwood**

There are two piles of brushwood in the park. These seem to be getting smaller and we believe that some of the residents have cut some branches that were overhanging and are slowly disposing of the brushwood in their green bins.

We take no action this year but if the brushwood is still in situ next spring, we should consider getting it removed.

### **The Sidings**

#### **Planters**

Haven't arrived as of Sept 28th. The paperwork has been completed by the residents.

#### **Bins for Dog Poo.**

We aren't able to move this forward as the land doesn't belong to Cardiff Council.

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### Planters

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### Pentwyn

The tree contract for 2017 has gone to Orange. We have given Orange permission to hold training sessions while doing the work so that we can have the reduction to the quotes, that Orange said could happen if it was able to hold these sessions.

Coppicing. The Cardiff Conservation Volunteers have set aside a day for coppicing in Pentwyn. We have put them in touch with Malcolm Frazer who carried out the Tree Survey for us, who is willing to advise them as to what needs doing.

We have given Juliette Thomas permission to use Pentwyn as an outdoor toddler group location, subject to seeing her insurance, receiving her risk assessment forms and has consulted with neighbouring residents and provided us with copies. She had indicated that she has all the insurance she needs to cover her activity providing she has permission from the landowner.

Daffodils. There was a recommendation that we plant some daffodils in the park which has been accepted to spend £50 on daffodil bulbs and £50 to pay somebody to plant them. Juliette Thomas indicated that when her group gets going she would be very interested in helping us with bulb planting.

**We are waiting to establish whether we can purchase these bulbs from Cardiff Council. We will need to move on this as soon as possible.**

### Dan y Bryn

Benches still are not mended. The materials have been ordered, we have discovered what the hold up on the materials was and the problem has been sorted. Hopefully we will soon see these benches repaired.

Japanese Knotweed has been treated. Mr Tovey who was very concerned has been told that the treatment has been given.

Orange has started the tree work. They are well over the half way mark on the work they have done. Malcolm Frazer met the Chair of the Environment Committee and walked through the wood. He was pleased with the progress that has been made so far.

Coppicing. The Cardiff Conservation Volunteers have set aside two days for coppicing in Dan y Bryn. Again Malcolm Frazer is willing to help.



## **Radyr Woods**

We have asked Orange to completely fell Tree 58 behind Woodfield Avenue. We have not yet had confirmation that the tree has been felled.

We have sent out requests for quotes for Radyr Woods. We are waiting for the quotes to come back.

The September storm tore down several branches. Because we are due to carry out tree work soon, we have not moved the one to the side of the City Steps as although it is obstructing a path, it is possible to walk round it safely and the path is not a public right of way.

The treads on City Steps need attention. Several have gone and several are rotten. The Radyr Woods Wardens regularly repaired steps and we expect they will be repaired during the next working party on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Event Chair's Oak. November 25<sup>th</sup> 11 am.** There was a strong recommendation that we should have a replanting program in the woods. The Council decided that it would be good to plant a tree to recognise the work done by the Chair of the Community Council. The first Chair to have a Chair's Oak will be Tyrone Davies. All councillors are invited to join us in the woods. Exact location will be given close to the date.

The Council has taken advantage of its signing up to the Charter for Trees, Woods and People and has requested a Sessile Oak at a suitable size for planting from the scheme the Charter is promoting.

Jim Goodwin, Chair of Radyr Woods Wardens will undertake the arrangements to make the planting work well. We believe that the Radyr Woods Wardens intend to hold a Working Party that morning which will be wonderful.

### **Benches**

Most of the tables and benches are not in a good condition and we will have to have a rolling programme to replace at least one a year.

However, the disabled bench has been delivered to the Community Council and we have been told that Radyr Woods Wardens intend to install it during their next working party.

### **Issues**

There are groups of youngsters gathering in the woods. We are aware that they are experimenting with drugs. We have reported this to the police and the police are regularly policing the area. We have also spoken to several of the youngsters. The general impression we get from them is that the police presence is reassuring and gives them a reason for saying no when offered drugs.

Some of the youngsters have indicated that they would like to have some football posts put up. It would be more fun. We should address the issue of outside games in Radyr. We could have large chess sets, for example. Ideas would be welcomed.

### **Ffordd Las**

.We will aim to replace the broken bench in next year's budget.

Difficult to be sure but there seems to be some deliberate planting of shrubs in that area. Next year, we should aim to investigate whether or not we could make that planting more pleasant.

### **Plaque Rhodri Morgan**

We have contacted our AM to ask about this and we had a positive response. We need to check that the owner of the house where he lived would be happy to have a plaque on the house's wall. We have spoken to Julie Morgan, Rhodri's wife and she thinks it's a great idea and would be delighted if a plaque could be arranged. She offered to ask Rhodri's brother which house he thought should carry the plaque.

### **Terms of Reference**

Having terms of reference will be helpful. It was going to be an agenda item in September but is in abeyance for the moment.

### **Penrhys Pilgrimage**

CEMEX has indicated a willingness to help us improve paths that link Radyr and Pentyrch. This would solve the problem of the poor quality link in Radyr in this pilgrims' route. We hope to move this forward this winter. We are aware that the Rights of Way officer and the main contact at Cemex have asked to meet Allan Cook to look at the path which is one of our public rights of ways. This meeting is provisionally scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Ash Path**

We have submitted the evidence forms to submit to claim this path as a public right of way. Although we have laminated the notices and the map to go either end of the Ash Path we haven't yet put them up and until we do so, the process of claiming the right of way is in abeyance.

We discovered that the Ash Path has been opened alongside the Cricket ground and then diverted across what are shown as playing fields on our map and are known as the 40 acre field by those who were brought up in Radyr in the 1950's.

We have also realised that the Ash Path ends with options at the railway bridge that has a footpath on it. There are a few steps upwards that take you onto the footpath. If you stay on the level, you end up walking on the raised level under the bridge which takes you out of the river's reach when it



is in full spate. And there are steps downwards that take you to the lower path under the bridge which links with Cart Road 52.

We have advised the Local Authority that we would accept the diversion across 40 acre field.

There is a tunnel under the railway that goes from the Playing Fields (40 acre field) into the Sidings. This is not open at present but if it were opened it would mean the residents in the Sidings could go straight onto the field.

### **Christmas Trees and Lights for the Trees**

We have met with the RMA and we have the following dates:

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**, bollards to be placed along the wall of Windsor Gardens. This is to allow the lorry to park close enough to the location of the hole for the Christmas tree in the gardens

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December Morning** Erect tree in Windsor Gardens

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December Afternoon** Erect tree in the Sidings

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December Morning** Erect tree in the Granny Park

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Lights Event

It is hoped as many Councillors as possible will attend this community event.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January** Dismantle Christmas Trees

Dave Barnes who erects and dismantles the trees has the dates Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and Jan 5<sup>th</sup> booked for the Christmas Trees.

We have not yet placed the order for the trees or for the haulage of the trees. That needs to happen by the first week in October. The Clerk places these orders.

There is an invitation from the grower of the trees at Usk Castle to anyone from the community, who would like to go and choose the tree. It is however very difficult to work out which tree will be best and we have left the decision to the grower for the last few years. But the invitation is still there.

We have taken some old lights to the tip to be disposed safely. We have bought boxes to store our existing lights more safely.

We had set aside money to augment the lights on one Christmas tree.

We intend to buy some more lights this year. The Councillors who live in Morganstown have been asked whether they would prefer coloured or creamy white lights for the tree in the Granny Park and creamy white lights have won. We will also buy more transformers and this will mean the other two trees will have more lights on them.

We have arranged for the lights to be checked by an independent electrician so that we will be covered for insurance purposes.

#### **Christmas Lights in Station Road**

The Clerk has written to the firm Floodlighting and Electrical Services to confirm that the Community Council will pay for the installation of Christmas lights in Station Road ready for December 8<sup>th</sup> and the dismantling of them in January. The Clerk has requested that the company deal directly with Nick Hawkins on the practical details of installing the lights.

#### **CADW**

Although Cadw is very pleased with the way the Bronze Age Burnt Mound is managed, there is no money available to give us a management grant this year. We did apply.

We will however continue to maintain the site as long as we can afford to do so.

#### **Open Spaces**

We received a request from the Open Spaces Society to respond to a consultation by the Welsh Government with a suggested list of very sensible points that we might like to make.

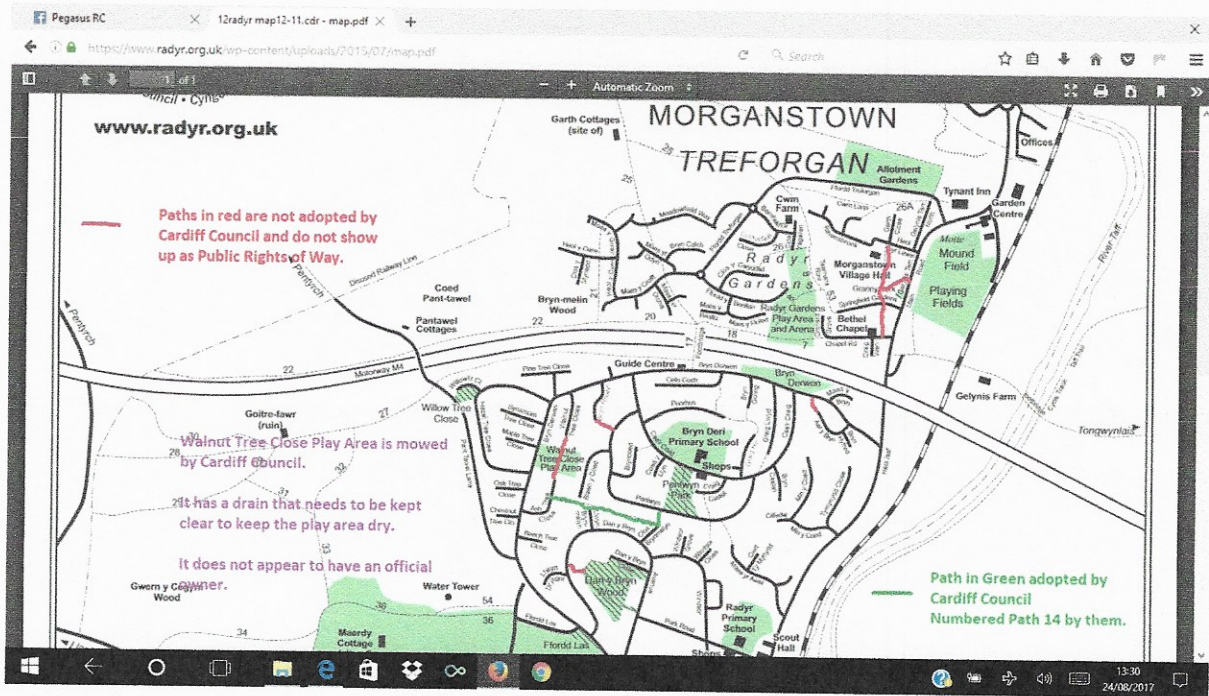
We have responded to the consultation making the extra point that all paths created when new estates are built should have immediate status as public rights of way.

We are delighted that the Open Spaces Society has also pointed this out.



## Unadopted Paths

This summer, we have been able to establish which paths in the Brynderwen area and the Granny Park area are adopted by Cardiff Council and which therefore will be maintained. We have made no further progress this month.



The paths in red are unadopted.

## 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 is usually cut in November. We need to liaise with Cardiff Council and if we can get a date, use our social media and word of mouth to see if we can help find volunteers for this task. We have made no further progress this month.