
TRANSPORT & STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

The Highway Awards 2022

Following on from my Council Statement in July 2022, I am pleased to confirm that the first carbon-neutral highways resurfacing scheme in Wales, which was delivered in Cardiff, has been shortlisted for a national award. The scheme, delivered by our Highway Assets Team, has been shortlisted for an 'Environmental Sustainability Award' at The Highways Awards 2022. The results will be announced next month.

City Centre Transport Projects

The City Centre East and Canal scheme has reached a significant milestone, with the uncovering of the Dock Feeder Canal on Churchill Way taking place earlier this month. The scheme will create a new, vibrant canal quarter in the east of the city centre, with outdoor seating, an outdoor performance area, and rain gardens to manage surface water drainage in the area.

The Central Square and Tudor Street schemes are nearing completion, with both currently on course to be completed by the middle of next month. Two-way traffic is due to be reintroduced on Tudor Street on 27 September 2022.

Works began on site at Saunders Road this week and will last for 4-6 months. This scheme will focus on building the new entrance for the Transport Interchange. The taxi rank at the side of Cardiff Central station will be moved temporarily to Penarth Road for the duration of the works. This is an arrangement that has recently been agreed with Transport for Wales Rail, the taxi trade and their trade union representatives.

Cycleway 1 Update

Works on Cycleway 1 have now moved on to Allensbank Road. This section of works will focus on extending the scheme up to the University Hospital of Wales. The associated Controlled Parking Zones in both Cathays and Gabalfa are in the last stages of installation and will go live by the end of this month.

School Streets

Two new School Street schemes at Rhiwbeina Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Coed y Gof in Fairwater went live at the start of the new school year earlier this month. There are now School Street schemes operational at 16 schools in Cardiff. Other new School Street schemes are in development and I will continue to provide updates on progress with these schemes, which are a key component of the Active Travel Schools Programme.

APSE Awards – Cardiff Bereavement Services

Cardiff Bereavement Services were shortlisted for this year's national APSE Awards in the category of 'Cemetery & Crematorium Service Team of the Year'. The awards were held at Swansea Arena on 15 September 2022, and I am delighted to announce that the team was successful in winning the overall category. This is a fantastic achievement for the service and further underlines the fact that the team is delivering a gold standard service for the residents of Cardiff.

Open Doors Event

Despite the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, the national Open Doors event continued to take place respectfully at certain buildings across the UK during the official period of national mourning. On Sunday 11 September, Bereavement Services, in partnership with the Friends of Cathays Cemetery, opened the chapels at Cathays Cemetery and undertook a number of guided walks for around 150 people to talk about some of the notable individuals buried at our Green Flag award-winning site.

Covid Memorial Services

On 21 September 2022, the first of two special Covid-19 memorial services were held at the Wenallt Chapel at Thornhill Crematorium. The other service will be held on 26 October 2022 at 6.30pm. Members of all faith and non-faith groups came together to provide a service in memory of those who died during the pandemic, and the opportunity for families, who were not being able to attend funeral services at the time, to reflect and remember somebody close to them who sadly passed away during the pandemic. The event also formally launched the new Cardiff Forget You Not Wildflower Garden, which will be planted in the new Northern Cemetery in Spring 2023. Attendees will be invited to write a personal message on one of our specially designed envelopes which contains a packet of wildflower seeds. This can then be posted in the rustic post box which at present is situated outside the Wenallt Chapel. The seeds will then be planted at the new site next year or, if families prefer, they can take them away to plant at home.

Cardiff Dogs Home

The Dogs Home remains extremely busy and is operating at maximum capacity, with requests to place dogs coming from places as far away as Merthyr Tydfil, Carmarthen and Bristol. Unfortunately, this is the fallout from the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic when dog ownership increased significantly. The cost-of-living crisis is also having an impact and it is anticipated that the numbers of dogs needing rehoming will remain high for the foreseeable future.

The charity, The Rescue Hotel, has raised over £300,000 to replace all the existing kennels with new ones which will meet the current standards required for dogs in a kennelled environment. This is a fantastic achievement given their short time in existence of only 18 months. The charity also continues to help with the costs of specialist veterinary work and, last year, provided over £30,000 worth of help and, to date this year, has covered over £15,000 worth of costs. The Rescue Hotel also funds a canine behaviourist once a week who helps with assessments and training plans for some of the more challenging dogs who need extra time and care.

Volunteer numbers at the Dogs Home are continuing to rise, and 25-40 new volunteer dog walkers are being inducted every week. Currently, there is an active group of around 400 walkers who attend regularly. These sessions are very popular and help people with their mental health, social isolation, and physical health. Additionally, some young people are about to start doing their community service/probation orders at the Dogs Home, in conjunction with Cardiff Youth Justice Services.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Transport & Strategic Planning
23 September 2022