

CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ to the Chief Executive, City & County of Swansea, regarding the concerns of Ffynone residents of replacing paving stones with tar macadam on Coutts Hill. Reply received from Reena Owen, Director of Environment, stating that there is no intention to re-lay pathways in the next five year plan but that some patching in tar macadam had been carried out.
- ♦ to the Planning Department regarding change of use from hotel (classC1) to 10 bed HMO (class3) Oystermouth Road. We have grave concerns about the accelerated decline of the visual impact of Oystermouth Road on Swansea's gateway to Mumbles and Gower. In recent months we have noticed that planning applications have declined in quality of frontage design
- ♦ Regarding the landscaping of pedestrian and cycle route along the river Tawe near Sainsbury's. The Council is to be congratulated on the proposed landscaping of pedestrian and cycle routes along the River Tawe near Sainsbury's. We have also requested that the site close to the Sail Bridge be developed in sympathy with Ty Llen and the Marina, thereby maintaining an attractive open space around the Sail Bridge which would enhance the area as the gateway to the River Tawe and to SA1.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome anyone who wishes to join the Civic Society.

It was agreed at our September Executive Meeting to clarify subscriptions. The Society's financial year will therefore begin in January. We have included in this Newsletter a subscription form, with details of payment. The subscriptions contribute to postage, newsletter publication, gifts to speakers and any other administrative costs necessary for the smooth running of the Society. This year we would like to put in place a website so that our activities will be more widely publicised.

The annual subscription is £8 per person or £15 for couples.

Mrs Audrey Tribe, membership secretary, will be pleased to accept subscriptions. Cheques made payable to 'Swansea Civic Society' can be handed to her at meetings or sent to her at:

8, Wimmerfield Drive
Killay
Swansea
SA2 7BR
Tel: 01792 426591

SWANSEA CIVIC SOCIETY



CYMDEITHAS DDINESIG ABERTAWA SWANSEA CIVIC SOCIETY

Newsletter

Autumn 2009

President

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Vice President & Chair of the Executive

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Philippa Watkins &
Eileen Walton

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Tony Lamb

Membership Secretary

Audrey Tribe

Newsletter Editor

Eileen Walton

YOUR SUPPORT APPRECIATED

We wish to thank all our members who are committed to securing the upgrading and development of Swansea's built environment, and who have given us their support and encouragement through some difficult and challenging times. Swansea Civic Society is still playing a very active role in engaging with current proposals and developments for the City and Bay. Some of our ideas for the future of Swansea you may find in this Newsletter.

MORE DIVERSITY NEEDED

Although the city transport system has many negative features and in some aspects it needs urgent revising, nonetheless we are fortunate that the proposed shopping mall, which would have seen the centre of Swansea demolished, did not go ahead. However, while the city centre is beginning to take on a more cosmopolitan appearance, it is let down by the lack of a variety of shopping choices and this is bothering a great number of people. People are constantly complaining to us about the demise of Swansea as a diverse place to shop. It would improve the shopping status of the City to have a Waitrose and a John Lewis come to Swansea, with other big high street names. This, we feel, needs to be the focus of all in local and national government, to energise commitment to the City of Swansea and make it again a place where people love to shop.

MEETINGS

At our meeting in September Chris Taylor Team Leader of Schemes for Swansea gave an illustrated talk on the new bus terminal at the Quadrant. At last we shall have an attractive modern interchange, which will be safe and clean with zero tolerance on litter and 24 hour security.

Our only concern is that there are no plans to upgrade the well-used pedestrian route between Tesco's and the City. We feel quite strongly that this area needs to be improved greatly so that the visual impact and safety of this walkway is a true reflection of Swansea on the move.

Executive Meetings: these are now open to all paid up members who may contribute to discussions but not vote on issues. Minutes of meetings are available to members for their perusal.

Executive meeting 7.00pm, Monday 30th November at the Guildhall

We have invited an Officer from the Department of Regeneration to speak to us about new innovations and develop proposals which will have a direct affect on the City Centre

Executive meeting 7.00pm, Monday 11th January 2010 at the Guildhall

Swansea Civic Society AGM 24th March 2010

Meetings held by the RISW at Swansea Museum, all at 7.00pm:

Thursday 5th November

Turning the Tide- A More Sustainable Wales

A talk given by Peter Davies Commissioner for Wales UK

Sustainable Development Commission

Thursday 14th January 2010

Soldiers, Sailors, Artists: St. Helen's House and some other Swansea landmarks, from 1750: by Bernard Morris, Past President, RISW.

Thursday 28th January 2010

AGM of the RISW

WALKABOUT

As usual this was a great success despite the July rain. Architect Robin Campbell and poet Nigel Jenkins were entertaining and informative guides. We looked at the excavations taking place at Oystermouth Castle and along our walk took in Oystermouth Church and the Lighthouse before our warm welcome and high tea at the Pier café.



PLANNING ISSUES

Swansea City Centre (within Castle Ward) has been designated a deprived area with particular emphasis on the unemployed and the need to educate and train 16-18 year olds for a skilled employment market. We have been asked for our contribution on how to upgrade the city centre to help stimulate its economy.

For the general improvement of the City Centre we recommended the following:

- ♦ Improve the pedestrian environment
- ♦ Paint shop fronts and upper floors
- ♦ Clean pavements
- ♦ Work out a strategy for the whole of the Kingsway and High Street
- ♦ Oystermouth Road, which is the gateway to Mumbles and Gower, is in a state of dereliction. Buildings have been allowed to be demolished and not replaced, and consequently creating spaces between buildings reminiscent of the Swansea Blitz. We suggest that this is remedied by clearing away the rubble and landscaping, as a temporary solution.
- ♦ Commit to funding a tunnel under Oystermouth Road between Sainsbury's and Paxton Street – even if this is a long term goal.
- ♦ Extend the use of cycle paths
- ♦ Develop the Waterfront as a main attraction rather than as a densely built environment and improve the general appearance of the marina by landscaping areas, creating public space for local people as well as creating a strong tourist attraction.
- ♦ We need to ensure that there are no further high rise buildings along the seafront. We are fearful that the land between the Marriott and County Hall is in danger of being lost to high rise development – which SCS is vehemently against
- ♦ Build on the recognised strengths of Swansea Market
- ♦ Provide Affordable Business Space for new and young entrepreneurs, art studios free space for advertising of events
- ♦ Create more activities within city centre for young children, older people and families
- ♦ Play areas in Sandfields and Maritime Quarter
- ♦ Restore the few remaining attractive old buildings which survived the Blitz.

The full document is available on request.