

PHOTOS REQUEST

If any members have photographs of Swansea, old or new, which they would like to share with others on the website please email them to one of the Secretaries. Many thanks.



TIDY TOWNS AND THE ROMAN BRIDGE

We are delighted that Phil Davies from 'Keep Wales Tidy' responded to our concerns about the deteriorating condition of the area around the Roman Bridge, Blackpill. He has secured funding from the Welsh Assembly for Tidy Towns, which is a volunteer-driven organisation that has been operating for the past few years. The organisation also works with people not in Education, Employment or Training.

The bridge is to be tidied up by the voluntary group, Tidy Towns, and Civic Society members. All volunteers are welcome to help. The date is to be confirmed.

'Tidy Towns' in partnership with 'Keep Wales Tidy' & 'SSCI' (Swansea Sustainable Community Initiative) are replanting St Gabriel's Walkway, near the Recreational Ground. This Edwardian walkway (1880) is being replanted with Edwardian shrubs to replicate the original walkway. It is also hoped that benches and the original fountain will be installed.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome anyone who wishes to join the Civic Society.

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

The subscriptions contribute to postage, newsletter publication, gifts to speakers and any other administrative costs necessary for the smooth running of the Society.

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

Newsletter Spring 2011



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)

Anyone can make suggestions to the City Council about how they would like to see land in Swansea developed in the future. Proposals will be completed and available to look at on the council website by the end of March.

We have four proposals:

- ◇ Create a park in front of and alongside the Civic Centre so that future development is not brought up to the edge of the cycle path.
- ◇ Create a square at the base of the Sail Bridge outside the Dylan Thomas Centre
- ◇ Create an Edwardian Square between the front of the Dylan Thomas Centre and Robert Price Warehouse
- ◇ Create a larger walled garden in the centre of Singleton Park with the old farm buildings being restored and turned into a café

OUTCOMES OF APPEALS

Biomass Appeal

We celebrate the refusal of this application on the basis that it is contrary to the plans for SA1 and whilst it could add to the mix of energy for Wales it would not do so without making too great an impact on the environment

Mynydd-y-Gwair Windfarm

We are pleased to report that this also has been refused on the grounds that detriment to peat habitat cannot be overcome within the proposal and exchange land is not suitable to replace that which would be lost from the commons.

President

Professor Prys Morgan

Vice President & Chair of the Executive

Professor David Herbert

Hon. Secretaries

Philippa Watkins &
Eileen Walton

Hon. Treasurer & Vice Chair of the Executive

Tony Lamb

Membership Secretary

Audrey Tribe

Newsletter Editor

Margaret Lamb

CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ to **CCS Planning Department**. SCS responded to a number of concerns relating to the three logo signs painted on the walls of the vibrant pink exterior of 12 Bryn Road. We were concerned that the fabric of the building was being used for advertising purposes. We were also of the opinion that such a glaringly painted exterior is totally out of keeping with the Victorian/Edwardian Brynmill area. We have been informed that the retrospective planning application for the logo has been turned down but the pink exterior may be retained.
- ♦ to **Fiona Hughes** to thank her and her colleagues from the Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Reduction Department for their assistance in ensuring that St. Mary's church and grounds are made safe for the general public. We have been concerned for some time that the lack of lighting and surveillance cameras around the open spaces of St. Mary's has created a dark and rather sinister area in the heart of the city. Copy sent to the Police.
- ♦ to **City & County of Swansea** SCS has been concerned for some time about the condition of Sketty library. However closure was not something we considered necessary. We wrote to the Council some time ago voicing our concerns and to date nothing has been done to improve the fabric of the building and the proposal to close it seems unfair to the people of Sketty. We acknowledge the difficult economic times, however Sketty library serves a valuable public service for the Sketty area and while we have an excellent city centre library, Oystermouth library, St. Thomas library and an ultra modern one in Killay, Sketty, by default it appears, is very poorly served. If consultation is to be conducted regarding choice of services to the public, then a proper comprehensive survey needs to be undertaken. Unless consultation is all embracing and meaningful then it does a disservice to a democratic society and will only serve to foster scepticism in an increasingly discontented society. Hopefully the excellent library service we all enjoy will be protected and Sketty, library with its unique history will be given the resources its position deserves. We have received a reply regarding the future of Sketty library from Steve Hardman, Library Service Manager. After looking at all the options it was agreed that the library would remain 'open to enable further funding streams to be investigated for future development'.
- ♦ to **CCS Planning Department** about Swansea Castle. We are monitoring the work being carried out on the castle. Hopefully Feildon Clegg Bradley will comply with the Council's stringent recommendations while carrying out the proposed works on Swansea Castle gmo12. We have asked to be kept up to date on the progress and we were given the following information: "You may have noticed that archaeology works have commenced in front of the Castle. If you are Facebook users then you will be able to keep up to date with progress via an account set up by Archaeology Wales. If you search for 'Swansea castle excavation' on Facebook you will be able to see photos and comments from the site."

We are also concerned about the castle's grassed area. We were very disappointed by the comments expressed by South Wales Police West Region regarding the removal of the grassed area of Swansea Castle and replacing it with cobbles to deter 'our drinker friends'. We are concerned by these comments on a number of issues:

The loss of green space in the city centre

The policing responsibility in the city centre which needs to accept that drinkers need to be monitored and controlled, thereby securing the safety for all visitors to the city. This means not only not only the castle area, but High Street, the station and Dyfatty. There is no evidence to indicate that concreting over a space will deter 'our drinking friends', the concreting of the former Castle Gardens is evidence of this.

- ♦ to **Rowland Lanchbury** concerning the crossing arrangement within the new traffic management plans for the Tawe bridges.
- ♦ to **Gordon Allison** regarding the new rangers for the city bus station. The reply we received was: 'Four new rangers will help ensure the new multi-million pound Swansea Bus Station is safe, clean and secure for bus passengers.'
- ♦ to **Richard Harris** concerning the current work undertaken on High Street Station and the use of copper designs
- ♦ to **Mr P Holmes** Head of Economic Regeneration and Planning, City and County of Swansea, regarding the proposed redevelopment of Llwyn y Bryn Campus. We appreciate that the sale of this land and the revenue gained are likely to be important in the development of a new campus for Gower College, however, we do have some concerns as follows:
 - there are an excessive number of small flats available on the market – will there be provision for family accommodation?
 - Will there be provision for affordable accommodation?
 - 260 units seems over dense for the site. Has there been sufficient research into demand for units planned? There are a number of apartments still for sale in the Sketty area (eg the McCarthy Stone development on Sketty Road.)

URBAN VILLAGE

We met representatives from Coastal Housing to discuss our concerns about the lack of activity on the Strand side of the new urban development. A large section of the development on the Strand will be three storeys of plain wall. As the site will be prominent in the city centre we suggested art work be incorporated into the wall as it steps up between levels, and possibly a competition with local art schools to come up with some suggestions to soften the impact of such a large featureless façade.