



# Bridgend Civic Trust

Newsletter No 22  
December 2003

[www.bridgendcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.bridgendcivictrust.org.uk)

## Your Committee for 2003 / 2004

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A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our  
members and other readers



# Bridgend Civic Trust



## News Items

### Rhiw Bridge.

Due to vandalism, the bridge connecting the Rhiw car park to the Rhiw Shopping Centre has developed into an eyesore. This has been recognised by the Council and hopefully they will soon be taking action. Their plan is to remove the glazed side panels ( many now boarded up ) and replace with decorative railings. This will leave the walkway open to the elements but will improve the appearance from the road and reduce future maintenance costs. It is also hoped that this will reduce the vandalism and other nasty things that sometimes occur in the passage way. We hope that youths do not take to dropping items onto cars passing underneath. The area is covered by CCTV so hopefully this will not be a problem.

### Hermon Chapel.

We presented our Certificate to Hermon Chapel at their service on Sunday 11 November. This was to recognise the extensive and sensitive refurbishments that they have undertaken both inside and outside.

### Rugby Club.

According to the *South Wales Echo*, the Rugby ground in Tondy Road is to be sold to Tesco. At the UDP inquiry we fought to stop Tesco building an out-of-town store on the site at Brackla on the Northern Distributor Road. We were pleased that the Inspector supported us and so now it is assumed that this is Tesco's new alternative.

However according to the *Glamorgan Gazette*, Council leader Jeff Jones has said that planning consent would not be granted for such a use and Tesco have said that they are not interested as they are still pursuing the Brackla option.

Who do we believe ?

A Council official has told us that discussions are still on going regarding the ASDA development on the other side of Town at Cheapside.

### St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

Earlier this year with the agreement of Father Isaac, we entered St Mary's Church into a design award competition organised by the Civic Trust for Wales. We have now heard that it has won an award of some kind. The presentation ceremony was supposed to be early in December but owing to the illness of the Director of the Civic Trust for Wales, Dr Matthew Griffiths, this has had to be postponed until the New Year. We will report on the occasion in the next newsletter. In the meanwhile we have written wishing Matthew a speedy recovery.

### Dunraven Place - War Memorial.

This area of the Town is turning out better than we had anticipated. Although not completed at the time of writing, the standard of the stone work seems to be better than previously. Enough work was done in time for the Remembrance day service to be successfully carried out. The trees fit in well even though they are not as mature as originally promised. We can only hope that the local vandals leave them alone. The War Memorial itself has cleaned up very nicely and is looking good.

We have written to Councillor Mel Nott (chair of the Regeneration committee), the Town Council (who were responsible for the cleaning of the Memorial) and John Duddridge from the Highway Department (the regeneration lead officer) congratulating them and their people on this scheme.

In the middle of this work, a large black electrical switching box was planted half way between the War Memorial and the shops - completely spoiling the scheme. We immediately contacted John Duddridge and Mel Nott and were pleased

to note that this was moved to behind the Wyndham Arms very quickly. Our thanks to them for their speedy response.

### Temporary Traffic Scheme.

During the works in Dunraven Place, Market Street and the Bus Station, traffic has been banned in these areas and has been diverted up the Rhiw. This has caused massive traffic jams at certain times of the day

at the junction of Nolton Street and Brackla Street. This was not helped by the banning of a left turn into Brackla Street. From December 1st traffic will be permitted to turn left. Hopefully this should help the situation. It should also help those people who, when they find that the Rhiw car park is full, have found themselves directed out of town down Nolton Street. In future they will now be able to see if they can get into the Brackla Street and Cheapside car parks. Also, visitors entering the Town down Derwen Road will be able to access these car parks.

*\*\* We would be interested to hear your views on whether, when the works are finished, Queen Street and Dunraven Place should remain as pedestrian only zones. We will collate your views and pass them on to the Council.*

### **Next Phases of Town Centre Improvement.**

At a recent meeting of the Town Centre Forum, the consultants fleshed out their ideas for the next two areas to be worked on. Their ideas are only preliminary and are thus open to modification. These are as follows:

#### **☆ Area 1 - Market Street from Post Office to York Place.**

- ⇒ The roadway outside the Job Centre to be moved slightly towards the Job Centre. This will enable the footpath on the other side of the road to be widened.
- ⇒ A decorative archway will be constructed in the entrance to York Place. This will act as a “gateway” to the Town for visitors arriving at the Bus Station.
- ⇒ Since no traffic will be turning left from Market Street into the Bus Station, the foot path can be extended north east.
- ⇒ A piece of artwork to be erected on the extension in line with the tower in the new Bus Station.
- ⇒ Wyndham House currently very obviously “backs” onto Market Street. Efforts will be made to lighten and improve its facade and to encourage to face Market Street.
- ⇒ They want to create an arcade through Wyndham House opposite the Princess of Wales Pub. This will create another way of integrating Market Street with Wyndham Street.

#### **☆ Area 5 - Court Road from the Rail Station to Nolton Street.**

- ⇒ They wish to highlight the attractive buildings on the West side of the road and screen with trees the less attractive east side.
- ⇒ Court Road will be one way south bound and thus can be narrowed enabling wider footpaths.
- ⇒ The current refurbishment to the Chest Clinic will involve small railings being placed on top of the boundary walls in Court Road and Nolton Street. These will be echoed in new railings around the Randall Memorial Fountain.
- ⇒ Seats from behind the Fountain will be removed, but other seating is to be provided in the area.
- ⇒ A decorative archway ( similar to that proposed for York Place above ) will be provided for the entrance to Caroline Street.
- ⇒ The urinal in Court Road will be removed.

### **Bus Station.**

Work on the new Bus Station is proceeding. However the gas mains under the Bus Station and York Place must be renewed first. Apparently Centric who operate and maintain the Gas mains do not always carry out work exactly when required. This may lead to some delay in completion of the Bus Station. The Council are still hopeful that work will be completed and the station operating by next August.

### **UDP Inquiry**

We had hoped that the Council’s deliberations on the Inspector’s report would have been published by now. However we are told that this is now likely to be in the Spring.

### **Access to Island Farm Site**

Two schemes have been put forward. The first was for a roundabout on the A48 between Merthyr Mawr Road and Hut 9. This was very quickly superseded by a signalized cross roads in the same position. The change of mind came after discussions with the Highways Department who were worried about the capacity of a roundabout.

We have objected to two aspects of the scheme.

1. The fact that the Island Farm roads will be connected to the Science park. This could mean traffic taking a short cut through the science park to avoid the Ewenny roundabout.
2. There is a footpath shown between the site and New Inn Road. We are afraid that traffic will park in New Inn Road thus causing excessive movements in this country lane.

### **Roundabouts.**

⇒ Work is being planned to modify the roundabout at Wickes / Tesco on the A48. We have not seen the plans yet but understand that it may be changed into a signalized cross roads as above.

⇒ A BCBC scrutiny committee has been looking at the Ewenny Roundabout . Hopefully this will be also converted to a proper cross roads. Kevin Burnell, chairman of the cross-party scrutiny committee invites views from anyone—so please write.

### **Cycle Path**

We have received notification that the Council intends to construct a cycle path to connect the Town with Oaklands and Broadlands. This will run from the Water Street Bridge along Angel Street, past the Recreation Centre, turning into Park Court Road. It will connect with the Broadlands cycle path over Park Court Bridge ( which we repaired a couple of years ago ). This will be achieved by narrowing Angel Street as far as the Recreation Centre and by constructing a new cycle way or converting existing footways on the remainder of the route.

Roads in the Oaklands area ( Oaklands, Heol-y-Bardd, Park Court Road, Parkfields etc. ) will all have 20 mph speed restrictions imposed. To enforce the speed restrictions, 20 mph roundels and cycle symbols will be painted in the road where appropriate.

A link on Park Street at its junction with Oaklands Drive has been identified to enable the cycling scheme to extend into Cefn Glas at a later date.

We have submitted several observations to this scheme as follows

1. We have always been in favour of schemes that support cycling and walking and also those that improve road safety. We therefore support the proposals in principle.
2. We note that the cycle way will start at Water St bridge. The cycle way from the national scheme currently ends near the Rugby Club. How do you propose to link the two schemes ?
3. We are not happy with the proximity of the cycle path to the Fire Station. It may be possible that a dangerous situation could be created when a fire engine leaves the station in an emergency.
4. Similarly, narrowing of Angel Street may delay fire engines getting to fires.
5. Have the Council considered the possibility of taking the path through the Recreation Centre car park, under the bridge and between the Bowling Green and the running track ?
6. What traffic calming measures do the Council propose in the 20 mph zone, particularly in Park Court Road? These must not be allowed to delay emergency services. And what enforcement measures will be in place?
7. In view of the experiences gained when a footpath and cycle path for a short while shared the Esplanade in Porthcawl, we hope that the Council are not making a similar mistake.
8. Will skate boarders and motorised wheelchair users be permitted to use the cycle path? If not, will the signage make this clear ?

### **Newsletter.**

In order to save costs, we are trying to deliver as many of our communications as possible by hand. Most of the areas of the town are covered by committee members and others already. However we are looking for volunteers to help out in the following areas:

Litchard, Pendre, Laleston, Coity, Heol-y-Bardd, Oaklands.

If you think you could spare an hour about 4 or 5 times a year, please contact the Secretary, Charles Thorp on 01656 655000. Your assistance would be very much appreciated.

Also, if you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, then please send your e-mail address to the Secretary.

In another attempt to reduce costs, we are thinking of trying to include a few advertisements in the



## **Bridgend Civic Trust** **Secretary's Report - Year 2002/2003**

During the year we held 9 Committee meetings with an average attendance of just over 10 members. At the first meeting, as approved at the AGM, Officers and Committee jobs, with the exception of Chair and Secretary, were allocated as follows

Deputy Chair - Derek Hillier  
Treasurer - David Powell  
Press and Membership Secretary - Natalie Murphy  
Publicity - Allan Underhill  
Newsletter and Web site Editor - Vanessa Jones

During the year David Gamage-Dawkins was co-opted to the committee and towards the end, Rachel Morton resigned for family and work reasons.

Jonathan Hughes, Bridgend Council Project Officer for Bridgend attended one meeting and explained to members his role and the Council's regeneration strategy.

We have maintained membership of The Civic Trust for Wales, The Civic Trust, Bridgend Chamber of Trade, Bridgend Town Centre Forum, and the Life Centre Heritage group.

We produced three Newsletters in September, December and June. Circulars were sent to members in April and August.

Vanessa is developing the Web site and has made progress with archiving previous Newsletters.

### **Events during the year.**

September 2002 Heritage day at Brynteg School. Thanks to Phil Tapper and the school for their help  
October 2002 AGM. Presentation of our major award to Jenkins Gould Partnership for their conversion of Union Offices in Quarella Road. Also talk by Julie Griffiths on the proposals for Bridgend Life Centre.  
October 2002 Installed sign in Rugby Club showing origin of Old Market Plaque.  
December 2002 Stall in Winter Wonderland Ice Rink.  
February 2003 Stall at Bridgend Local History Society meeting.  
March 2003 Presentation of our Certificate to Hope Baptist Church for their refurbishment.  
May 2003 Coffee morning in Tabernacl.  
June 2003 Members Dinner at Zia Nina.  
July 2003 Memories Evening at Conservative Club. Thanks to speakers, Phil Tapper, Buffo Coles, John James and Barbara Thorp.

### **UDP.**

The Inspector's report was published in May. Her recommendations regarding our submissions were as follows :

She agreed that the site on the Northern Distributor Road was not suitable for a large supermarket (Tesco).

She agreed that the YMCA site should not be converted to a Car park.

She sat on the fence regarding the Island Farm / WRU site. Events, orchestrated by the Council Leader, have since overtaken any recommendations here as planning consent was granted at the second attempt after a shuffling of the planning committee. The Assembly Government disgracefully failed to call this in.

She did not support our submission that the Embassy should not be converted to an Aldi supermarket or a car park. However the owner of the site seems unlikely to sell and hopefully the Embassy will survive.

She did not support our revised route for the Cowbridge Road / Coychurch Road link despite a petition raised by local residents in our support.

She did not support our idea for the relocation of the Bus Station to the Brackla St car park behind Wilkinsons.

She did not support our ideas for better access to the proposed Brackla Rail Station from the Industrial Estate.

The Council will reveal their reactions and proposals in the light of the Inspectors report in November. This

will then go to Council again and eventually the final Unitary Development Plan will emerge.

### **Regeneration.**

We were involved in choosing the designs for the seating and railings in Wyndham Street.

We were consulted on the facilities at the new Bus Station.

We have been consulted on the proposals for the improvements in Queen Street / Dunraven Place area.

We have supported the Highways Dept in their temporary closure of Queen Street during the works and have requested that they study the effects of this with a view to making it permanent. This would result in the pedestrianisation of Queen Street and Dunraven Place.

The **Town Council** have initiated the cleaning and refurbishment of the War Memorial and the Randall Memorial Fountain. Both will have new railings. The seating will be removed from near the Fountain.

### **Major Planning items approved by the Council**

Island Farm / WRU development.

ASDA superstore fronting Cheapside. After the vote at last year's AGM, we wrote in support of this application.

New Bus Station. We tried at every opportunity to have the Bus Station moved to the rear of Wilkinsons where it would be nearer the rail station and would be able to accommodate more bays.

Demolition of Palais de Dance.

### **We raised objections to**

Projecting sign outside Brown's night club (Monroes) as it interfered with the CCTV.

Conversion of 45 Wyndham Street to amusement arcade.

### **Other Events.**

We moved an original lamp post on Island Farm to inside the Hut 9 boundary fence. We hope soon to repaint this and erect it adjacent to Hut 9..

Completed our project to repaint the three Milestones in to town. Thanks to Martyn Lewis for doing the work and to the Council for financial assistance.

Erected a slate sign in the foyer of the Rugby Club indicating the origin of the old Market Plaque.

Barbara Thorp and Natalie Murphy have continued to regularly check the planning applications.

Natalie has published her third book on Bridgend (Coity Higher and Lower) and has now started one on Maesteg.

### **Bridgend Local History Society.**

The local history society have passed on to us the excess proceeds from their successful book "Bridgend 900". They have requested that the money be spend on commemorating a distinguished citizen of Bridgend of the 20th Century. Sir Morien Morgan, who was born in Caroline Street and was the principal designer of Concorde, has been selected. His widow has been contacted at her home in Cambridge and seems very pleased. We are currently in the process of designing a Plaque and selecting a location.

### **Anniversary.**

On 11 March 1993 at a public meeting in the Wyndham Hotel a steering committee was established with the purpose of forming a Civic Trust Society for Bridgend Town. The first meeting of that steering committee was held on 22 April and later a public meeting was held in the Rugby Club attended by about 100 people. On 16 November 1993 the first General meeting of Bridgend Civic Trust was held in Evergreen Hall.

Thus we are now 10 years old !