

ARCHIVE - TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2002

Push for sports facilities

Efforts are being stepped up to provide a £500,000 all-weather pitch in Cardigan, and give priority to development of Maes Radley at Dolwerdd.

It is widely accepted that in terms of sports facilities the town is the poor relation of other communities in Ceredigion.

At a meeting of Cardigan and District Sports Association last week concern was expressed at lack of progress over Dolwerdd, and it was decided to make strong representations to the county council Cabinet, emphasising a need to address the situation as a matter of urgency.

The group wants development of the 10.5 acre Dolwerdd site speeded up, and in addition to rugby and football pitches, facilities provided for Cardigan Cricket Club.

Initial work at Dolwerdd was carried out under the Mwldan Flood Alleviation Scheme, and concern was later expressed over the use of wrong seeds, and inadequate drainage.

ARCHIVE - TUESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2002

Below the belt

CARDIGAN and District Sports Association has been served a body blow by [Ceredigion County Council](#)'s decision not to include the Maes Radley sports field scheme in a package of projects for National Assembly cash.

Association chairman Cllr Llwyd Edwards said: "This decision is below the belt. The Maes Radley project has long been at a standstill for all manner of reasons.

"The Cabinets ruling is going to put sport in Cardigan back years and it is scandalous that this is happening."

He added: "The great pity of it is that this field is owned by Ceredigion but it is just lying there doing nothing.

"Ceredigion really ought to think again about this because with some match funding from the regeneration fund there would have been scope to secure grants from other sources."

At last weeks Cabinet meeting local county councillors Mair Morris and John Adams-Lewis made last ditch pleas for the £836,000 scheme to be included in a list of three the council will submit for National Assembly regeneration fund cash.

Cllr Morris didn't hide her disappointment. "There would have been a huge spin off for the good of Cardigan had this been progressed," she said.

ARCHIVE - WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2003

Not a sporting chance

Following a recent day out in Rosslare, County Wexford, I thought that sport lovers would like to compare their facilities to ours both in and around Cardigan town.

Here in Cardigan the football club's playing surface at King George V is (to be kind) poor.

A footballing team like Cardigan Town deserve a surface to encourage them to continue this great style of play. Moving over to the rugby surface, yes, it is better than it was but not the best in the area by a long way. I think the least said about the standard of the school field the better, regarding the now demised Cardigan cricket and hockey clubs.

Rosslare, roughly the size of Cilgerran, has two immaculate football pitches in the village; home to Rosslare Rangers Football Club there is a changing block en-suit. There is a senior gaelic sports' ground and two junior pitches, home of Rosslare St Mary's Gaelic Sports Club. Half a mile away there is a good football pitch, home to Rosslare Port AFC. We've heard Irish jokes for many years but by comparing these two areas which, as the crow flies, are about 60 miles apart, the joke is now on us. I shudder to think what these Irish teams would think if they wanted to play a town match in Cardigan or, God forbid, St Dogmaels.

Councillors responsible for Maes Radley take note, and take a day trip to Ireland, (preferably at your own expense).



Maesglas have done wonders

Dear Editor, Being a long time resident of Bronydre, I always walk my dog near Maes Radley or Dolwerdd as it used to be known, and in the last few years I have seen a huge transformation at Maes Radley, and from speaking to others, a lot of this transformation is down to the football club Maesglas.

Up until a few years ago the area was over grown and an embarrassment to the town, as this area was going to be known as one of the best sporting facilities in the county and then nothing was done.

Then the reformed football club Maesglas took over, and the work the members of the club have done on the pitches and the surrounding area is a credit to the club.

What is a disappointment is the fact that once all the hard work had been completed, the rugby club stepped in and took over, and now they have stuck a huge monstrosity of a floodlight on the ground.

The rugby club should be ashamed because they only use the pitch for training purposes and the occasional youth game. Why cannot the rugby club use the pitch where Maesglas play on.

The football club, to be fair to them, have done wonders at Maes Radley and it's a shame that they are being pushed aside.

The other evening, Maesglas played a fixture on the rugby field because their football pitch was not ready, and many people who were viewing were saying that the rugby pitch should be on the football pitch as it was in the early 80's when Maesglas played there.

The Maesglas team have done well on the sporting front, winning cup and leagues, and a club who are successful deserve better.

Anyway, I am off to walk the dog.

David R Davies River Views Bronydre Cardigan

ARCHIVE - TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2005

Doubt over future of Maesglas

Doubt has been cast over the future of Maesglas Football Club because of what is claimed to be dithering and incompetence on the part of [Ceredigion County Council](#) in regard to Maes Radley Playing Field in Cardigan.

Maesglas was re-formed in May last year, and during the just completed season the Blues boasted more than 40 registered players, and captured two trophies.

After obtaining a one-year licence from the county council to use facilities at Maes Radley the club installed a mole drainage system, and spruced up the changing rooms.

But despite efforts to secure the pitch for next season, and written requests for a lease the club claims that county council officers are dragging their feet, and not showing any willingness to help. Maesglas intended organising a one-day six-a-side tournament at Maes Radley this summer involving leading clubs in Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, but circumstances forced cancellation of plans. A drainage system installed by the county council was a total failure, and officers are now considering what remedial steps to take. Spencer de Friend of the council's estates department said: "Some in the engineering department claim that the mole drainage exacerbated the problem, but that is just not true - it improved matters. "Consideration is being given to digging up the whole field again, and in the meantime Maesglas Football Club is left in limbo," he said.

"I have every sympathy with club officials who are providing sporting facilities for many youngsters in the area, and should be supported," he said.

Exasperated club chairman Mark Lewis said: "The county council is not prepared to admit that it botched the drainage, and is trying to shift the blame.

"A condition of Maesglas using the facilities was that we put in mole drainage, and we have got that in writing from the council.

"We have a plan to improve the drainage further, but we just don't know what is happening, and the council is anything but helpful. "Hopefully local councillors will get behind us so that we can make plans for next season," he said.

ARCHIVE - TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2005

Council backs Maesglas pitch bid

TOWN councillors in Cardigan are supporting Maesglas Football Club in its bid to continue using Maes Radley Playing Field next season.

The club was reformed last year and has had a successful season but says efforts to extend its lease to use the pitch for the next year have met with "indifference" at Ceredigion County Council.

Chairman Mark Lewis told the town council in a letter that as a result the club's future was in doubt. Cllr Llwyd Edwards told fellow members of the town council last week: "We must support them. I have great sympathy with the players of Maesglas. We should refer the matter to the Cardigan and District Sports Association."

"We must support them to continue playing there and contact [Ceredigion County Council](#) about it," said mayor, Cllr John Adams Lewis.

Cllr Alan Wilson, also a member of the county council, said: "We need to arrange a meeting and discuss issues about maintenance of all the fields.

"They are doing an admirable job there and they have tidied up the facilities a lot, but we want to draw down funding to improve the whole field. Problems with drainage need to be sorted out."

He added: "The county council has nothing against Maesglas using the pitch and the facilities, but we need to work out how it is going to work."

ARCHIVE - WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 2005

Grassed off!

Sports enthusiasts in Cardigan have been hit by the "disgraceful" state of public playing fields, and town leaders are calling for urgent action.

Maes Radley (Dolwerdd) has been plagued by problems ever since [Ceredigion County Council](#) engaged a contractor on the Mwldan anti-flooding scheme to install a drainage system, which proved totally ineffective.

The county council says it has no funding in place to maintain the site, which has been allowed to become overgrown, preventing youngsters from pursuing sporting activities.

Maesglas Football Club, who were given a council licence to use a pitch and changing facilities last season, fear that next week's first training session will have to be called off.

When the soccer lads had use of facilities they maintained the whole site, but to date have been unable to obtain an extension to the licence, and are reluctant to carry out work when the future is uncertain. First team manager Paul Jones said: "The players are keen to start training for next season, and hopefully the pitch problem will be resolved so we can get going."

A visitor from the Bridgend area said: "It was only after seeing a name plate outside and rugby and soccer posts that I believed these were playing fields.

"This would never happen where I live," he said.

Town mayor Cllr John Adams-Lewis said: "There is no doubt that the site is in a disgraceful state, and something must be done sooner rather than later." County councillor Alan Wilson told the Tivy-Side "What is needed is everyone concerned to get around a table, and we hope to achieve this in the very near future so that things can be sorted out."

Attempts over four days to obtain a comment from the county council did not bear fruit.

Corporate communications manager Branwen Humphreys said: "I have tried and tried to get a comment, but have been unsuccessful."

A reliable source at council headquarters in Aberaeron told the Tivy-Side: "I'm not surprised they won't comment. "The whole Maes Radley business has been a disaster from the word go," he said.

No-go for anti social kids

NEW crackdown on anti-social behaviour is being kicked off by police in Cardigan this month.

Kids who smoke and drink under-age will be challenged and their parents informed. And trouble hotspots will be targeted for patrols. Local officers who met with Cardigan Town Council this week promised action on a number of problems highlighted by members - although they admitted that a lack of police presence on the streets is sometimes "unavoidable". "Sometimes it is not possible to have officers on the streets of the town. But I can assure you that we do not have officers sitting in the police station doing nothing. If they are not out there will be a reason," said Sgt Alison Rees, head of the local neighborhood policing team. Troublespots listed by councillors included: Lower St Mary Street - where noisy revelers leaving The Angel frequently cause damage to homes and cars. Finch Square - often trouble there late at night when drinkers get their take-aways. Netpool - frequent vandalism, damage to shelters and play equipment. Maes Radley - youngsters at the skateboard park and in the cemetery late at night, causing noise and disturbance.

The Guildhall steps - unruly crowds can cause problems during the evenings, especially when meetings are being held inside the building. Town centre - cars racing around town with horns blaring, often in the early hours of the morning. Sgt Rees said that community support officers are on patrol in the evenings. "They are seizing tobacco from under 16s and confiscating alcohol. Our next step will be to write to the parents of these youngsters and advise them what their children are getting up to." "If there are arrestable offences we will arrest but often the problems are about nuisance activities and this is one way we can deal with them. We have already given a number of verbal warnings to young people." She added that licensing officer PC John Evans is having meetings with the licensees at The Angel to discuss ways to deter crime and disorder as customers leave the nitespot. "It is very dark in that area and that invites trouble. So one of the things we are looking at is getting more lighting there," she said.

She added that two people were arrested after a number of cars were damaged in the street last weekend. The town council will meet regularly with the neighbourhood policing team to discuss progress and further action.

Health risk at playing fields

Concern is mounting in Cardigan of a health risk to young sportsmen because of people walking their dogs in a playing field.

And officials of local soccer club Maesglas have hit out after a large amount of broken glass was strewn on the pitch at Maes Radley.

Many people exercise their pets at the playing fields, and with the rugby and soccer seasons looming the sporting fraternity is worried over a child contacting the Toxocara disease.

Microscopic Toxocara eggs are present in the faeces of infected animals, and can remain infective in the soil for two to four years after the faeces have disappeared. Around a hundred new cases of toxocariasis are diagnosed each year, and can lead to blindness.

Not prepared to mince his words Maesglas chairman Mark Lewis said "It beggars belief that people walk their dogs at the site. It is irresponsible, and pet owners should think of the danger posed to young football and rugby players."

Referring to glass on the pitch Mr. Lewis said: "This was the action of mindless people. They could be responsible for causing a serious injury to players, some of whom could be their friends." Local county councillor Alan Wilson said: "Exercising dogs in the playing fields complex is totally unacceptable and must be stopped." "I will be taking the matter up with council officers with a view of having 'Strictly No Dogs Allowed' signs erected," he said.

Outrage over dog fouling 9:45am Tuesday 30th September 2008

There is outrage in Cardigan over widespread dog fouling at Maes Radley Sports Fields, prompting fears of a health hazard. The local county councilor and council officers have also expressed concern and it is proposed to hold a meeting to try and resolve the problem. When complaints were made some time ago Ceredigion County Council put up signs stating 'Please clean up after your dog', and many pet owners have interpreted that to mean it is alright for them to exercise their dogs at the site. With more and more pet owners using the fields there are fears of a child contacting the rare disease toxocara, picked up from contact with excreta from dogs with worms, and which can lead to permanent blindness. During a recent rugby under 16 game two players had dog excreta in their hair and others had it on their jerseys. Expressing his disgust coach Jamie Bowen said: "Ceredigion County Council must surely be the only local authority that condones dogs being exercised on sports fields. The sign asking people to clean up after their pets tells them they can use the pitches." "It is a diabolical situation and something must be done as a matter of urgency," he said. Also hitting out at the worsening situation rugby club life president Ian Gollop said: "It is an absolute disgrace that dogs are allowed on the pitches." "The problem is as bad as that on the dunes at Poppit Sands, which says it all. Ceredigion County Council must act immediately and put a complete ban on dogs at Maes Radley," he said. Maesglas Football Club was recently forced to apologise to a visiting club for the large amount of dog droppings on the pitch and its surrounds.

First team manager Paul 'Hope' Jones said: "The pitches will have to be fenced in or large metal signs put up making it clear that dogs are not allowed. One thing is certain and that is something must be done now." County councillor Catrin Miles said "People obviously think they can take their pets to the field and there is a health risk involved. "I will be bringing the matter to the attention of the county and town councils," she said. In a prepared statement a county council spokesman said: "The council is concerned at the continuing issue involving dog fouling on playing fields at Maes Radley. "The council has agreements with Maesglas Football Club and Cardigan Rugby Club. Should representatives of the clubs write to the highways, property and works department we will endeavour to convene a meeting in order to seek a joint solution to overcome this issue."

Action call on flooded pitches 11:22am Friday 5th December 2008

Feelings are running high in Cardigan over what has been described as the disgraceful state of Ceredigion County Council-owned public sports pitches which have been flooded for weeks and likely to be unusable throughout the winter.

The pitches at Maes Radley Sports Fields were laid in 1997 during the development of the £3.2m River Mwldan flood alleviation scheme, with waste material from a 600 metre floodwater diversion tunnel.

It soon became clear that the material contained a large amount of blue clay and the subsequent installation of a drainage system did not prove successful.

With clay preventing rainwater draining away tremendous strain has been put on Costcutter League champions Maesglas and the junior section of Cardigan Rugby Club.

Maesglas and opposing teams change at Maes Radley before making a round trip of 20 miles to Tegryn for home matches.

First team manager Paul Jones said: "We have carried out extensive work at considerable cost in an effort to improve matters but to no avail and we have asked the county council to inspect the site."

Rugby club under 16 team coach Jamie Bowen said: "It is proposed to spend £500,000 putting 127 balls in the River Teifi when youngsters are unable to play ball on the town's public playing pitches which resemble the Teifi.

"The pitches are in a disgraceful condition and does not reflect well on the county council. I'm sure this is not happening in other Ceredigion communities let alone in Wales as a whole," he said.

Local AM Elin Jones said: "I was very concerned to learn about flooding of the pitches at Maes Radley.

"This is a very important community facility for the area and I will be taking up the matter with Ceredigion to see what steps can be taken to improve conditions as soon as possible," she said.

A spokesperson for the county council said: "We can confirm that an enquiry has been received from a member of Maesglas Football Club regarding improvements that could be made to the drainage at Dolwerdd Fields.

"Should the secretary of Maesglas contact the chief estates officer in the highways, property and works department at Aberaeron a meeting can be arranged to discuss the matter together with any other relevant matters which may be causing concern," he said.



Council move on playing fields

11:52am Friday 20th February 2009

As concern mounts over the poor state of Maes Radley Sports Fields in Cardigan cash-strapped Ceredigion County Council is considering asking two local sports clubs to form an association in an attempt to obtain funding for improvements.

The council as owner lets pitches at the sports fields to Maesglas Football Club and Cardigan Rugby Club, with the clubs responsible for maintenance of the playing areas.

But for the past four months the pitches have been unplayable due to inadequate drainage and the clubs contend it is the council's responsibility as landlord to carry out improvements.

In a report to today's meeting of the cabinet assistant director of buildings and property Paul Morgan states "The football field in particular has inadequate drainage and the club is unable to use the field due to the problem of standing water."

Since November the Maesglas club has played 'home' fixtures outside Cardigan and currently has a pitch at the West Wales All Terrain Park in Penparc.

Mr. Morgan said: "At a recent site meeting attended by club representatives the issues raised by the football club were clearly evident."

He added that improvements to the pitches had been considered by the council on numerous occasions in the past but were deferred "due to other pressing needs."

The director recommends that an updated cost of possible improvements to the playing fields be obtained and a further report prepared outlining any phasing that may be feasible.

He also suggests that the council ask the soccer and rugby clubs to consider forming a recreational association with a view of obtaining access to additional funding.



Passing buck over Cardigan playing fields

2:07pm Thursday 5th March 2009

Ceredigion's Cabinet has passed the buck when it comes to Maes Radley playing fields according to Cardigan town councillors.

The playing fields have very poor drainage and local football club Maesglas has to play its home fixtures in North Pembrokeshire because of the state of the pitch.

Last month the Cabinet suggested the local sports teams combine to create a sports association and get grant funding.

"We've formed a sports association but there is no money out there," said Cllr Alan Wilson.

"It seems that Ceredigion are passing the buck."

And local county councillor Catrin Miles said: "We are going round in circles."

Earlier Cllr Mair Morris told county leisure director Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan that the county should look at providing facilities in Cardigan.

"The county is talking about having a running track but here in Cardigan we don't have basic playing fields," she said.



Fury over Maes Radley pitch vandals

9:20am Wednesday 25th March 2009

VANDALS have strewn broken glass on the pitch and damaged new equipment at the Maes Radley playing fields in Cardigan.

Maesglas football club members were furious to discover their newly purchased goal posts had been damaged and litter and bottles had been left all over the playing area.

Club manager Paul 'Hope' Jones said: "The new goal posts were a donation and within two weeks of having them they were badly damaged. The old goal posts had to be replaced because they were in poor condition, now we have this happening and it just makes me wonder what's the point."

He added: "There are lager and cider bottles everywhere, some of them broken, and there is litter everywhere. It has already been well publicised about the problems here at Maes Radley with the poor drainage, and the dog owners who don't pick up their mess. With this as well, it's very frustrating."

Mr Jones called for Ceredigion council to put up a boundary or a fence around the playing areas, and to put up signs warning dog owners about the penalties of not clearing up after their animals.

He said: "I know the rugby club have the same problems too with the broken bottles and litter. I could not live with myself if someone injured themselves while playing a game of football or rugby here due to broken glass or an object on the pitches. The local authorities now need to make a stand on all this before someone gets hurt."

MAES RADLEY CARDIGAN

Ceredigion County Council confirms that an enquiry has been received from a member of Maesglas Football Club regarding improvements that could be made to the drainage at Dolwerdd Fields. Should the secretary of Maesglas Football Club contact the Chief Estates Officer within the Estates Section of Ceredigion's Highways Property and Works Department, at Aberaeron, then a meeting can be arranged to discuss the matter, together with any other relevant matters which may be causing concern to Maesglas Football Club.

Adran y Prif Weithredwr, Cyngor Sir
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Dear CCC

IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE PRESS RELEASE

is it possible for you or someone from your department to have a site visit and make a report on the Maes Radley (Dolwerdd) playing areas, as a football club we are finding it increasingly frustrating that we have to cancel games on the pitches there and I know the that Cardigan rugby juniors are having the same problems. We seriously need to take a look at the drainage system as the pitches there have no means of releasing any rainfall.

At the moment the football club is asking teams to turn up at Maes Radley to change and then to travel by car to Tegryn near Boncath almost 10 miles away to play a game. This cannot continue, I hope we can resolve the problems that Maes Radley has.

kind regards

Paul Jones
Secretary of
Maesglas Football Club
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