

Pentyrch Community Council

[By email: clerk@pentyrch.cc]

3 December 2021

Dear Helena,

Re: Climate emergency and Cardiff Council engagement

Thank you for the letter from the Community Council dated 25 November raising several issues of concern in Pentyrch and north west Cardiff, and the further question received by email on 1 December. I am happy to share some information which may be of use to the Community Council, about each of the points raised.

Public transport

You will recall that I have previously made representations to Cardiff Council about improving bus services in north west Cardiff, particularly in Pentyrch and Gwaelod-y-Garth, and I shared with the Community Council a somewhat promising response to my last letter. Following my last visit to a meeting of the Community Council, I also contacted the Cabinet Member for Transport and Strategic Planning to ask if he would be able to meet with the Community Council to hear your concerns. I have not yet received a response to this request and my office have chased this up.

As the local representative in Cardiff West, I continue to take a close interest in the provision of local bus services and make representations to the local authority and to bus operators at every opportunity. The efforts of the Welsh Government in this policy area are currently focused on preparing legislation to re-regulate bus services, which would allow services to be run for the public interest rather than for private profit. I believe this will make a significant difference to public transport provision for everyone in Cardiff, but particularly for lesser-served areas such as those covered by the Community Council.

Active travel

I previously shared with the Community Council copies of correspondence relating to plans for Cycle Superhighways across Cardiff West, which included information about the extension of the scheme into the north west of Cardiff. Details were also included in the recent consultation on the Integrated Network Map (INM), which I shared with the Community Council before the consultation closed on 31 October. The proposed INM included primary and secondary cycling routes to the Creigiau and Pentyrch areas.

While there is clearly more that needs to be done in the future, Cardiff Council's approach to active travel has been widely recognised as one of the leading examples in Wales and the UK. Cardiff's Cycle Superhighways have focused, in these first phases, on areas with the worst air quality, worst congestion and highest demand. I know that the Council are ambitious to ensure that all parts of Cardiff are able to benefit from improved active travel infrastructure in further phases.



Electric vehicle charging points and OVO bikes

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is a responsibility of the UK Government, and Conservative Ministers take the view that, for the most part, the market will provide a sufficient supply of electric vehicle charging points. This means that both the Welsh Government and Cardiff Council have had to step in to try and fill some of the gaps left by the market.

The Welsh Government has established a fund to help owners of electric and hybrid vehicles install charging points at home because of the many cases where the UK Government's grant does not meet the full costs of doing so. Cardiff Council have so far installed 18 charging points for public use. As these are public amenities, criteria are attached to ensure that they are of maximum public benefit. Cardiff Council are accepting suggestions for new sites for charging points which meet the below criteria.

Locations for charge points must:

- *Not be immediately outside residential properties*
- *Have wide pavements*
- *Have plenty of public parking space available*
- *Be on streets where there are no driveways, private garages or other private parking spaces.*

Regarding the OVO Bikes scheme, you will recall that I recently wrote to Cardiff Council about expanding the scheme into Pentyrch, with specific reference to e-bikes which have been added to the network. I was optimistic about these representations as I am aware of examples of County Councillors successfully campaigning for stations at locations in their ward.

However, since that letter was sent the scheme has been temporarily suspended as a result of thefts, vandalism and abuse of staff. I am very concerned by this and would like to see the scheme back up and running as soon as it is possible to do so safely. Once this happens, I would be happy to make representations again about asking the operators to expand the scheme into Pentyrch.

House building

In a recent letter to me in response to questions put by St Fagans Community Council, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change set out the ongoing work in the Welsh Government to update building regulations in response to the climate change emergency. I am also awaiting a further response from the Deputy Minister regarding an additional question put to me by Radyr & Morganstown Community Council about improving energy efficiency in existing homes. I have attached copies of this correspondence and will share any further replies with you. The Welsh Government has already updated regulations for developments in receipt of public funding to ensure they are ready to meet the energy challenges we face.

Cardiff's Local Development Plan is currently under review and the first phase of consultation on formulating a Replacement LDP was conducted earlier this year. My response to the initial consultation focused on ensuring that homes are fit for future energy challenges, and that housebuilding should not outpace improvements to transport infrastructure.

The [second phase of consultation](#) on the Replacement LDP, focusing on the number of homes required and which sites should be used, is open from 30 November until 8 February. In my response, I plan to emphasise my view that sites in the north west of Cardiff should be prioritised for downsizing if an overall reduction in the number of houses is considered.



Services and facilities

I share the Community Council's view about the importance of children's play facilities, and I often hear calls for investment in play equipment from all wards in Cardiff West. Radyr & Morganstown Community Council, for example, have recently secured commitments from Cardiff Council to replace play equipment on the playground at Drovers Way.

Considering the huge demand from across the city for resources from Cardiff Council's heavily pressurised Parks budget, play equipment is a popular use for Section 106 contributions. St Fagans Community Council are in ongoing discussions with Cardiff Council about prioritising play equipment for Section 106 contributions in their area, and County Councillors in Canton successfully secured Section 106 contributions to pay for play equipment at multiple parks.

It may also be possible for the Community Council to explore using its own powers in relation to play equipment. One Voice Wales may be able to share examples of best practice from across Wales of how Community Councils have been able to do this.

Garth Common and Charter

It is great to see the Community Council's commitment to the agenda around the nature and climate emergencies. I appreciate that the issues with both the Register of Common Land and the Charter with Cardiff Council are long-running, and that you are pursuing these matters with Cardiff Council directly. They are both further areas in which One Voice Wales may have examples of best practice from other parts of Wales where registers have been updated and where Community Councils have been able to work in partnership with local authorities.

City-wide strategies

It is important that all parts of the local authority area are fully considered and included in any city-wide strategies set by the local authority. There are regular consultations on various strategies and plans, and I always try to represent the concerns of all parts of the Cardiff West constituency in my responses to these consultations and in discussions with the Council Leader or Cabinet Members. I would always be happy to hear from the Community Council about any particularly relevant points on specific consultations so that I can include these in my representations.

Surface water drainage (1 December email)

I recognise that there is some complexity in this area with a crossover of responsibilities between the Community Council, the local authority, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government. I will make some enquiries about how the local issue described at Gwaelod-y-Garth can best be addressed, and will send a further update when we have more information.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Drakeford
Member of the Senedd for Cardiff West
Aelod o'r Senedd dros Orllewin Caerdydd

