Cathays Monthly Update – October 2020

Check out the regular events on the Y/C calendar: ***www.yourcathays.org.uk***

This is a slightly different format – as a lot of tiny Info Bites to add to try and empower some of you across Cathays!!

Contents

October comments: *3*

Information to share – please print (a one-off) update!! 3

New Police working in Cathays! 3

Everything gets shut down next 12 months? 3

£77,300 in bin fines – just Cathays?????? 3

Clothes/Shoes deposit point! 3

Oct: Foodbank across Cathays 3

Next Door Website: 3

Plenty going on – Cathays Info Bites / Guidance shortcuts !!! *4*

Crwys Post Office retired staff pass away !! 4

Food Bank 4

People sitting on flat roofs 4

Knit & Natter – online knitting gathering 4

Deaf / Blind / Disabled neighbours – can you help us identify them? 5

The Table (Pentyrch Street) in new hands!! 5

Noise complaint – official links: 5

Cathays Sports & Social MacMillan Trust Coffee Morning 6

Official Welsh Government Guidance (COVID-19 Guidance): 6

Kids Halloween Party @ The Vulcan Pub 6

Tackling the Overdevelopment/protecting our heritage – Cardiff Civic Society! 6

Weeds overload the streets 6

Police leaflet Rhymney Street for 'Dangerous Parking' 7

Undercover Police around Cathays 7

Cathays Resident – anti-parking overload group? 7

Cathays Residents – anti-Noise group gets set up!! *8*

How to spot signs of a drug growing house: *9*

Bin Fines - 4 years of recent fines – just in Cathays!! *11*

House Plants in Cathays for sale !! *12*

Repair Café Cathays – back up and running!! *13*

November 2020 – Cathays Monthly Update – please get your posters/invites in! *14*

www.cathays.org.uk www.ConnectCathays.org.uk www.davius.co.uk www.CathaysCompass.org www.YourCathays.org.uk search: Cathays PACT

October comments:

Information to share – please print (a one-off) update!!

PLEASE HELP – can you print this update off and give it to any nearby elderly, vulnerable or other persons on your street? Or for those with digital access – please do forward onto them !!

New Police working in Cathays!

We are sadly losing PC Andrew Gardiner after years of his input into the area. We wish him well with his new patch.

Andy is being succeeded by PC

The current/new Police contact details are:

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Everything gets shut down next 12 months?

The truth is – no-one can predict what will happen the next 12 months in these incredibly challenging times. The last 4 years had seen a lot of community events put on – in no small part down to many of you who have sacrificed a lot …….

Rest assured the regular 50 residents who do a lot of the community events are already looking to 2021 and beyond for multiple different projects.
Whether we can have Cathays Fair 2021 in middle of next year – is yet to be seen!

ON THE IMMEDIATE FRONT – A Halloween is being prepared by families and local businesses for our local children – see poster below!!

£77,300 in bin fines – just Cathays??????

I had to re-read the recent FoI: Freedom of Information Act when it arrived in my inbox. I've enclosed the letter in this update yet long story short (from September to August each year):

- 2016-2017 ***£77,300*** in fines across Cathays
- 2017-2018 ***£31,500*** in fines across Cathays
- 2018-2019 ***£36,300*** in fines across Cathays
- 2019-2020 ***£6,800*** in fines across Cathays (obviously throwing out 40,000 students radically reduce the bin fine levels in March 2020)

The new 'Pink Badge' system the council waste department have introduced we all hope will improve the reduction of waste and littering everywhere (he said!) yet I am quick to say a lot of families have taken to clean up outside their own patch now!! Leading by example!

FoI [Freedom of Information] letter enclosed further below update!

Clothes/Shoes deposit point!

An excess of clothes? Shoes? We will gladly receive them – see poster in update on where you can drop them off!!

Thank you

Bud – Cathays Community Centre

Oct: Foodbank across Cathays

Deposit in Foodbank Boxes at Sainsbury's, Lidl, Co-Operative etc. – Cardiff Foodbank are short of:

LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
SPONGE PUDDINGS
CUSTARD (TINNED)
SWEET TREATS (CHOCOLATE/SWEETS)
TOILETRIES: SHAMPOO / SHOWER GEL / DEODORANTS / SOAP

Please can you donate any of the above? Every single donation helps a great deal in these difficult times!

For September there is excess of:

BAKED BEANS
UHT (LONG LIFE) MILK
PASTA
TEA
SOUP
TINNED SWEETCORN
PORRIDGE

Thank you to all who contribute!

Next Door Website:

www.nextdoor.co.uk

A few hundred residents in Cathays are signed up to Next Door; which has been a good tool to ask for/offer help under current lockdown.

This website is free, if you put a message out – you can choose whether it can go to just Cathays residents (or/and wider immediate surrounding 8 districts around Cardiff)

Cathays Monthly Update:

Please encourage your neighbours to sign up:
mail@yourcathays.org.uk













Plenty going on – Cathays Info Bites / Guidance shortcuts !!!

Bit overwhelmed by amount of information to get out there – so if any errors mass apologies!

!!!!! TOGETHER WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS !!!!!

NOW more than ever – you need to pull together!!

Crwys Post Office retired staff pass away !!

One of our residents Malcolm (Treasurer of Cathays Compass) has asked that I add a piece in update about Mr Jeff Corless who sadly passed away earlier in January 2020.

Link: https://funeral-notices.co.uk/wales/death-notices/notice/corless/4806941 many of you knew Jeff & his wife, Janet from the original Crwys Road Post Office and no doubt they are missed by many people.

Food Bank

Although the food banks are under considerable stress during the COVID-19 crisis; please bear in mind – a lot of people across Cardiff were NOT furloughed, employment has dried up for many self employed and others so many people are going hungry in these difficult times.

Please do donate what you can – I will aim to put the ***'shortage list'*** up every month in 'starting box' of this email update, or you can check out the Cardiff Food bank website.

Most large shops will have Foodbank deposit points for your generous donations!

People sitting on flat roofs

Please report any people people sitting on flat roofs to Cardiff Council. This is a H&S breach and it is dangerous – as invariably one of them will go over the side of the house.

It is the landlord's responsibilities to ensure people can not go up on the flat roofs (bars on windows – or windows that do not open out).

Please do NOT contact Police (unless they are going mad partying hard on the roof and an accident will happen!!) go through the council and they will take it up with licensing!

Knit & Natter – online knitting gathering

Woodville Baptist Church are still running the 'Knit and natter' on Zoom – you can get details from Judy who organises the Zoom Knit and natter meetings – email Judy@woodybap.org.uk for more information!

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Deaf / Blind / Disabled neighbours – can you help us identify them?

As I gear up to get the (long overdue) next hardcopy newsletter out – a lot of groups been in touch to offer community links / services to support our local residents. Can you help identify any residents who are deaf or blind or people you feel do not get any support?

As usual, all information volunteered is kept in strictest confidence – and I will write to specific vulnerable households to try and explain what local support groups are in place to support them. For example Woodville Baptist Church wish to expand an initiative to support deaf residents in the locale!

If you know any deaf residents who can benefit from these outreach initiatives – please get in touch!

The Table (Pentyrch Street) in new hands!!

Facebook Link: ***https://www.facebook.com/thetable.cathays/***

Email: ***simon@emmanuelchurchcardiff.com***

PCSO Lloyd has (as did Pastor Rob Morse) reminded me to mention that 'The Table' inside Pentyrch Baptist Church has changed hands now that Pastor Bob has moved on and been succeeded by Kate & Simon as the new managers of The Table on Pentyrch Street.

Please do pop in and support this local community conduit.

Here is link to background of 'The Table' ***https://baptisttimes.co.uk/Articles/504445/_We_re.aspx***

Noise complaint – official links:

Council Noise Complaint Website Link: ***https://www.srs.wales/en/Environmental-Health/Noise-and-Air-Pollution/Noise-Pollution.aspx***

You will have to report information such as what house is making noise etc. You will have to download the App (don't groan!!!)

Already rebukes have gone out from a dozen families inferring that we are all doing the work for the council – yet please understand they can not come out under present conditions of lockdown etc.

I am aware certain families have gone outside the house parties at early hours and recorded the noise levels with this downloadable noise app; this will be used as evidence to be provided for the Police and Council (and potentially as evidence in court!)

Do NOT waste your time contacting the University Security – they are understaffed. More to the point the Cardiff University Security can NOT legally deal with students from other colleges who live in Cathays.

Please report to the proper council noise control link above!

Cathays Sports & Social MacMillan Trust Coffee Morning

Congratulations to Cathays Sports & Social for recently ***raising £300 on behalf of the MacMillan Trust 'Coffee Morning'*** charity fund raiser – well done to all involved who attended the coffee morning and donated !!

Official Welsh Government Guidance (COVID-19 Guidance):

Link: ***https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance#section-39237***

Please read this on 'rules of 6', 'rule of 30' etc – before you ring up Police erroneously and waste limited resources!

This information will inevitably change so please be up-to-date before you jump on any issues!

Kids Halloween Party @ The Vulcan Pub

If (lockdown policy changes) permits in the coming weeks – Kyle is hoping to put on a Kids Halloween for our local families. Keep up to date with local social media or contact Vulcan Pub to find out when this will run.

Tackling the Overdevelopment/protecting our heritage – Cardiff Civic Society!

Having met a group of motivated people from all over Cardiff on a Zoom call; a significant amount of people are concerned about the overdevelopment all over Cardiff – which entails the loss of Green Space and the loss of our Victorian Heritage in and across Cardiff.

Several Cathays residents have expressed concern (not just student housing in Cathays) yet Cardiff wide development. This Cardiff Civic Society could do with input from many of you!

The best email to contact Cardiff Civic Society is – ***chair@cardiffcivicsociety.org*** they will be setting up new meetings in the near future.

Weeds overload the streets

We've had a spike of weeds growing everywhere in every street. This does make the place look scruffy, yet council services are under real stress at present.

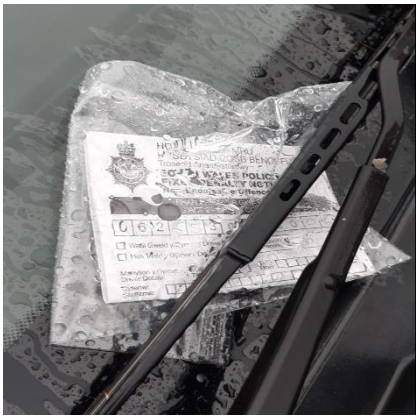
If you do choose to kill them yourself – please try to avoid Glyphospahte – plenty of alternatives out there. Some neighbours have tried vinegar mixed in with boiling water sprayed onto the weeds (I have not tried this so I can not vouch for it)

Any ideas on quick weed removal?

And please do compost the dead weeds in your back garden if you can!! The Green Waste collection has not been overly successful in Cathays in recent months. The more we can 'deal on site' – i.e. home composting (of leaves, weeds, twigs etc) the better.

www.cathays.org.uk www.ConnectCathays.org.uk www.davius.co.uk www.CathaysCompass.org www.YourCathays.org.uk search: Cathays PACT

Police leaflet Rhymney Street for 'Dangerous Parking'



The Police have been out posting letters to every house on Rhymney Street about the dangerous level of parking that has occurred in recent years.

Parking has always been poorly undertaken on Rhymney Street the last 20 years, yet in the recent 18 months it has become very dangerous.

- Fire trucks can not get down the street – which is an emergency has caused big problems in last 2 years.
- Parents with prams / Elders on walking frames / electric buggies can not get down the pathways now.
- Even the waste collection staff have complained about not being able to access the street.

The Police are now actively targeting poor parking alongside traffic enforcement as you will see from example below. Please keep reporting bad parking examples to C2C / Connect to Cardiff on 029 2087 2087.

Together we will crack the parking problems that have now become dire across all of Cathays!!



Undercover Police around Cathays

For people complaining of lack of Police in current times. You may not be aware we have undercover police going after a lot of drug sellers – often operating from their cars which the Police are challenging on your nearby streets!

Many of you have reported (seen it myself on Fanny Street) seeing plain clothes Police making arrests of dealers on different streets.

Have faith – the Police are active in the locale!

Cathays Resident – anti-parking overload group?

Would you like to take the lead on setting up a resident group to tackle the parking issue? Do we have any planners? Designers? Builders? Solicitors? in Cathays with ideas on tackling the parking which is at breaking point now.

Cathays Residents – anti-Noise group gets set up!!

Website: ***https://www.facebook.com/groups/cathaysresidents***

To say the least – too many of you have been disaffected by the significant loud noise of last 3 months on multiple streets!! The student house parties since July has caused too many of you sleepless nights and much other problems associated with it; children falling asleep in school, residents having shorter tempers, lack of concentration etc.

This is a laborious story for just a few weeks – yet please read and understand why we need to vet anyone that joins the Anti-Noise group.

After two of our residents Debs & Shelly reached out to everyone on Facebook and Next Door; they optimistically set up a group to counter the vast amount of loud noise happening on multiple streets across Cathays.

The WhatsApp's group they created with an open invitation link – crashed in spectacular fashion within 24 hours of being set up due to people arguing in the group. The lesson learned was to vet the people who enter the anti-noise group. The group was shut down soon after.

First group MEETING in person – 23rd September 2020

About 20 residents met (safely distanced) on Woodville Road (it rained so they quickly moved to nearby 'The Cons Club' – allowing the residents to use the entire lounge section) to have a big discussion, over several hours, on the level of noise created, what to positively do about it and some very positive suggestions, contributions were made.

EVERYONE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS FULLY RECOGNISE IT IS ***JUST 5-10% OF THE STUDENTS*** MAKING ALL THE NOISE – THE OTHER 80%-90% OF STUDENTS ARE FINE and are not responsible for the noise levels!!

Positive actions will be utilised to reduce the local noise issues.

You can join the group by initially joining the Cathays Residents group – link above, which you can introduce yourself and ask to be directed to the new Anti-Noise group that Debs, Shelly and others have set up.

There will be future meetings, be on video call (possibly Zoom so you can meet safely) or meet safely in person, yet many neighbours will be apprised of the Anti-noise group's progress and what measures we hope to undertake.

You must still report noise to the council, so that they can build up the data/intel on what noise hot spots are happening across Cathays – yet the residents will come up with other positive measures to counter the unnecessary noise that has caused so many of you significant problems in last 100 days!!

How to spot signs of a drug growing house:

The Police encourage us in Cathays (and wider country) to look for the following signs that could be indicators that a building is used for cultivating drug plants.

The removal of chimneys is a main starting point of drug house conversion!

Police Helicopters Infrared/Heat detectors can detect excessive heat emissions through chimneys and drug related smells that can both escape from chimneys.

The Drug growing organisations have become wise to heat lamps and replaced them with LED's to grow the drug plants.

The drug houses have excessive amount of insulation added to the roofs.

Insulating the roofs is also another attempt to increase heat conditions internally to decrease growing cycle of drug plants (and avoid heat emissions from the roofs which Police helicopters can monitor)

lots of drilling (at any times of day/night):

No building work should be happening after 5pm on any legitimate building work – let along infamous drug houses.

Late night pick-ups/deliveries:

Late night deliveries to the properties (they do not knock on doors and someone is immediately awaiting delivery – opening door and quietly taking it all in).

Is there a car running, when deliveries are being quickly and quietly dropped off.

Strange latent consistent noises:

Humming noises are some simple signs that certain fans/extraction units are in constant use.

A lot of equipment they use is cumbersome, so be wary of what they are taking into the buildings.

Wrong bin days!

Poor bin day knowledge – putting them out Friday, Saturday as opposed to usual bin days we all use!

Suspicious items in bins (if torn open by Seagulls it will be more apparent what nefarious equipment may have been strewn about the street)

Garden overgrown?

Overgrown bushes in back gardens, no care of garden or landscaping for such a subtly 'internally busy' house.

Aloof occupants when you see them:

Not seeing the neighbour (living in suspected house) for prolonged periods of time (they only go out when it is late)

It may be if they see you, they are hesitant to communicate with you.

Monitor and NOT engage!

Do NOT challenge the house directly, often the 'culprits' in the house are weaker candidates from the infamous County Lines, or people very low down the hierarchy of these very accomplished organised crime groups.

The arrests of the minor players will be inconsequential to the higher up organised crime groups.

What the Police and Legal Courts require from the Cathays public are:

(carefully taken) pictures of the incoming/outgoing characters from the suspected drug growing houses

Notes of number plates and descriptions of vehicles

Record of times/days the deliveries arrive/depart the suspected drug houses

Any other relevant information – did you overhear a name as you passed by?

A positive example!!

Cathays has become very zero tolerant on drug houses, hence any that are set up now – will be caught in a relatively quick amount of time due to the consistency of the residents in Cathays reporting their suspicions of potential drug houses to the Police.

Bin Fines - 4 years of recent fines – just in Cathays!!

CARDIFF CAERDYDD
County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

FOI Response Document

FOI15157

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about ***Waste fines in Cathays Sept 2016 - early 2020*** received on ***04/08/2020***:

Request

Q1) Can I please request how many waste/bin fines went out over each individual academic year from:

• Sept 2016 - August 2017

• Sept 2017 - August 2018

• Sept 2018 - August 2019

• Sept 2019 - present in 2020

We have considered your request and enclose the following information:

Q1) Can I please request how many waste/bin fines went out over each individual academic year from:

Response: Please see below table

Dates	**Total**
September 2016 to August 2017	773
September 2017 to August 2018	315
September 2018 to August 2019	363
September 2019 to August 2020	68*

**Please note due to COVID 19 all Enforcement activity ceased from March to end of July 2020.*

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

The Operational Manager, Information Governance & Risk Management, City of Cardiff Council, Room 357, County Hall, CARDIFF, CF10 - 4UW. **Telephone:** 029 2087 2087 **Email:** foi@cardiff.gov.uk

You can find out more about the Regulations from the Information Commissioner at: Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. ***http://www.ico.org.uk/about_us/our_organisation/wales***, Telephone: 029 2067 8400, Fax: 029 2044 8045, Email: *Wales@ico.gsi.gov.uk*

House Plants in Cathays for sale !!

Link: **https://www.facebook.com/The-House-Plant-House-108369964345842/**



THE HOUSE PLANT HOUSE

The House Plant House is a new business operating in Cathays that provides students and residents with a range of house plants, delivery is free within the Cathayds area. Please like us on Facebook by searching for "The House Plant House" and our products are on there with more added each week.



Repair Café Cathays – back up and running!!

Link: ***repaircafecathays@gmail.com***

Email: ***www.facebook.com/repaircafecathays***



COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE

CATHAYS

We will add the caveat that we have very limited capacity and may simply be overwhelmed!!

Contact us ASAP please!!

Our fantastic volunteers at Repair Cafe Splott and Repair Cafe Cathays have joined together to create a collection and delivery service so we can continue fixing whilst our venues are closed!

If you live in the local area and are interested in getting a household item fixed or you are interested in helping out with this service, then please get in touch with repaircafecathays@gmail.com!

We are so excited to trial this brand new service and bring fixing back to the communities of Cathays!

🔧 😀 ⚒

www.cathays.org.uk www.ConnectCathays.org.uk www.davius.co.uk www.CathaysCompass.org www.YourCathays.org.uk search: Cathays PACT

November 2020 – Cathays Monthly Update – please get your posters/invites in!

Autumn continues,

Many people think things are easing off – yet if the Government is looking to August / September before UK nips this virus in the proverbial bud – we are STILL on lock down now !!

Please get your family / community / business / faith online events & re-opening events posters in ASAP?

They will be added to the usual social media as well as this update!!!

It may seem like a useless platitude given the South East Wales Lockdown …… yet

For what it is worth (as we can not go out – nor gather in larger numbers ……..) yet safely in your back gardens:

Happy Halloween and Bonfire Night !!

Regards,

Paulus