

Regeneration.

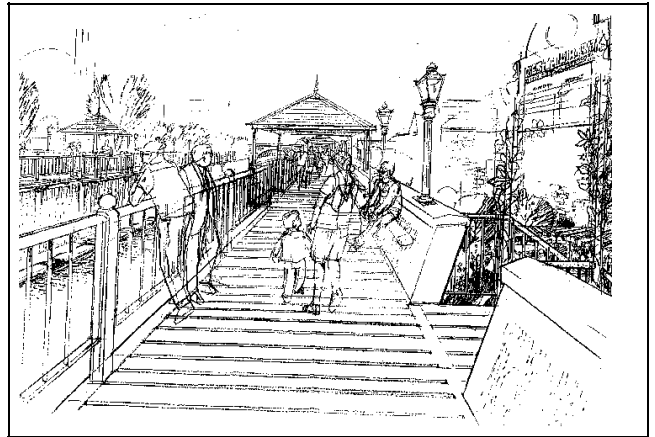
In the pipeline are more improvement schemes for the Town Centre. Many of these are at the "concept" stage i.e. not yet firm plans.

A. Traffic Schemes.

1. Pedestrianisation of Queen Street, Dunraven Place, Elder Street, Cross Street and the south west end of Market Street (from the Post Office to the Bus Station). This will follow the pattern that has been in force during the works around the War Memorial and the Bus Station. Traffic will be prohibited from 10 am until 6 pm daily. The north east end of Market Street and Quarella Road south of the Cross Valley Link road will be closed to traffic except for Buses, Taxis and cycles.
2. Traffic will continue to proceed up the Rhiw Hill and turn right at the top. However there will be a bus lane running south to north up Nolton St and Derwen Road from Brackla St to Wyndham Street.
3. On Friday and Saturday nights, all traffic will be banned from the night club area of Derwen Road from Station Hill to Court Road and at the same time a taxi rank will operate in Nolton Street (Court Rd to MacDonalds). This is at the request of the Police in an attempt to disperse crowds quickly and safely from the night clubs in more than one direction.
4. The new lay-bye on the cross valley link is to enable cars to pick up and set down bus station passengers and it is not designed as a long term shopping stop.
5. In the longer term, Nolton Street from Brackla St to Cowbridge Road will be made one way and the new road link from the Rail Station to Brackla St will be constructed. No dates are in sight for these yet.

B. Improvement Schemes.

1. Work will shortly commence on improving the Old Stone Bridge.
2. Work will be undertaken to repair the balustrading on buildings in Dunraven Place.
3. There is a strong possibility of a "Boardwalk" cantilevered over the east bank (Town side) of the River. This will run from near the Old Stone Bridge to near the Water Street Bridge. Access points will be provided at various points through the concrete walls. If this comes about it should considerably enhance the river. The attached sketch shows a concept of what it could look like
4. The foot bridge from the Rhiw car park will be enhanced. The sides will be replaced with laser cut steel work. This will be decorative, see-through and hard to damage.
5. Design work is progressing on the Elder Street site. We are trying to obtain more details and will inform members when we have them. This is also the position regarding the old Post Office and fire station buildings on Station Hill.



The make up of the Council has changed considerably since the election. There is now No Overall Control by any one party.

Compared with the election in 1999 (ie disregarding any bye-elections of changes of party allegiance since then) the state of the parties is as follows :

Party	Seats	Gains	Losses
Labour	21	2	21
Lib Dem	13	9	1
Conservative	8	7	0
Plaid	1	1	1
Independent	10	5	1

There is one seat in Sarn vacant due to the sad death of the Lib Dem candidate, fireman, Richard Jenkins. This seat will be contested on 22 July.

Latest
News -
Election
Results
for
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County
Borough
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- 10
June
2004.

In the Bridgend area the following parties now represent us:

Morfa - 2 Lib Dems
Oldcastle - 2 Conservatives
Newcastle - 2 Lib Dems
Cefn Glas - 1 Labour
Penyfai - 1 Lib Dem
Litchard - 1 Conservative
Coity - 1 Lib Dem
Laleston - 2 Lib Dems
Brackla - 2 Labour and
2 Conservatives
Coychurch - 1 Independent
Pendre - Lib Dem.

News -2

Graig Steps.

The Council has just finished refurbishing the Graig Steps. New stone has been laid, the railings repaired and painted, better lighting has been installed and a seating area has been installed halfway up. We have written to the Council congratulating them but asking for a litter bin in the seating area and hoping that it will not turn into an evening venue for unseemly behaviour.

Cowbridge Road / Retail Park Junction

We have written to the Council suggesting an alteration in the arrangements at this junction. We have noticed that about 50% of traffic approaching from the south turns into the retail park (Tesco, Homebase etc.). The road into Town rapidly narrows to one lane to go under the railway and this generates racing to get there first. We have therefore suggested that this traffic be segregated with traffic wishing to go straight on into town to use the centre lane and that wishing to turn into Tesco etc to use the inside lane. A filtration arrow is already installed on the lights and so with a bit of paint and a modification to the signal control, this could be achieved at little cost.

Superstore on Northern Distributor Road. (Tesco)

The council overturned the UDP Inspector's recommendation that this store should be deleted from the plan. We are composing our objection to this reversal and will publish it in the next letter. If you feel that this store will be bad for the Town, you can still write to the Planning Department of Bridgend County Borough Council at Angel Street.

Treasurer

David Powell, our Treasurer, unfortunately recently suffered a stroke. The good news is that he seems to be well on the mend. However, until he is up to full speed once more, we are looking for someone to take on the role of Assistant Treasurer. This is not an overly onerous task but we need someone reliable to take it on. If you would like to volunteer please contact Secretary, Charles Thorp (655000).

Chamber of Trade.

The Committee recently resolved that any member of the Chamber of Trade, who also became a member of the Civic Trust, could have a small advertisement in the Newsletter. If you are a member, please send your copy to us for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

Town Centre Events.

The following events are planned by the *Bridgend Festivals Committee* :

- ☆ 23-25 September - Autumn Craft and Folk Spectacular incorporating a Welsh Fine Food Festival.
- ☆ 25-28 November - French market.
- ☆ 27-28 November - Festival Event - bands, entertainments, clowns etc.
- ☆ Sun 28 November - Funfair.
- ☆ Dec-Jan - Ice rink - dates etc to be confirmed.
- ☆ And don' t forget the undercover Car Boot Sale each Sunday in Cheapside car park 2.

Civic Trust Dinner.

On Thursday 27 May, 22 members attended our annual dinner at the Seasons restaurant. They provided an excellent meal which everyone enjoyed. We look forward to more of you attending next year.

Coming Events

We will send you more details of our events very soon.

- ☺ In the autumn, we are hoping to unveil a plaque to honour Sir Morien Bedford Morgan, "Father of Concorde", who was born in Bridgend.
- ☺ European Heritage Day. We hope to announce our plans for 11/12 September very soon.
- ☺ 5 October - AGM. We are hoping to obtain the services of a very interesting speaker.