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PENTYRCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CYNGOR CYMUNED PENTYRCH

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Mark Drakeford MS  
395 Cowbridge Road East Canton  
Cardiff CF5 1JG

By Email

November 25 2021

Dear Mark,

### **Climate Emergency and Cardiff Council Engagement**

In October 2019, Pentyrch Community Council declared a Climate Emergency and informed Cardiff Council, and you (to which you replied). Two years later, we remain deeply disappointed by the lack of engagement from Cardiff about the risks from climate change and implementation of a net zero carbon emission programme for our communities. We sometimes struggle to see a pro-active and comprehensive inclusion of our geographical area in any of Cardiff's strategies, other than housebuilding on green fields. We have some core concerns in relation to Cardiff's current policies and low level of engagement and inclusion of our part of NW Cardiff.

**Public Transport** continues to be a source of concern for our residents and the current uptake of public transport remains low, with car journeys being the most active mode of transport. In recent weeks, Cardiff Council has finally put forward a more appropriate type of bus service for Gwaelod on the G1 route. Can the Welsh Government and their partners maintain a watching brief to ensure actual delivery of an effective and useful public transport service in NW Cardiff?

**Active Travel** opportunities remain a source of missed opportunities and disappointment, both with the accidental omission of Community Councils in the original Cardiff Council Active Travel Consultation but also with the sparsity of meaningful Active Travel routes in NW Cardiff. No effort appears to have been made to join up the communities, create safe cycle paths to train stations and schools, or to invest significantly in safe Cycle Ways compared to the ongoing multi-million-pound projects in Cardiff City Centre. There are a number of off-road bridleways and footpaths in our area that could be easily incorporated into cycle-ways but which do not appear to make it to the Active Travel proposals, which seem minimalist for our part of Cardiff.

**Electric vehicle charging points and Ovo bikes** are absent from our community and there seems no attempt to engage or include our part of Cardiff. Our community is one that relies heavily on vehicles for transport and so adequate investment in low carbon transport and travel infrastructure is one that could generate real carbon savings.

**Large-scale housebuilding** along Llantrisant Road continues at a pace. Cardiff's planning process seems inflexible in its response to the climate change emergency and in promoting sustainable energy solutions, including renewable energy and non-fossil fuel infrastructure. PCC would like new planning proposals in the PCC area to have renewable energy requirements that go beyond current building regulations.

**Services and facilities** provided by Cardiff continue to lag behind those in Cardiff City Centre. In particular, there are still minimal children's play facilities. What there is suffers from underinvestment

at a time when we want children and families to play safely outdoors and locally without using a car to travel to there.

**Garth Common** is owned by Pentyrch Community Council and we have a duty to protect it for current and future generations. Our engagement with Cardiff Council to make sure that their legislative obligations with respect to the Garth Common are met has not been productive: the Commons Registration Act of 1965 required each county council to establish a Register of Common Land. They were also required to administer the registration of common land and town and village greens required under the 1965 Act. To date, Cardiff's Register of Common Land seems to be missing and that is not right. The Garth Common is an important natural asset where the activities of local farming commoners is essential to it thriving. We would like Cardiff Council to improve its obligations to the Garth Common, and, equally, we want to ensure Commoners' Rights are acknowledged in a transparent and future-proofed manner.

The **Charter** that exists between the Community Councils and Cardiff could and should be strengthened to ensure climate change risks, net zero carbon targets and sustainability are at the heart of delivery by Cardiff Council.

Finally, it is difficult for us to see how and where Cardiff has included NW Cardiff, old and new, in its climate change or post-pandemic recovery strategies. We are particularly disappointed as we feel that all parts of Cardiff are affected and that solutions should be shared across the City. We are concerned that we are our hilly, more rural part of Cardiff is seen as one geographical area too many for Cardiff or too far away from City Hall to deliver any climate adaptation or mitigation strategies.

We welcome your advice and support on how better to persuade Cardiff Council to include our communities in providing lower carbon housing, more sustainable energy and travel infrastructure, given that the climate emergency. We know that the Welsh Government considers this a priority, as do we, and look forward to your response and guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Helena Fox

**Clerc i Cyngor Cymuned Pentyrch  
Clerk to Pentyrch Community Council**

Copied to:

Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Janet Finch-Saunders MS, Shadow Minister for Climate Change

Andrew RT Davies MS

Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner

Kevin Brennan MP

Paul Orders, Chief Executive of Cardiff Council

Caro Wild, Cardiff Council Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport

Simon Gilbert, Cardiff Council Head of Planning

Cllr Gavin Hill-John

Community Councils: St Fagans, Radyr & Morganstown, Tongwynlais, Old St Melons, Pontyclun and Taffs Well