

CARDIFF ^{new} PEOPLE'S PAPER

MARCH 2021

Save the Northern Meadows Campaign (STNM)



The new Cardiff People's Paper is an initiative by artist Cat Lewis and Save the Northern Meadows campaign group (STNM), facilitated by a Made in Roath artist residency at 1a, in collaboration with People's Paper founder Alex Bird. It aims to reflect on the growing community activism which is happening across Cardiff. This paper is an effort to bring those disparate voices together, as Reclaim Cardiff and Justice Now have done, and to provide the many activists, groups and communities in Cardiff with a public voice.

STNM was born out of a feeling of anger held by the community in Coryton, that we were going to lose our open, biodiverse, green space; one that has been walked and loved by our community for decades. But this isn't an isolated incident. Others across Cardiff - from Flaxland Woods to Britannia Park, from Plasdwr to Llanrumney, from Splott to Lisvane - are losing their green and historic spaces too. At the same time, we're seeing a step up in the climate emergency. Houses along the Taff and below Tongwynlais are being flooded, with Cardiff projected to be underwater by 2050. Dangerous air pollution is a unquestionable threat to our lives. The loss of biodiversity poses yet another existential threat. This in addition to the slow and consistent attacks on the quality of housing, wages, NHS funding, education, rights, and access to justice. We the people of Cardiff refuse to accept the degraded and broken social contract offered by our local Council and the Welsh and UK Governments. Despite the pandemic, thousands protested to say black lives matter, to call for justice now, to stand up for our independent music venues, to demand a cleaner environment and for protecting biodiversity. This year provides an opportunity for us all to imagine and design real change for our city. We want the Council to change: they know how angry we are. The People's Paper shows the foundations of this alternative are already emerging. In 2021, let's increase our efforts, engage more across our communities and build up our campaigns. Maybe we'll design a unifying alternative for the people of Cardiff in the process.

**STOP THE PRESS! * back page...
When is a debate NOT a DEBATE!**

The Fight for the Northern Meadows: A Salutary Tale for Today's Wales

* Read the complete article at www.undod.cymru

On the 3rd of March there'll be a debate in the Senedd on the demand for an independent inquiry into the site for a Velindre Cancer Centre. Here Tessa Marshall, a campaigner with Save the Northern Meadows, provides a detailed account of the recent history around the development, highlighting the need for such an inquiry, and exposing the deep issues in the politics of Wales that impact us all.

Save the Northern Meadows is a community protest group established in March 2020 to oppose the development of the 'Northern Meadows,' Lady Cory Field, and the abandoned railway cutting in Coryton. The area is incredibly biodiverse for a city, hosting protected species like hedgehogs, song thrushes, grass snakes, and slowworms, covering three protected areas, and providing us with a safe haven to enjoy during lockdown.

We built on the strong history of opposition to the development of the meadows which started before 1995, and most recently saw objections to planning applications submitted in 2017. We started with a petition and a facebook group, and now we are active with 3,000 members lobbying Ministers and Councillors to encourage the rejection of development on the meadows on environmental, medical, and economic grounds. We demand the community's needs are put first and our health, wellbeing, and environment is protected for us and for future generations. But our struggle isn't unique - communities across Wales are being forced to fight against developments - often brought by the public sector - which will harm their health, wellbeing, and local environments.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

Reigning Confusion

When the campaign started, people in our community who used the meadows daily - walkers, families, birds watchers, joggers - had no idea development was due to start in the summer of 2020. This is largely due to confusion and poor communication and transparency within the decision making processes at local (Council) and national (Senedd) level. Planning permission has existed to place houses, offices, and commercial units on the meadows and Whitchurch Hospital for over 25 years (planning application 20/00357/MJR), and has been periodically renewed 5 times with minimal community engagement.

The cancer centre itself has had outline planning permission (which means there's a vague plan for putting some kind of building on the site) - and these plans include outright permission for enabling works. The outright permission (meaning a full plan and design was submitted and granted) includes two huge bridges across the railway cutting - with construction ongoing for almost four years. Despite the complex documents submitted in the past, this year alone the developers, Transforming Cancer Services (TCS) - tasked by the Velindre University Trust to design the future of cancer care for the whole of South East Wales - have submitted eight planning applications relating to the development of the meadow.



These applications were pushed through without in depth community engagement. Only Pendwyallt Road was initially flyered about the update, and the residents of Hollybush Estate (who live in closest proximity to the meadows and railway cutting) were ignored. Because of our work, we secured hundreds of comments in opposition to these applications. If we hadn't done so, the new applications and amendments would've been waved through, and many would be totally unaware of the development.

Application 20/01110/MJR changed the timescale of use for a temporary access route from nine months to four years, placing this community right at the centre of long term construction work.

This is just one example of a planning meeting where councillors haven't reflected at all on the concerns of the community. For example, we raised the fact the new application sought to remove guardrails on Pendwyallt Road to stop cyclists being crushed by heavy vehicles. But the planning officer was quick to state they wouldn't actually be removed so the street stays safe for school children attending Coryton Primary at the Whitworth Square junction. But he failed to acknowledge the lengths of wall along the road where cyclists could easily be crushed, and failed to provide an alternative to prevent the crushing of cyclists against barriers. This road – single lane to J32, with a disappearing cycle lane and only one pavement – is unsuitable for heavy vehicles, and is regularly clogged with traffic. It's unsafe on a good day. The presence of HGVs for four years, will put pedestrians, children, and active travellers at risk. But the plans were granted.

"The current model of cancer care has left South East Wales with the worst short, medium, and long term outcomes for cancer patients in Europe."

Not NIMBYs

Here, I think it's important to address why we're campaigning. We're frequently called NIMBYs for protesting against a crucial piece of our healthcare infrastructure. We reject that characterisation. We care about the meadows because we care about a wondrous place. The semi-ancient Longwood stretches out above the Glamorganshire canal, the sturdy old oaks overlooking the Afon Taf. The old industrial railway line blends into this landscape now, and seemingly stretches on for miles. The whole area overflows with creaking trees and birds sing from dawn to dusk. The meadow itself is a wide open space covered in grasses, brambles, ivy, and young trees slowly growing, showing the beginnings of a young forest on the meadow. Brambles have overgrown old paths and new ones have been mapped out. When you reach the highest point, you can see the Whitchurch Hospital bell tower, with a view across Cardiff to the South.

The space sustains the community's physical and mental health, our wellbeing, our environment, and gives us access to our local cultural heritage.

We recognise the crucial care provided by Velindre, who are close to the hearts of all of us across South East Wales. But we also support the growing body of medical evidence which states that building on the meadows would actually be bad for cancer patients receiving care at Velindre, and bad for the physical and mental health of the community. Building here could actually put more pressure on the NHS in the long term.

Last summer 60 clinicians spoke out on the model, and the report relied upon to justify the choice of model turned out to be non-existent. We've heard Health Boards outside of Velindre – who also provide cancer treatment – were not consulted about the design of the model. And, on the 14th of January 2021, a letter stating the project could actually harm the people of South East Wales was sent to Velindre and the Health Minister, signed by 163 senior clinicians. The current model of cancer care has left South East Wales with the worst short, medium, and long term outcomes for cancer patients in Europe.

Cardiff Youth Strike 4 Climate

The 'Shock Doctrine', as described by Naomi Klein in her 2007 book of the same name, is the political strategy of enacting otherwise unpopular policies and developments by taking advantage of large-scale crises, which act to distract or preoccupy any popular resistance. We've recently seen Cardiff Council exploit the COVID-19 pandemic, and the tragedy and uncertainty surrounding it, to push forward a number of ecocidal developments, such as their plan to sell Flaxland Woods, a half-acre of vitally important mature woodland, for redevelopment; their decision to destroy a significant portion of Britannia Park to build a museum celebrating the horrors of militarism, and the planned destruction of the Northern Meadows in Whitchurch to construct a cancer centre which at least 163 clinicians say would be much better placed elsewhere.

The communities surrounding all of these areas have rallied in opposition to the developments, but Cardiff Council is shamelessly profiting from the fact that the pandemic makes it difficult for public demonstrations and other actions to take place safely and that many people are being forced to deal with the effects of the pandemic, no longer having the time or resources to act in opposition to the developments. The ecocidal shock doctrine of Cardiff Council must not go unopposed; only 8% of Cardiff is green space, so we cannot afford to lose any more! We must organise and act, exploring new strategies and a diversity of tactics, and do everything in our power to disrupt this shock doctrine and protect our green spaces and our communities that rely on them!

The Wellbeing Value of the Northern Meadows SUPPORTING OUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

'Nature is an asset, just as produced capital (roads, buildings and factories) and human capital (health, knowledge and skills) are assets. Like education and health, Nature is more than an economic good: many value its very existence and recognise its intrinsic worth too. Declines are undermining Nature's productivity, resilience and adaptability, and fuelling extreme risk and uncertainty for economies and wellbeing.'

There will be severe economic impacts resulting from the unnecessary destruction of the Whitchurch Northern Meadows site proposed for the Velindre centre.

- The irrevocable loss of regulating ecosystem services vital to combating climate change and its effects; the flooding early last year, witnessed in the immediate locality and elsewhere, necessitated a Welsh Government £140 million pledge to take on the climate emergency and increase environmental protection.
- The regulating and cultural ecosystem services of the meadows support physical and mental health and wellbeing, especially for local people. As elsewhere, the meadows have been critical to supporting people's wellbeing during the COVID pandemic.
- More than £9.5 billion, nearly half of Welsh Government's draft 2012-22 budget will be spent on Health and Social Services as well as mental health and wellbeing specifically. We need to recognise that our green spaces contribute hugely to people's health and wellbeing and as such offer the opportunity to reduce an increasingly unsustainable financial burden. Moreover, they offer side effect-free alternatives to pharmacological interventions in supporting health and wellbeing.
- People who have greater exposure to greenspace have a range of more favourable physiological outcomes. Greener environments are also associated with better mental health and wellbeing outcomes including reduced levels of depression, anxiety, and fatigue, and enhanced quality of life for both children and adults.
- Access to and use of parks and green spaces enhance physical health, mental wellbeing and life satisfaction. People need parks and green spaces nearby, but they need to be of a sufficient quality to encourage regular visits. The quality of green spaces has a stronger bearing on health outcomes than quantity. They help reduce obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Visits to green spaces support mental wellbeing and stress relief.
- Parks and green spaces across the UK provide with over £34bn of health and wellbeing benefit to people and are estimated to save the NHS around £111 million per year based solely on a reduction in GP visits.
- There is now gathering interest and pace in prescribing nature-based health interventions or green prescribing and health boards in Wales are running out pilots.
- Urban green space has health benefits, particularly for economically deprived communities, children, pregnant women and senior citizens. It is essential all populations have adequate access to green space, with particular priority for disadvantaged communities.

STNM

'Transformative change is possible - we and our descendants deserve nothing less.'

We must Reclaim Cardiff!

Reclaim Cardiff is a campaign to connect people and community groups opposing the destruction of Cardiff's cultural and environmental heritage, and advocate for quality housing, services, and infrastructure which cares for our needs, wellbeing, and our future. We recognise the disconnected way communities are fighting against development in their local areas, and advocate for us to come together and build a united response to a system rigged against us.

As the Cardiff Council leader Huw Thomas asks the Welsh Government to support commercial property developments in Cardiff and Cardiff Bay, we ask if he's living on a different planet? Communities across Cardiff face environmental deprivation, low quality and a total lack of appropriate housing, job losses across key sectors like the arts, hospitality, and manufacturing, the destruction of our cultural heritage and historic buildings, and more. Yet the council seeks to open Cardiff up to more developments and multinational corporations, devoid from any connection to our city, to design it and then run it.

That means more inappropriate student flats, less green space, more low quality jobs, and less spaces for public and health amenities. It means less community input into decisions. It means more low quality housing. It means less accountability. Really, it means more money in the pockets of the landlords and their mates who run the city, and less space for people to just exist in peace, in a clean environment, and living in quality housing with access to services we need.

During this pandemic, communities have come together despite the impossible hardship and the totally broken system, to resist plans which are being pushed through by the council. Despite everything going on, the people of this city still care deeply and want to protect what we have. But we have also shown a great want to build a better future.

We hope Reclaim Cardiff can create the space to find solutions and build a better future for ourselves. The Council and Government have consistently proven they do not want to change. So we think it's time we do it ourselves.

Find out more [@ReclaimCardiff](#)



To Our Commissioners

Children, Older People and Future Generations - all of whom are being adversely affected by decisions being made against legislation during this pandemic.

Older People

The emergency access route to Velindre will run within metres of supported living accommodation, housing elderly people, many with multiple and complex health needs. The exposure of over four years of construction dust and noise, compounded by the permanent loss of green space within walking distance, will have a massive detrimental effect on health and quality of life. They've not been consulted with, effectively been dismissed as irrelevant.

For many older people living on the Hollybush Estate and nearby, their only access to green space, within a manageable walking distance is Lady Cory Field. This field was gifted to the people of Whitchurch in the 1920s for recreation and sport. Yet, Cardiff Council, as its caretaker, has chosen without the consent of the community, to allow it to be used as an access and lorry turning point throughout the years of construction.

It is also to be fundamentally and permanently changed by raising the sunken field up to road level to ease access for construction vehicles. This will put hundreds of homes at serious risk of future flooding, including Elm House, Lon-y-Celyn, Pant-y-Celyn, Pantmawr Road, Park Avenue and Park Road, where many older people reside.

Across the city:

Older people are being excluded from having their voices heard. As people cannot meet, only those with internet access can sign an online petition. This means that communities are not being adequately represented. Again, it is older people, whom have contributed to society the longest, that are most likely not have internet knowledge and/or access. Further, older people have continually been advised to remain at home and many who do not read any leaflets that come through the door, for fear of them being contaminated.

This section of society is therefore largely cut off and many have little or no idea of what is happening in their community, yet sizable decisions, with far reaching consequences are continuing, suggesting that Cardiff Council think that their voices don't count and their views aren't valid.

Children

The disregard of the UNCRC is also of concern.

The UNCRC outlines that the best interest of the child must be of primary consideration in decisions taken by state parties.

Children and young people have the right to be heard and listened to in issues that affect them. They have the right to freedom of expression and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. They have the right to be protected and state parties should strive to consider the dangers and risks of environmental pollution in their actions and decisions.

They also have the right to be directed and supported in developing a respect for the natural environment, as well as having the right to be safe and to play. Those with disabilities also have the right to be included and active participation in their community supported.

None of the above is happening in relation to the Northern Meadows. The risks to children's health and development are massive. There is a primary school, a nursery and a residential school for children and young people with severe autism next door to the development site. Both facilities use the meadows regularly for education, recreational and wellbeing purposes for their pupils.

In addition, a significant proportion of the pupils who attend Coryton Primary live near or on the Hollybush estate and so will never have respite from the pollution and noise disturbance of the development. Those children attending school from outside face health and safety issues in navigating busy roads and 200 additional HGV journeys to and from the construction site daily.

Across the city:

Green space and children's playgrounds are being taken, such as in the case of Britannia Park, Danescourt Woods, Sanatorium Park and the Northern Meadows, to name a few examples. The Paddlesteamer in Butetown has been a well-valued community space for generations, supporting the children and young people of the area, and is culturally and historically significant to the community, yet it is to be sold for MORE flats and against the wishes of the locals!

Ask for evidence of meaningful engagement with children and young people across any of the developments listed.

There is none. This must be challenged!

Future Generations

Across the city, the Act is being disregarded and made a mockery of. Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in 2019. We have only 8% green space in Cardiff, lower than many UK cities, yet the planning committee continues to wave through development after development resulting in further losses. The developments include 1000s of sq mtrs. of office space, an indoor arena and a museum. Are massive sprawling offices the future post-covid? Is an indoor arena and its massive costs a priority for our city and what about the community around it, the vast majority of whom do not even know it is being proposed?

And in the same community, the proposed military medicine museum to be placed on top of the Bay's only green space and a children's playground. The subject matter for the museum is problematic, as is the financial plan.

And what will be the emotional, financial, health & wellbeing cost to the people of our city and to future generations? The Butetown Arts and History Centre was forced to close a few years ago because of a lack of funds. This was such an important institution for the history of Cardiff and the cultural and industrial heritage of the docks community. Yet this is disregarded by developers and Cardiff Council. Instead, the proposal wishes to situate a museum which in essence celebrates a military which colonised a third of the world!

What does this say to the children and young people who are denied learning and celebrating the history of Tiger Bay and the Docks and its significance to Wales and the world? What does this say about our city and how we value our multicultural heritage and communities? What will this say to our future generations?

Legislation and policy documents are brimming with words such as co-production, engagement, well-being etc. and they may look and sound good but they actually need to be acted upon in a meaningful way. And they must also be seen to be acted upon.

Do your respective offices simply represent style over substance or figurehead positions? Cardiff Council needs to suspend planning committees immediately as it did during the first lockdown. By the time it's safe for communities to function once again it'll be too late and our city and communities will be irreparably damaged.

In the longer term, significant changes need to be made and the planning process needs to be overhauled - communities need to be the priority, not the developers.

The cabinet statement released by Jans Hutt on May 8th 2020 in response to the Future Generations report stated:

"Covid-19 has dramatically changed our lives and will have a lasting and profound effect on all of us, on our economy, on our public services and on our communities. We cannot go back to business as normal, and need to plan for a Wales, shaped by the virus, that is more prosperous, more equal and greener, rooted in our commitment to social-economic and environmental justice."

Please Commissioners, play your role in ensuring this is the reality!

LETTERS

A PUBLIC VIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Like many other people, I am not qualified to effectively scrutinise detailed planning documents, although I'm a long way up a steep learning curve. How do Planning Departments across the country expect 'lay people' to do this effectively without any formal training? The case of the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre in North Whitchurch: there are now well over 300 separate documents, with the number ever increasing - a huge task to effectively examine and offer feedback in a meaningful way on such complex planning proposals.

This is particularly the case for residents who are not in a position to dedicate the time and effort to do this effectively in the middle of a pandemic; this also comes with a 21 day deadline. Furthermore, potentially impacted residents who are not able to scrutinise applications digitally, are left with no opportunity to let their views be known. The above situation has been exacerbated by Covid-19 restrictions and 'lockdowns'.

Based on many years of scrutinising and commenting on various planning applications in my area, I have concluded that this is largely a complete waste of my time and effort! I was told many years ago that Planning will always come down on the side of the developer. Sadly, irrespective of the scale and number of objections raised (in the context of published planning policies), this seems to be the case. In other words, **consultation** with potentially affected residents/businesses is seen very much as a 'box-ticking' exercise as part of the overall planning process.

The applicant can ask the Planning Inspectorate to review a decision, but objectors do not have that right. Decisions may be contested through a judicial review, but that requires showing that the planning authority has failed to follow the correct process. This is difficult and expensive.

Any application going to the Planning Committee will be accompanied by an Officer's report. This may recommend rejection but usually the Officer will have worked with the applicant to shape the original proposal into one that the Committee will accept, often with various conditions that need to be met.

The 'Discharge of Conditions' drawn up by the Planning Officer that accompanies the approval means very little to developers. Another 'box-ticking' paper exercise it appears. By Cardiff Council's Planning Department's own admission, they do not have the staff resources to monitor how any conditions agreed with developers are actually discharged.

Nature conservation and protection of open spaces are material considerations for any planning proposal, as is climate change. Council and Senedd policies outside of planning may be relevant, such as the declaration of a climate emergency, even if the impact of any single development may be negligible. Despite the recent declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' by the Senedd and the publication of ground breaking Acts over 5 years ago covering the protection of our Environment and the Well-Being of Future Generations in Wales, I have seen very little if any material benefits to having such legislation as far as influencing planning decisions is concerned. Surely this has to change if Wales is going to play its part in leading the way to combat the 'climate emergency' we are all facing.

There seems to be a massive disconnect between certain departments such as Highways and the 'real world' issues facing many residents and children in particular from poor air quality caused primarily by traffic congestion. This despite cases where hundreds of local residents have objected based on the very real likelihood that the proposed development would severely exacerbate traffic congestion and thereby have a significant detrimental effect on air quality and health.

In order for the Planning Committee to reject an application it must be persuaded that policy breaches are serious enough to override the presumed benefit of development. Public pressure may count here, such as showing that an open space is of value to a community. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's the value and accessibility of green, open and biodiverse spaces for recreational purposes, which in

turn has been shown to improve our general and mental health plus well-being.

Despite many objectors highlighting likely planning policy breaches of applications, after exhaustive reading of the relevant policies, such concerns are largely ignored.

The remit of the assigned Planning Officer is such that each planning application is reviewed in isolation. It seems that there is little, if any, consideration given to the 'bigger picture' - the cumulative effect a series of planning developments has on the community, and the social and environmental fabric of an area is given scant attention. The various Council's LDP documents are supposed to address this, but they fall short of giving meaningful consideration to the overall cumulative impact of large-scale developments in a one area.

There appears to be little collaboration/cooperation between Councils in drawing up their LDPs. Is there a Wales-wide planning body that oversees the collective LDPs emanating from each Council?

Like a growing number of people, I strongly believe that the whole planning system in Cardiff (and Wales) is not fit-for-purpose and requires an urgent and fundamental review and overhaul to make it more transparent and more in tune with the focus on protecting our environment and the 'green recovery' being referred to post Covid by the governments. The Planning Department policies stress sustainability as being central to all new developments. But the reality is falling way short of that in a number of ways. It needs better engagement with affected local communities in order to get a better balance of the views of residents versus that of developers.

In light of the above, my faith in the whole planning process is non-existent and many other residents in Whitchurch /Cardiff are also coming to the same conclusion too.

In summary - while housing and healthcare delivery is crucial, policy must give more priority to other issues including decarbonisation and climate resilience, design and beauty, connectivity and accessibility, wellbeing and public health, not just economic growth.

Jan Hughes



FUTURE WALES

On Wednesday, the new Future Wales policy was issued. It previously had a policy referring to 'no adverse impact' on things like, wildlife, visual landscape etc. The wording has been changed to 'no unacceptable adverse impact' on each category which is licence for developers to get away with plonking anything anywhere and saying there is no unacceptable effect. Really bad news.

WG made a fundamental change to Future Wales and the protection it offers SSSIs etc. even AFTER the matter had been debated and ratified in the Senedd. The Senedd made its decision and then someone - minister? civil servants? - made a significant policy change without consulting the Senedd.

This cannot be allowed to slip through unchallenged.

Nature heals, nurtures, connects us and protects us.

I often wake early and if I have the energy walk to the river, to the call of the birds. Their morning song, when you listen, when you really listen, is deeply beautiful. This last year has been hard in so many ways. There are always uncontrollable elements of our lives that cause us sadness, grief, stress, anger and a whole whirlwind of other emotions. Sometimes they are obvious and we give ourselves room to grieve, we hold that pain. So often they are not.

"Our despair when shared delivers us a new kind of humanity" - Joanna Macy

The death of Mohamud Hassan at the hands of south Wales police on the 9th January spurred friends, community, activists from all walks of life to protest for 4 consecutive days outside Cardiff bay police station. Sharing in their grief friends spoke of him and their anger and sadness as yet another black life was ended far too soon.

No person who comes in to contact with the police should be at risk of their life ending. This struck me. Painfully. On the second day two young women (of the hundreds there) spoke of being followed home by the Police, the intimidation. In these moments of helplessness what can we do?

How do we pull ourselves from the despair that our deeply rigged society throws at us seemingly every day? Share our grief, show up when we can, when we have the mental strength and the physical health to do so. We must sustain ourselves while we look outwardly to sustain our communities.

As an activist in Cardiff I've worked alongside multiple campaigns and communities in just this last year alone. To protect our local spaces - that I cherish so much. Standing up for refugees condemned in our country at the Penally camp. Fighting for clean air in early September as we shut down the Viridor incinerator. Sitting in trees to protect them and working closely with almost 25 organisations to bring about the Justice Now march in early September that saw over a thousand people march. We must dream about a better world, we must imagine it and we must try and enact it. Our positive action, our positive thoughts transforming from dreams to reality, one step at a time.

We won't always feel capable of this, accepting the grief we have that we share and giving ourselves the time to heal before we take action. You, me and every other caring person in Cardiff, in Wales has the potential and power to change our society for the better.

Living with Hope. Taking positive action.
Anonymous Activist. Extinction Rebellion Cardiff



A WELSH UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS BILL

In Finland, Sweden and Estonia all children have free school meals. Not just children from poor families. We want this in Wales.

Currently Welsh Government's tight means test denies over half of children in poverty free school meals, a higher percentage denied than in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

In December, we started demanding Welsh Government give free school meals to all children in poverty, as a step towards free school meals for all children.

Our online launch involved trade unions, anti-poverty, parents and teachers groups. Contacting every Senedd Member we were delighted when Plaid supported all our calls leading to three Senedd debates. While Labour keeps voting down extending free school meal provision, our movement is gaining ground in the Labour too: Labour MP Beth Winter, Ceredigion Labour Party and RCT Labour councillors have recently supported universal free school meals.



CALLING ALL COMRADES

Valleys Underground are a Socialist Republican Community Org active across Wales. We promote solidarity, not charity - and on that end our members aim to help you with your areas' issues.

- Litter
- Graffiti
- Derelict Sites
- Housing issues
- Food Poverty
- Hygiene supplies



We promote solidarity, not charity. We also want to give back to the community with clear-up sessions, food-banks, film nights, live events, and a book club.

If you can help us, we can help you, or you're interested in joining, contact us at valleysunderground@protonmail.com.



The VUG 10 Point Programme:

- 1 - We want an Independent, Socialist Republic of Wales - by and for the people of Wales.
- 2 - We want local community action, the creation of community centers, and the revival of our towns, villages, and cities.
- 3 - We want workers to have a democratic say in both their workplace, and in their society, to ensure their rights.
- 4 - We want free, accessible, and honest education for all.
- 5 - We want an end to children growing up in poverty.
- 6 - We want deprived areas in Wales to be reinvigorated, and not discarded and treated as commuter belts.
- 7 - We want an end to homelessness.
- 8 - We want a Wales that stands in solidarity with all oppressed and exploited peoples around the world.
- 9 - We want an end to a justice system that does not serve the people, and one that focuses on education and reform - not senseless punishment.
- 10 - We want the working people of all creeds, colours, and nations to unite, for the betterment of all.

Recently I read an interview about four London councils offering universal free school meals to all primary school kids. A mother in passing said

'the money I used to spend on packed lunches for my

daughter I can now spend on giving her dance classes'.

Isn't this wonderful? Maybe one day we will win universal free dance classes too, so anyone who wants to can learn to dance. Never again forced 'choices' between heating or eating...culture or eating. We were born into this world to thrive not just survive. To live not just to exist.

A Welsh Universal Free School Meals Bill guaranteeing every school student at least one daily hot nutritious school meal is about so much more than lunch - it's about the seed beneath the snow, a new society.

Britannia Park

Cardiff's Planning Committee has granted permission for a Museum of Military Medicine to be built on Britannia Park in Cardiff Bay.

Britannia Park is a small haven on the eastern edge of Cardiff Bay, where green space is hard to find. It was created in the 1990s as an essential element of the dockland regeneration. It is greatly valued by residents, most of whom live in flats, as well as by office workers and visitors. A large 5-storey building of rusting steel and glass will ruin it. The Museum's supporters claim it is all about medicine, but its Trust's objectives include promoting military achievements and recruitment. It has no place in our city, least of all in Butetown, which has lost its centre celebrating those who came to build the docks, sail the ships, and make their home here. Council invited this Museum to Cardiff, then offered the park to make way for its new Arena. It claims it will stimulate tourism, but the projected numbers are fanciful. The Trust lacks the money to build this eyesore and has no credible plan for running it. Council is taking on a financial risk.

The Planning Committee regularly approves profitable developments and vanity projects, against the wishes of city residents and in defiance of the Council's own Local Development Plan. So, it was no surprise the Committee ignored the objections of over 8,000 petitioners. But Council has not yet leased the land to the Museum. The campaign to stop it continues.

Lyn Nynon

Cardiff Civic Society.

Fighting for the soul of our city

Cardiff Civic Society campaigns for the protection of our fantastic urban green spaces and our built heritage, as well as helping communities fight inappropriate development. In recent years we have fought more than 38 campaigns. We also lobby the council and Welsh Government on issues such as a fairer planning system that serves communities rather than the needs of profit-hungry developers; better, cleaner public transport; improved air quality; protection of our mature green infrastructure and irreplaceable public open space; reduced mowing, and banning of glyphosate to protect nature and human health.

However, despite fierce opposition from community groups, the sad reality is that green space, much-loved local landmarks, and heritage is disappearing at an alarming rate. It is also clear that a tidal wave of anger at this injustice is sweeping the city.

Despite presenting cogent, logical arguments to planning committee, the views of communities are routinely ignored. As one local campaigner commented: "The sense of powerlessness is corrosive." There is also a prevailing perception that decisions that affect us all are made in the backroom, and that planning committee is nothing more than a formality.

"The character and spirit of Cardiff is being chipped away, and the needs of citizens bulldozed," says Nerys Lloyd-Pieroe, chair of Cardiff Civic Society. "The list of threatened green space makes depressing reading, and includes the Northern Meadows, Britannia Park, The Marl, Danescourt Woods, and Caedelyn Park, to name but a few. The contempt that planning committee clearly has for members of the public is shameful. Our 2021 manifesto calls for fundamental changes to be made to the planning system to level the playing field."

On a positive note, Cardiff Civic Society's Canopy Cardiff/Canopi Caerdydd project has raised thousands of pounds for tree planting in the city since its launch in 2016, we have also planted wildlife hedging, and established a pollinator-friendly meadow, and supported people in creating greener spaces where they live.

Fighting for our city is an uphill battle, but we hold onto the immortal words of the late Bob Crow: "If you fight, you won't always win, but if you don't fight, you will always lose".... Cardiff Civic Society is a membership organisation - please join us and help fight for the city you love. (Cardiff Civic Society is a registered charity - charity number 517544) www.cardiffcivicsociety.org

Butetown Matters

Campaigners in Butetown and other local communities of Cardiff have worked to maintain historic institutions such as the Paddle Steamer, campaigned for plans around a Military Medicine Museum in Britannia Park. The communities of Butetown are tired of being ignored and overlooked.

When objections and letters are such is not even acknowledged - where a part of the community's heritage is under threat of being erased and an amenity demolished - it is impossible not to view it in the context of wider events and the effects of flawed ways of how planning and development works in our city which has been brought to people's attention in the last few months. It is clear to see why this is the case where the one hand to the Council wants local engagement whilst ignoring the communities it is meant to represent.

The Council have had more than enough time to address this; locals have been trying to raise this issue for months but with no response from the Council or developers. we are asking that the until the community's wishes are considered and have some weight in decision making, it will continue with the process being one sided. With a long and colourful history, Butetown has been an important place for Cardiff's long-established diaspora communities. Community members and leaders want to ensure the history and spaces of Butetown are protected.

By the time you read this

The Vicarage on Cathedral

Road will be consigned to history.

!!



Going, going, gone.

BLM

South Wales Police and Gwent Police are accused of the murder of two Black men after police contact. Neither have displayed any accountability, suspended a police officer, nor have they shown any respect to the families involved, the community, or the protesters. In the case of South Wales Police, they have engaged in intimidation and threats to protesters and to Black Lives Matter Cardiff and Vale. On the first few days of protests, they followed a protester home, used excessive force against three local Somali boys, and took two riot vans to the home of one of our activists, subsequently fining her £1,000, claiming she 'organised' the protests. On the day of the vigil, they refused to allow us to project slogans onto the station, turning on all their lights. And in the most recent protest, they tried to remove us off the road, isolated and targeted young Black protesters, asking for their name, and telling them they 'can't be here'.

The tragic deaths of both Mouayed Bashir and Mohamud Hassan at the hands of the police, speaks to a wider, institutional problem. The police are racist, not one or two police officers, but the institution. They cannot be reformed; we call for them to be defunded and abolished. Resources must be reallocated from the police to the communities that they over police and criminalise. We must break the cycle and leave behind the logic of policing and the entire prison system.

Unify Creative

On Saturday 20th February we attended a protest in Cardiff for Mohamoud Hassan who was a young man from our community who died shortly after being released from police custody. While attending this protest we took the opportunity to get some great pictures as well as supporting the protest. Before the protest we had a discussion about how our job was to document the protest so people many years from now can look back at these pictures and get a good idea of the mood and energy of that day. This is only our second time using a camera and our first time covering a protest. However, we went there in confidence. Honestly, some of us forgot how to use them but we didn't let that stop us from taking these amazing pictures!

We were able to experience so many different things as well as trying to involve ourselves in fighting for the rights of our people. Channeling our pain and hurt into something creative was therapeutic.

Having Yusuf and Shawqi there guiding us made things a lot easier! We hope for the future, our community comes together to fight against these unacceptable acts. We think it affected a lot of young teens, especially, as we are beginning to realise that we are unable to feel safe around those made to protect our wellbeing.

As for photography, we really do hope that a lot of people join us as it brings people together thus allowing people to educate themselves on matters going on around the city.

We are 3 Somali girls who are very passionate about photography. We are part of a photography workshop program called Visionary created by Unify, which is a community initiative created by Yusuf Ismail & Shawqi Hasson.



HOW MANY POLICE OFFICERS WOULD YOU SEND TO A VULNERABLE PERSON HAVING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS?

WE SEND NINE.



Letters

'Nature is our life support system.. it's more important than my life'

Community

LET'S GET THIS RIGHT

There is an exceptional opportunity here to get it right and to make Velindre an excellent and world class cutting edge facility but Velindre HAS to listen to the many senior clinicians who have expressed deep concerns about the suggested cancer care model. We know that things have gone wrong in the planning process and that there was a lack of consultations with other health boards, clinicians etc. and the Whitchurch community. Those who already expressed their concerns several years ago about nVCC were not listened to and those who were brave enough to put their signature on an open letter to the Health Minister Vaughan Gething recently, needed reassurance from BMA which is the registered trade union for doctors in the United Kingdom first that they wouldn't be at risk of reprisal by their employers by doing so. My understanding is that the signatories still don't want their names to be published out of fear of bullying which is a realistic fear considering how much bullying the two clinicians who dared to publicly voice their concerns about nVCC had to endure and still are enduring. It's very likely that many more clinicians would have given their signature if they had not been so worried about adverse implications. It's quite sad to learn that in a modern and democratic country like Wales, some professionals are too scared to speak out for fear of bullying and reprisals.

We need clarity how the original decision to build a new stand-alone centre so near the existing facility in Whitchurch, was reached; why no external and independent review of the proposed cancer care model was arranged; Velindre needs to acknowledge that there might be limitations of the proposed approach by looking at stand alone cancer hospitals which have already been reviewed including Mount Vernon in Middlesex. Why not learn from one's own mistakes and that of others?

Virginia Reuter

Leaves save Lives

As campaigners we're often told 'don't comment unless you've experienced cancer'...

I'm a cancer patient of Velindre. Three years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer at Llandough Breast Centre. I had so many biopsies, scans, blood tests and information in that first 6 weeks, I was a complete mess, physically and emotionally. Then came the lymph biopsy surgery. The cancer was there too. So it was onto 18 weeks of chemo at Velindre. I had two trips to UHWH for emergency treatment for infections. I also had psychiatric sessions at Llandough with a specialist breast nurse consultant, at the time I just wanted to die. Then I was back to Llandough for surgery - unilateral mastectomy and full sentinel lymph clearance. No reconstruction was possible as I was to have radiotherapy, back at Velindre. Physiotherapy was mostly at the breast centre. I visit the lymphoedema clinic at Cardiff Infirmary still - this week in fact. I am on Tamoxifen chemical hormone therapy for 10 years. This put me into instant menopause, causing uncontrollable sweats, chronic joint pain, agonising leg cramps, endometrial polyps, mood swings, anxiety and massive fatigue.

And it doesn't end there...

I have since been back to UHWH for a nuclear bone scan, followed by x-rays, as something amiss. The night before my scan appointment, I walked from my little flat in Hollybush along the shady wooded path, across the meadow fields, where I lay and listened to the breeze in the trees and the birds, happily unaware of my anxiety. Being in nature always calms... except

I'd a greater anxiety than the needles I'd be facing and the claustrophobic scan to come.. that his wonderful, wild and special place may be lost to a development - where I may end up being treated again - as too many of us will. Wales' record for diagnosing and treating cancer is one of the worst in Europe. We need to change how we do things from that very first scary Doctors appointment onwards. Do I want treatment on the meadow, more than for us all to be able to sit beneath these ancient oaks and watch majestic herons? No. This isn't where the cancer centre should go. There are other sites, other ways. I walked and cycled to treatments when possible and I get out in nature whenever I can, taking in natural surroundings means seeing a bigger picture of life. Nature and environment is our life support system. It's more important than my life - than any one person's life - it is about our survival as a race on a planet in crisis. It is about my soon to be born grandchild having clean air, wild woodland to play in and better health - because we and those in power, stopped ignoring the climate emergency that we know about. Drastic action is needed to avert unprecedented natural disasters affecting our children's futures. I am just like you; my life altered by cancer. Like you I have the right to stand up for my beliefs and the truth, without being bullied, called names and had cancer wished on me or my family. Some in the Velindre group have suggested I and family should be denied treatment if we fall ill - from a group that professes to support and care for cancer patients and that is still endorsed by the board of Velindre Trust. It is truly shocking.

Cat Lewis, STNM campaigner, Hollybush Estate

To Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales

Dear Mrs Holland,

I am Luc and I am 10. I am in Year 6 in Coryton Primary School. My mum says that I should write to you as you listen to children. This is great news as I often feel that grown ups think they know best.

I am very worried about losing the Northern Meadows as they are my favourite place and also as I feel very sorry for all the animals who live there as they would lose their home. I also worry about going to Whitchurch High School next year as it is huge compared to Coryton Primary School and as I probably won't be with my friends in one class. Going to the meadows helps me to relax and to worry less. I have been going to the Northern Meadows since I was little and one day I would like to bring my own children to the meadows and perhaps even my grandchildren. At first I only went to the Northern Meadows with my parents but then I also started going there with my friends. We love exploring the meadows on our bikes, picking blackberries, talking about

school, playing tag or coming up with new games. Our favourite one at the moment is the "grass game". We give ourselves nicknames and I call myself "Grass Lord" and we then throw bundles of grass at each other. We also collect grass in little containers and we can forge allegiance by trading the grass we have collected.

I get very sad when I think that we might lose the meadows. I have so many memories on them. I learnt how to ride my bike there; I went there with my other nan I used to call Oma who passed away a few years ago and I recently lost my fear of dogs on the meadows. When our class teacher said that there was an opening for the post of the Eco Council representative and whoever was given the most votes for the speech would win I thought I had to strike.

Like the others I wrote down a few sentences on a piece of paper to prepare myself. When it was my turn and I went to the front of the class I was quite nervous and my hands were even shaking a little bit but I thought I needed to do this.

Luc (age 10)

How To Become An Effective Local Political Representative:

1. Stand and stare at a local issue while your photo is taken from behind.
2. Stand and stare at a local issue with your MP standing next to you, while your photo is taken from the front.
3. Always smile thoughtfully in such situations.
4. In online debates ignore difficult questions entered into the chat that all other participants are unable to see.
5. Remind everyone regularly that you had a strong view on the issue many years ago and you still agree with this view.
6. Remind everyone that you stopped houses being built.
7. Create and star in a shiny, primary-coloured brochure that reminds the reader of what good stuff you did more than two years ago, while ideally following points 1,2,5 and 6.
8. When referring to published reports be careful to ensure that your commentary does not contradict points 5 or 6 above.
9. Just keep going even when your best friend kindly suggests your best work was in the past.
10. You can never have too many photos taken while thoughtfully standing in front of something uncontroversial.

from a Hollybush resident

I moved in last year and I did immediately enjoy the local walks: that was when I noticed a lot of local protest about the shocking idea to dig up the Northern Meadows and disturb the local ecological balance.

I was fortunate enough to see Herons nesting and even a fox one late night.

I digress: Northern Meadows, great walks, beautiful place, on one hand, Cardiff City Council ripping it all up for a hospital, while driving us here all mad with noise pollution for four years! And yet the council will pay good money to plant trees and build expensive planters at our lovely Hollybush estate - which is grand - but sort of defeats the whole idea of green ecological initiatives. Why fund a bush to rip down a copse of trees and destroy a natural habitat, disrupt the residents, and lose everyone a great walking space opportunity? It's a bit bananas; nuts, oh Hazel nuts and tie me to a tree I'm not having it.

I wrote to room number whatever at the council HQ to absolve my conscience; I did the best job possible and received a reply. With these sort of land deals, who knows where the brown envelopes are flying and whose greasy palms are shiny with wondrous lucre: pennies from heaven? Well not for the birds and residents.

A last thought: my good friend, who shall remain nameless, a resident for a decade or more, told me the Council were up to no good (trying to wreck the meadow) ten years ago, which my friends is a chilling thought. They really do want to get the bulldozers dirty. Do we let them?

STOP THE PRESS! • back page...
When is a debate NOT a DEBATE!

Green Squirrel

This poem has been created from some of the four hundred written responses to Green Squirrel's 2018 petition asking Cardiff Council to halt the sale of a brownfield site in Splott for development and restore it to the community instead. The campaign was successful and the site, now named Railway Gardens by residents, will become a green community hub.

Hoping for a greener future

every animal every insect every dog walker every child every day

we need:

creativity and natural space
open spaces to play and walk
(often those in flats or built up areas don't have access to this at all)
time in nature and a place to connect with others
(now more than ever)

Not more parking, more concrete, more BROWN.

We are human! We need:

wide, open GREEN spaces
a place for children to be children
protection not exploitation!
space to breathe
(now more than ever)

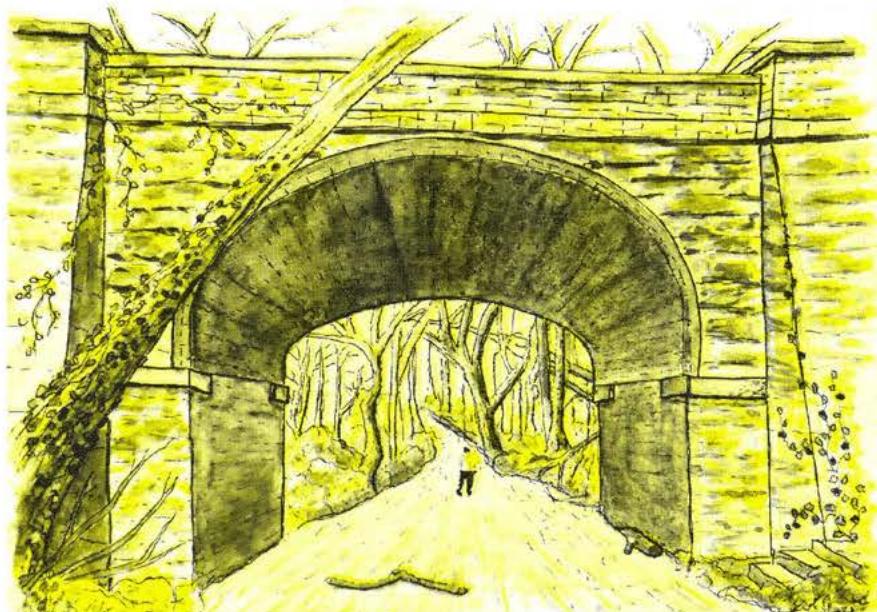
Not more giant student housing, more profit, more bricks and tarmac.

Concrete over our lungs at our peril

Developers don't live in this community. We do.
And once a park is lost it never comes back.

I am appalled, fed up, fed up, fed up.
we are continuously ignored
Who decides to take away the little that we have?
Another fight we have to win.

It's unfair.



To Our Commissioners

Children, Older People and Future Generations - all of whom are being adversely affected by decisions being made against legislation during this pandemic.

Older People

The emergency access route to Velindre will run within metres of supported living accommodation, housing elderly people, many with multiple and complex health needs. The exposure of over four years of construction dust and noise, compounded by the permanent loss of green space within walking distance, will have a massive detrimental effect on health and quality of life. They've not been consulted with, effectively been dismissed as irrelevant.

For many older people living on the Hollybush Estate and nearby, their only access to green space, within a manageable walking distance is Lady Cory Field. This field was gifted to the people of Whitchurch in the 1920s for recreation and sport. Yet, Cardiff Council, as its caretaker, has chosen without the consent of the community, to allow it to be used as an access and lorry turning point throughout the years of construction.

It is also to be fundamentally and permanently changed by raising the sunken field up to road level to ease access for construction vehicles. This will put hundreds of homes at serious risk of future flooding, including Elm House, Lon-y-Celyn, Pant-y-Celyn, Pantmawr Road, Park Avenue and Park Road, where many older people reside.

Across the city:

Older people are being excluded from having their voices heard. As people cannot meet, only those with internet access can sign an online petition. This means that communities are not being adequately represented. Again, it is older people, whom have contributed to society the longest, that are most likely not have internet knowledge and/or access. Further, older people have continually been advised to remain at home and many who do not read any leaflets that come through the door, for fear of them being contaminated.

This section of society is therefore largely cut off and many have little or no idea of what is happening in their community, yet sizable decisions, with far reaching consequences are continuing, suggesting that Cardiff Council think that their voices don't count and their views aren't valid.

Children

The disregard of the UNCRC is also of concern.

The UNCRC outlines that the best interest of the child must be of primary consideration in decisions taken by state parties.

Children and young people have the right to be heard and listened to in issues that affect them. They have the right to freedom of expression and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. They have the right to be protected and state parties should strive to consider the dangers and risks of environmental pollution in their actions and decisions.

They also have the right to be directed and supported in developing a respect for the natural environment, as well as having the right to be safe and to play. Those with disabilities also have the right to be included and active participation in their community supported.

None of the above is happening in relation to the Northern Meadows. The risks to children's health and development are massive. There is a primary school, a nursery and a residential school for children and young people with severe autism next door to the development site. Both facilities use the meadows regularly for education, recreational and wellbeing purposes for their pupils.

In addition, a significant proportion of the pupils who attend Coryton Primary live near or on the Hollybush estate and so will never have respite from the pollution and noise disturbance of the development. Those children attending school from outside face health and safety issues in navigating busy roads and 200 additional HGV journeys to and from the construction site daily.

Across the city:

Green space and children's playgrounds are being taken, such as in the case of Britannia Park, Danescourt Woods, Sanatorium Park and the Northern Meadows, to name a few examples. The Paddlesteamer in Butetown has been a well-valued community space for generations, supporting the children and young people of the area, and is culturally and historically significant to the community, yet it is to be sold for MORE flats and against the wishes of the locals!

Ask for evidence of meaningful engagement with children and young people across any of the developments listed.

There is none. This must be challenged!

Future Generations

Across the city, the Act is being disregarded and made a mockery of. Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in 2019. We have only 8% green space in Cardiff, lower than many UK cities, yet the planning committee continues to wave through development after development resulting in further losses. The developments include 1000s of sq mtrs. of office space, an indoor arena and a museum. Are massive sprawling offices the future post-covid? Is an indoor arena and its massive costs a priority for our city and what about the community around it, the vast majority of whom do not even know it is being proposed?

And in the same community, the proposed military medicine museum to be placed on top of the Bay's only green space and a children's playground. The subject matter for the museum is problematic, as is the financial plan.

And what will be the emotional, financial, health & wellbeing cost to the people of our city and to future generations? The Butetown Arts and History Centre was forced to close a few years ago because of a lack of funds. This was such an important institution for the history of Cardiff and the cultural and industrial heritage of the docks community. Yet this is disregarded by developers and Cardiff Council. Instead, the proposal wishes to situate a museum which in essence celebrates a military which colonised a third of the world!

What does this say to the children and young people who are denied learning and celebrating the history of Tiger Bay and the Docks and its significance to Wales and the world? What does this say about our city and how we value our multicultural heritage and communities? What will this say to our future generations?

Legislation and policy documents are brimming with words such as co-production, engagement, well-being etc. and they may look and sound good but they actually need to be acted upon in a meaningful way. And they must also be seen to be acted upon.

Do your respective offices simply represent style over substance or figurehead positions? Cardiff Council needs to **suspend planning committees** immediately as it did during the first lockdown. By the time it's safe for communities to function once again it'll be too late and our city and communities will be irreparably damaged.

In the longer term, significant changes need to be made and the planning process needs to be overhauled - communities need to be the priority, not the developers.

The cabinet statement released by Jane Hutt on May 5th 2020 in response to the Future Generations report stated:

"Covid-19 has dramatically changed our lives and will have a lasting and profound effect on all of us, on our economy, on our public services and on our communities. We cannot go back to business as normal, and need to plan for a Wales, shaped by the virus, that is more prosperous, more equal and greener, rooted in our commitment to social-economic and environmental justice."

Please Commissioners, play your role in ensuring this is the reality!

Cardiff Organisations, Community Groups, Support Services

ACORN Cardiff (the Union for the community) www.acorntheunion.org.uk

AWENTheLibrary (Whitchurch Library) Fb

BAWSO (providing specialist services for BMW communities) www.bawso.org.uk

Black Lives Matter Cardiff - @BLMCardiff
Tweets

Boomerang (housing help) 029 2049 7724

Cardiff Extinction Rebellion Caerdydd Fb

Cardiff Friends of the Earth Fb

Cardiff Greenpeace Tweets and Fb

Cardiff People's Assembly Fb

Cardiff Story Museum www.cardiffmuseum.com

Cardiff Women's Aid
www.cardiffwomensaid.org.uk

Cardiff YouthStrike4Climate @YS4CCardiff
Tweets

Chwarae Teg (women's services)
www.chwaraateg.com

Family Gateway - advice and support
www.cardifffamilies.co.uk

Glitter Cymru (social support group for LGBTQ+ ethnic minority community in Wales)
@GlitterCymru Tweets and Instagram

Global Gardens (Community growing)
www.globalgardenscf

Green Squirrel (environmental community work) www.greencityevents.co.uk

Hoops and Loops (LGBTQ+ assylum seekers)
www.hoopsandloops@gmail.com and Fb

Industrial Workers of the World (militant grassroots union which represents all workers)
www.iww.org.uk/cymru

Justice4MohamudHassan (dedicated to Mohamud Hassan) @justice4mohamud Tweets

Llandaff North Residents @LlandaffNorthRA

Made in Roath (Community arts org)
www.madeinroath.com

Mind Cardiff (mental health)
www.cardiffmind.org

Oasis (Help for refugee & asylum seekers)
www.oasicardiff.org

PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together) @WhitchurchPact Tweets - many local groups across Cardiff

Privilege Cafe (Virtual cafe space to create a new inclusive environment) @PrivilegeCafe_
Tweets

Reclaim Cardiff Ein Dinas Ni @ReclaimCardiff
Tweets

Safe Foundation (supporting young people)
www.thesafefoundation.co.uk



There are a few different ways you can get involved with the campaign...

- Direct action - a more 'hands on' approach, eg: marches, protesting, etc
- Art - banner making, posters, leaflets etc.
- Social media - helping to manage one of our media accounts or even just sharing posts and re-tweets!
- Legal and research
- Outreach - this could mean contacting groups, organisations and individuals' eg: writing to politicians
- Fundraising - we will be taking this forward as a legal challenge so need funds!

As the campaign moves on we are more in need of your support than ever! We know that everyone is different in what support and time they can commit to, also that some people have not engaged at all because they may not know where they fit in or how they can help. So in order to get to know each other, we are hoping to arrange a very informal zoom session; it's just a way of getting to find out a bit more about how you can get involved and any ideas you want to share. If you're interested please get in touch on Facebook or by email: sayethenorthernmeadows@gmail.com

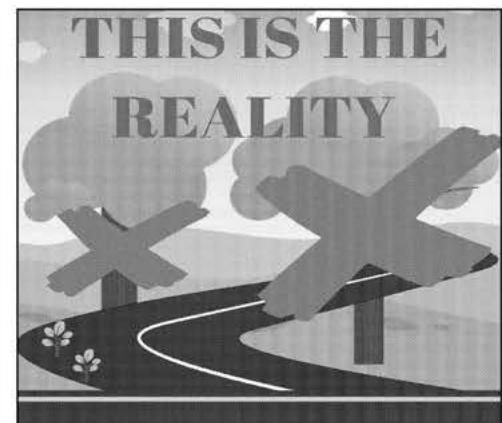
RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS

Butetown Matters @ButetownMatters Tweets
Cardiff Council Tenant Services 029 2053 7591
HETRA - (Hollybush Estate Tenants & Residents Association) hetra14@gmail.com
Tweets & Fb
Morganstown Village Residents Fb
Our Mynachdy Community Fb

LOCAL LAND CAMPAIGNS and GROUPS

Facebook

Save the Northern Meadows
Friends of Britannia Park
Friends of Caedelyn Park
Keep Cosmeston Green
Save Danescourt Woods
Friends of Flaxland Woods
Friends of Hayley Park
Save Sanatorium Park
Residents Against the CF3 Incinerator
Friends of Whitchurch Park



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

ARIENNIR GAN
Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED



love
where
you live!



After an absence of almost 45 years, it's good to see the Cardiff People's Paper is reborn. For 7 years from November 1969 to December 1976, a small group of activists produced the paper on a shoestring, taking on the establishment of the day, resisting bad planning decisions and fighting for tenants' rights. We regularly sold over 1,500 copies though over 25 outlets plus door to door sales on the estates.

Those planning issues are still with us today, unlike some of the original group who have sadly passed away. I've been in touch with some of the original members of our collective, including Bob Dumbleton, without whom it would never have started, and they are all pleased, and amazed, to see it come back, still fighting.

In a democracy, challenge from a vibrant and representative press and media, the "4th estate", are essential, and today we have less and less challenge from the mainstream media in the UK, which is so often full of trivia whilst the big issues are ignored. This dire situation is changing slowly, as more and more low-cost, internet, video and print news operations are challenging the establishment's views.

The Cardiff People's Paper was part of that challenge, and it's good to see it still is.

Alex Bird, collective member 1972-1976

* STOP PRESS *

After the frustrating Senedd 'debate' on Velindre petitions

STNM are deeply disappointed by the way the 'debate' about the meadows on the 3rd of March was conducted. Most contributions appeared ignorant of patient safety, basic understanding of cancer care and failed to represent any community or environmental concerns.

Members of South Wales central were barred from speaking or representing us. The Llywydd failed to ensure the debate was fairly represented, with all speakers Labour except Ryun ap Iorwerth MS (Plaid and not our area) and they chose to read out emotive patient experiences (all valid of course) instead of facts relating to the petitions. No attempt was made to grapple the deep issues of environmental destruction, misinformation, bullying within health boards, and no mention made of the 163 senior clinicians concerns. In the previous health debate Vaughan Gethin said he was 'following the scientific facts'. That fell by the wayside in this farce. It was embarrassing to watch our democracy in action. The presiding officer has since apologised for the error of not asking Gareth Bennet to speak - but no apology has come to us, the people.

MAKE A COMPLAINT HERE:

<https://standardscommissionerwales.org/making-a-complaint>

When is a debate not a debate?

When it's a session to.. frustrate, alienate, castigate, deviate, denigrate, fabricate, that's featherweight, the fourth estate, irritate, litigate, mitigate, nauseate, obfuscate, orchestrate, relegate, suffocate, subjugate, discriminate, exasperate, inadequate, miscommunicate, emotional state.