

RAG Survey 2015

During late October and November 2015, the Reservoir Action Group circulated a questionnaire to over 5000 homes in Cyncoed, Lisvane and Llanishen, as well as to RAG members who did not live in the area. The aim was to ask the public how they would like to see the reservoir area developed. The survey closed on 20th November 2015, by which time we received 452 responses. Of these 160 were completed online, 180 were delivered to local shops and 112 were returned by post.

For all questions respondents were asked to score each question on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is not important or strongly disagree; and 10 is very important or strongly agree. Only one person failed to complete the form directly and just ticked the various boxes. Respondents were also given the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire to make their own comments on the questions or anything else they would like to add. One hundred and ninety three people (42.6%) made comments, and some of these were rather lengthy, and some rather difficult to read! It has taken us a while to type them all up!

In the following report the average response to each question has been dealt with graphically and all the comments are presented at the end, and, where possible, organised into a number of broad categories. We have included all the comments and not deleted any of them, but the comments made by any particular person may have been split up if they have commented on two separate aspects e.g. dog walking and sailing.

General Policy

Figure 1. Responses to the Questions dealing with General Policy.

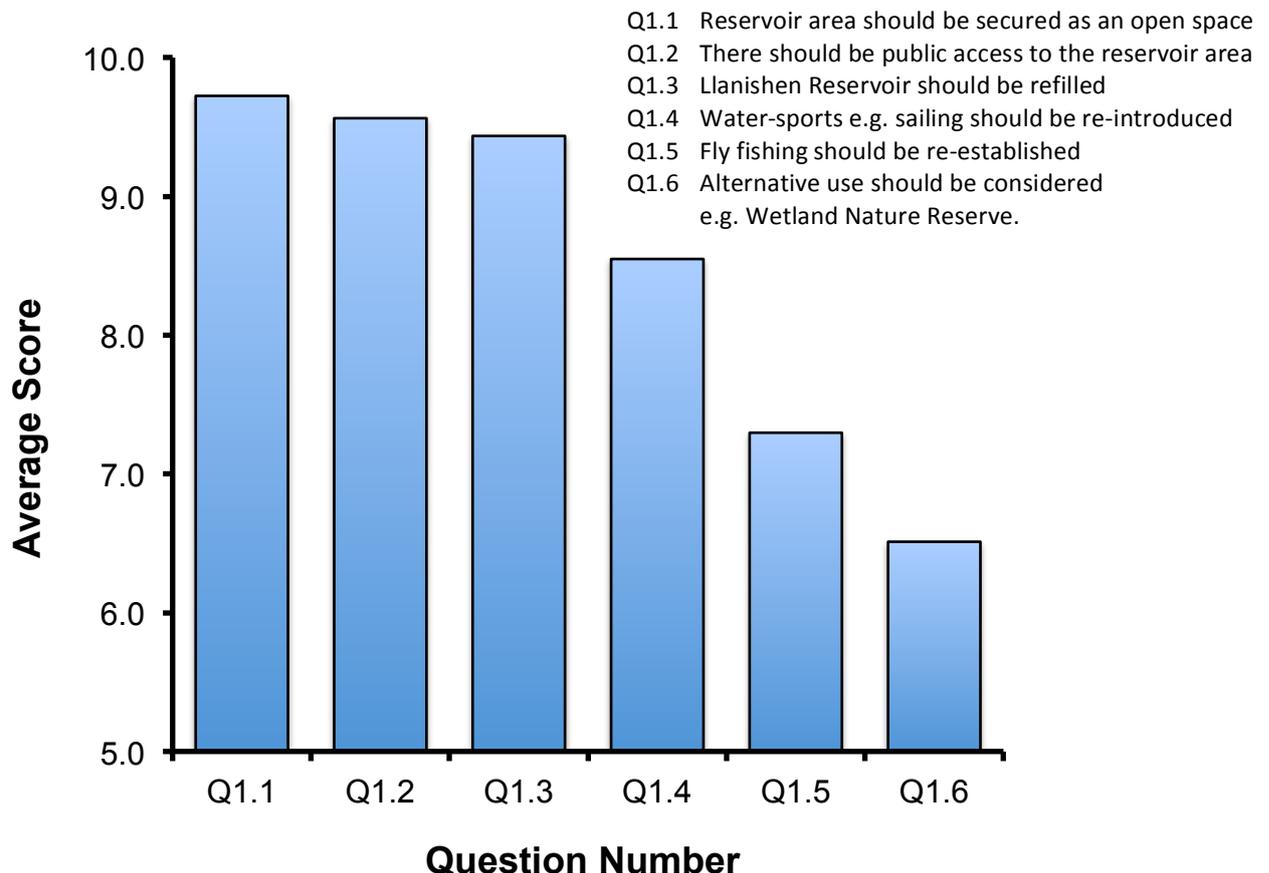
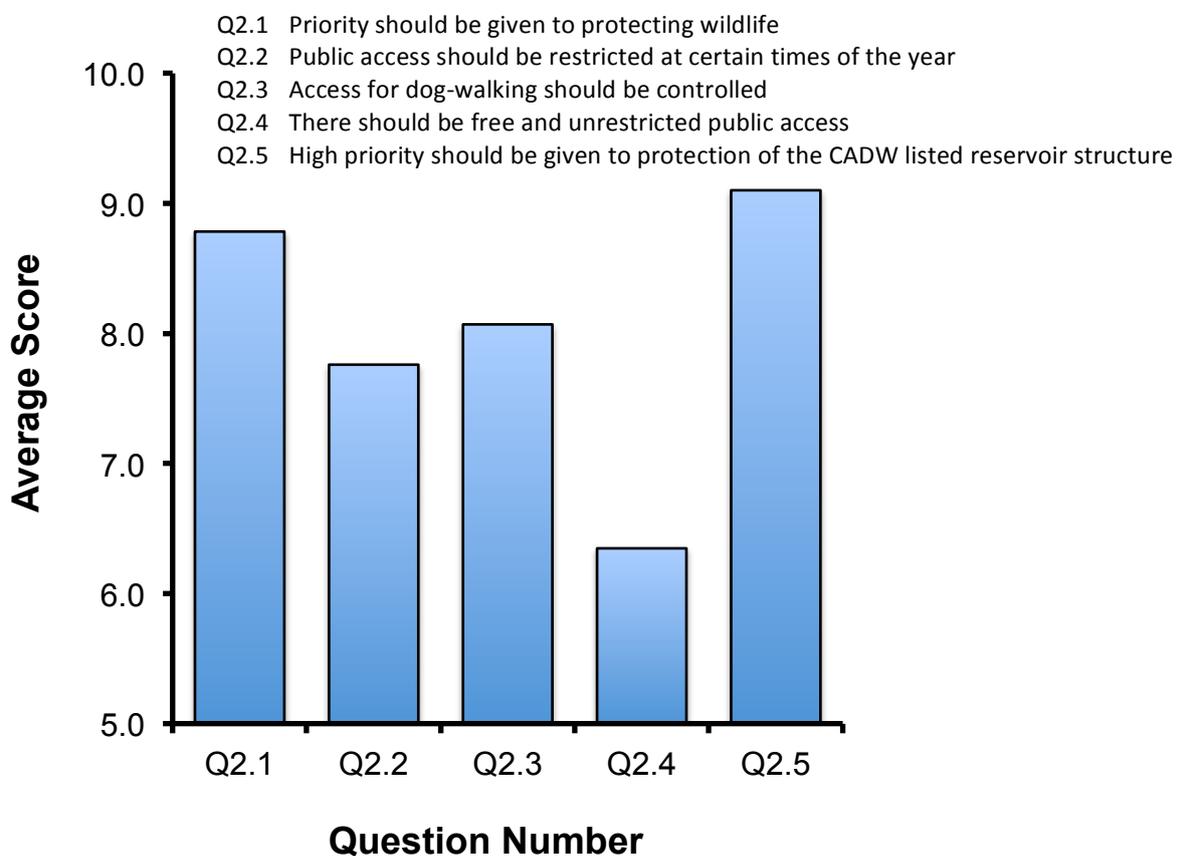


Figure 1 above shows the average scores for each of the questions dealing with general policy. So, for example, the vast majority agreed that the reservoir area should be secured as an open space (Q1.1 average score = 9.7), where the maximum score of 10 represents ‘very important / strongly agree’. There were also very high scores for questions regarding public access (Q1.2) and refilling the reservoir (Q1.3). As for the use of the refilled reservoir, water-sports (Q1.4) were the most popular, followed by fishing (Q1.5). A partial refill of the reservoir and its use as a wetland nature reserve (Q1.6) was less appealing with an average score of 6.5, yet it was still a positive (>5) response.

At the end of this report is Appendix 1, which lists the comments that some people made on the questionnaires. These comments have been grouped in broad topics, and generally bear out the scores presented above.

Environmental Protection

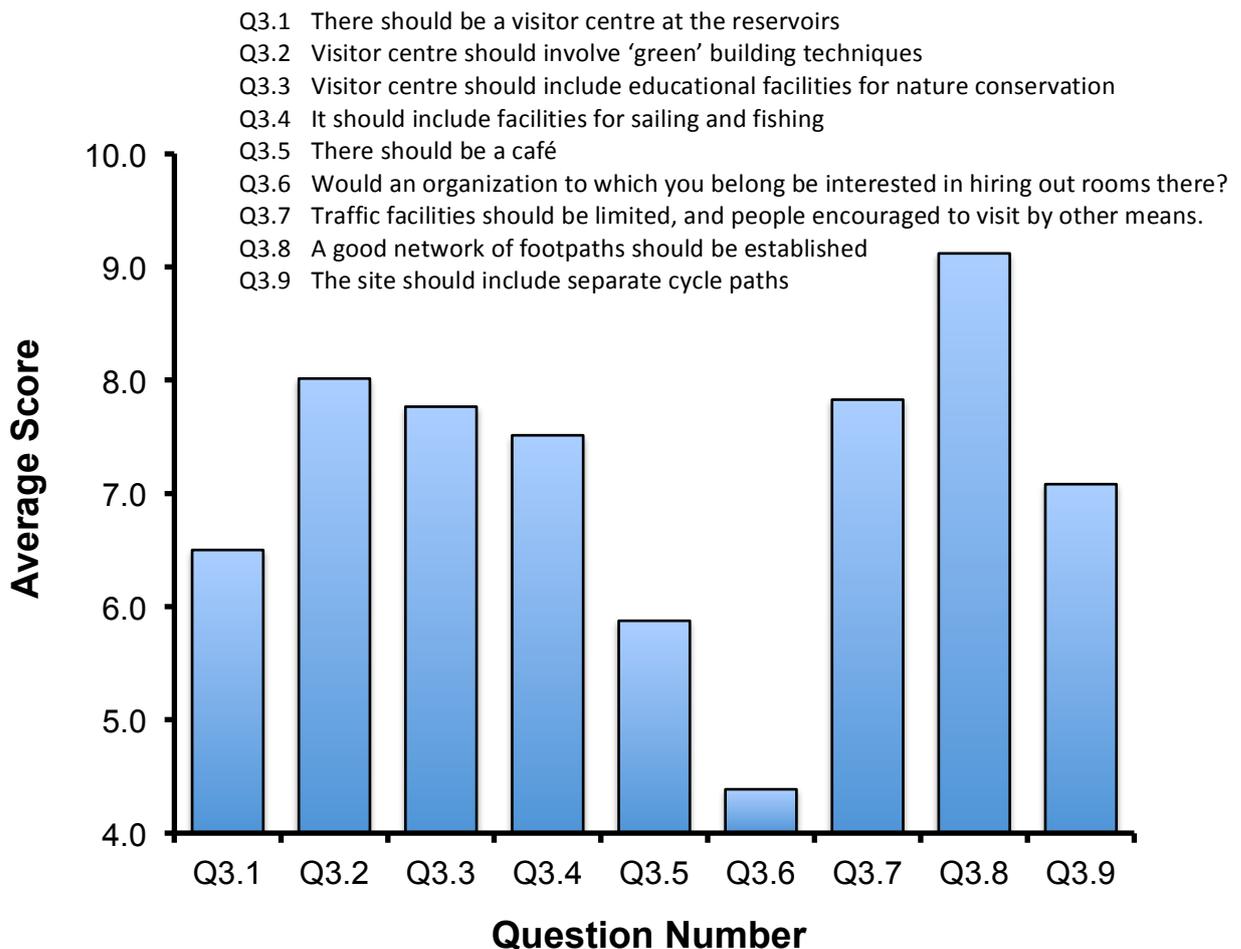
Figure 2. Responses dealing with Environmental Protection.



The second set of questions related to environmental protection (Figure 2). In general most people agreed that protecting wildlife (Q2.1) and the CADW historical listed structure of the reservoir (Q2.5) was very important. In terms of access, most people thought it was important to restrict access at certain times of year to protect wildlife (Q2.2) and also that access for dog-walking should be controlled (Q2.3). Quite a lot of written comments (See Appendix 1) were about dog walking. A few people were anti dogs, but more commented positively about allowing dogs on the site. Quite a large number of people mentioned the importance of having lots of dog ‘litter’ bins. Fewer people thought there should be completely unrestricted public access at the site (Q2.4), but note that the response is still positive (i.e. >5). This is a little at odds with the answers to Q2.2 and Q2.3.

Activities and Facilities

Figure 3. Responses dealing with Activities and Facilities.



The answers to this section were possibly the most interesting. Quite a lot of people were not in favour of a visitor centre at the site (Q3.1) and thought that the area should be left as undeveloped as possible. The interpretation about the questions relating to the facilities in the visitor centre (Q3.2 to Q3.6) need to be interpreted with some caution, as those who do not want to see a visitor centre may have had difficulty knowing how to respond here. But it is interesting to note that educational facilities (Q3.3) and those for sailing and fishing (Q3.4) were more important than having a café on the site (Q3.5). We also asked if people belonged to organisations that might be interested in hiring rooms at such a facility, but for most this was not important (Q3.6). Most people agreed that traffic access to the site should be limited and visitors encouraged to use public transport or other green transport methods (Q3.7). However, several respondents pointed out that public transport is limited in the Lisvane area and also that it was very important to have good facilities for disabled and some elderly visitors (see comments in Appendix 1). Although the majority thought that having a good network of footpaths on the site was important (Q3.8), there was less enthusiasm for cycle paths (Q3.9), and quite a few people thought that bikes should be banned from the site (see comments in Appendix 1).

Finally although most people clearly would like to see the reservoir refilled, and the area restored to something like its former state, there were some alternative views that were expressed and these have been included towards the end of the comments. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey, your views will be useful for us to consider as discussions continue with Celsa about the future of the reservoir site.

Comments

There were 193 comments made at the end of the questionnaires. They are all reproduced in Appendix 1 below, although an attempt has been made to group comments together under major topics. As a result where someone commented on a number of different aspects, these comments may no longer be shown together. A summary of the comments is provided first, followed by the comments themselves.

Summary of Comments

- **General Comments.** These were rather varied. Many people would clearly like to see the area returned to its original state and commented on the importance of allowing public access once again, with several people pointing out the importance of outdoor recreational facilities. There are a number of suggestions about how the site might be developed.
- **Nature Conservation.** For some people this was clearly an important priority, but several commented on the importance of also allowing public access.
- **Access.** Most comments recognised that there may have to be some restrictions on access to protect wildlife. Some people suggested the re-introduction of a permit system to access the site.
- **Transport.** Most mentioned that public transport to the area was quite limited and suggested that car parking should be an important element of any plans.
- **Disabled Access.** A number of people pointed out the importance of good disabled access and that there should be good parking facilities for disabled and elderly people.
- **Dogs.** There were lots of comments in favour of access for dogs, and clearly many respondents currently use the site for dog walking. However, there were also a number of people who were against allowing access for dogs (which incidentally was the position when Welsh Water owned the site). This is clearly a controversial issue, with strong feelings on each side. One thing that most agree on is that if dogs are allowed, there should be plenty of dog 'litter bins'.
- **Water Sports.** Some would like to see water sports and particularly sailing re-established. A number commented that either they or their children had learned to sail there in the past.
- **Fishing.** Comments regarding fishing were rather negative on the whole, with several suggesting the incompatibility between fishing and other uses.
- **General Facilities.** A number of diverse suggestions ranging from paths, benches, toilets, bird hides, to open-water swimming and climbing walls.
- **Visitor Centre and Café.** A few people liked the idea of a Visitor Centre and Café, but many more people were against. The general view was that there was a risk of spoiling the natural beauty and rural nature of the site.
- **The Fence.** High priority should be given to removing the fence.
- **Cycling.** The general view was that the site was not big enough and that cycling should not be encouraged.
- **Alternative Visions and Comments about RAG.** A couple of alternative visions for the site were suggested, such as building affordable homes or a refugee centre. There were also a number of encouraging statements about the RAG campaign and two negative ones: one respondent thought we should be doing more and the other thought the future of the reservoirs site was none of our business.

Appendix 1. All Comments Grouped by Topic

General Comments

- I have lived here for 91 years and have many happy memories of playing in the fields around the reservoir, making dens and constructing dams in the Nant Fawr Stream.
- Cosmeston Park near Penarth is a good example of what could be done with the reservoir site. It has to be a good mix of conservation and public access
- Perhaps Cardiff Council might like to take it on. Good luck.
- As a user of the Reservoirs prior to their closure I am at a loss as to why they cannot be returned together with the land to its pre-closure state. It is a beauty spot akin to Cefn-Onn Park, The Wenau. Cafes, Education Centres, Cycle tracks - this is not leaving the site to nature. Peaceful hobbies of fishing and water sports Yes. Is Rhyd-y-penau going to be the main entrance?
- What restrictions were included in the sale in the first place? These people seem to have been allowed to run roughshod over the whole lot. All the above are good ideas.
- Is there anyway RAG funds could be put towards the cost of sorting out the valve problem?
- Activities etc. sound fine but is there a costed financial plan - who would pay - the Council are broke - Steel is broke - long term upkeep and staffing costs!!
- From 1982 I have enjoyed the area until the site was sold, I hope it will be re-developed on similar grounds which will give this area an enjoyable fresh air area. Which if not careful Cardiff will become another built up area which lacks character - we already seem to be smothered in buses or none at all. The land should never have been sold out of the country.
- Keep it safe, green and beautiful.
- First of all. Put it back to what it used to be and then work on the future! Don't run before we can walk perhaps!
- What plans are proposed to raise enough money to implement the policies scoring the highest points?
- If CADW has the reservoir as a structure of historic importance can't they take over the conservation? Is the woodland around the reservoir to be developed, reserved and expanded? (The area behind Black Oak Road).
- Whilst the structure matters - see 2.5 - form should always follow function so good use of the site is more important than freezing the structure in time on the basis of heritage hang-ups.
- We are happy for the reservoir to be used in any way as long as there is access for the public with plenty of footpaths and it is open for the local community.
- Whenever I am in the North Gwent area I visit Bryn Bach Lake area with its café and wildlife. I believe a similar structure at Llanishen Reservoir would be a great asset to the community.
- I very much regret that we are up against a Labour Council / Assembly who have no foresight and no forward thinking. Also I add we are trying to preserve an area in north Cardiff and little priority is given to this area and we all know why!!
- LDP of the green areas, it is imperative that we seek to keep all our local amenities!
- It is difficult to balance up different options for the site. Getting ownership and funding for even the basics of conservation and re-filling are the most important.
- Please keep it as it was – a vital part of our community.
- I would prefer the site to be restored as it was under Welsh Water essentially for pedestrians from the surrounding community plus sailing fishing and nature.

- A staged process of development should be negotiated with Celsa. This is a long term project and Celsa should negotiate seriously with a trust established to assist development for public enjoyment and recreational use. The current situation is unacceptable and is degrading the site.
- It is important that the reservoir is re-filled without delay in order to prevent further damage to the structure of the basin. The reservoir and surrounding area are environmentally sensitive and should be carefully developed as a facility for the local and wider community.
- I think it is scandalous that this area is not open to the general public. It MUST be made available to all ASAP.
- It is important that this once flourishing wildlife and leisure site should not be allowed to go to waste. They are important not only for the health of wildlife but also for the health of people, something that should be taken seriously by all organisations who have any say in the future of this reservoir.
- I know Celsa have their own problems, but their co-operation in getting the reservoir refilled can only reflect on them with credit, and everything possible should be done to encourage Celsa in this matter.
- This site is a reservoir & should be treated as such. The world is going through climatic change, and we should be making the best use of water, as other parts of the UK have experienced drought in the past, and this may well get worse.
- It may be that some of my answers have been inconsistent, but my underlying concern is that the open space should be preserved.
- I think that the reservoir and its surroundings are very important to local people and to wildlife so some areas should be set aside for the wildlife, nesting birds, etc. and some to the walkers, dog owners and water sports people so that all are catered for fairly. It is a huge asset for the city and in the future, water will become even more critical than it is now so we should be building reservoirs, not filling them in.
- It's been out of public use for too long!!!!
- Rambling Association Centre
- I would suggest that the RSPB should get involved a bit more to help encourage the community to band together as one in this "fight". The owners really should be taken to task over the neglect and maybe their conscience pricked to restore this site back to its former glory!
- You only have to look as far as Penarth and Cosmeston Lakes to see how an area can be successfully transformed, whilst keeping its rural/natural identity.
- I am strongly in favour of this area being kept for nature and recreation. The last thing we want there is a housing development
- The most important thing is that the area is opened up for public access the "extras" can come in time, but it is important that those responsible for its use are sympathetic to all who have an interest. This survey is certainly a proper step in that direction and is to be commended.
- You have so much accumulated knowledge and creative vision you could write a very persuasive feasibility study. Sounds like it is time to switch from a campaign to stop something happening to envisioning exactly what you want to happen and identifying that potential future.
- Some suggestions: Form a Community Interest Company; secure a 50 year lease from Celsa; apply for capital grant from HLF; Sports Wales etc. and perhaps even engage with National Trust.
- Has RAG considered raising funds for purchase of the site from Celsa or, perhaps a long term lease?
- Fill them up, & let nature do its thing.....
- Just get on with it! It's been going on too long. Good luck.

- It is clearly important to maintain the proper balance between the provision of activities and facilities against the need to protect the site in an environmental sense. The overriding factor I believe to be that the site be available for positive use in a responsible manner otherwise the risk is that it eventually loses appeal for the community. There is a strategic judgment to be made here. I hope this may help.
- The refilling and reopening of the reservoir would be ideal but my concern is that now the site has been drained, too much money will be needed to make it safe let alone redevelop it. Also who will pay for the on-going upkeep? It seems we have been left with the worst of all worlds and very little prospect of restoring the site. Very sad. I was also quite shocked to read in the newsletter that the reservoir has filled up a significant amount because the pipe was closed due to debris blocking it. This seems to be uncontrolled filling and in the apparent absence of any maintenance whatsoever should those of us who live at the bottom of the hill be concerned about the potential for leaks, bursts or overflowing of water? There seem to be a lot of unanswered questions.
- Get rid of the fence but leave the nature do what it will do. The current state of the reservoir is fascinating, and will continue to evolve in time. Sailing and other rec. would be great but it's an example of nature winning it overall.
- Prefer site is kept open for public access. If it were to be a nature reserve, its amenity value for a large population would be lost. Even in the present state, the two reservoirs act as a substantial nature area especially for birds, and if it were sympathetically developed and could still be space and habitat for wildlife to co-exist with human use and recreation. The whole site should be thrown onto the open market and advertised far and wide as a great development opportunity for leisure activity for the future. Thank you.
- Possibility of a covenant to guarantee reservoir area remains an open space?
- If Llanishen is turned over to wildlife then Lisvane reservoir should be made available to sailors etc.
- Let's do all possible to preserve the reservoirs and ensure the area is protected, and sensibly developed as a nature/recreational amenity. Surely filling the reservoir and using some water would help Celsa save money and be more sustainable. I am a Lisvane resident but wish to remain anonymous.
- If housing developments (on a more limited scale) is permitted, the development should make provision for the reservoirs to be treated as public open space with legally binding agreements attached to any grant of planning permission providing funding for the creation of nature reserve.
- The reservoirs of Llanishen and Lisvane should accommodate as many recreations and pastimes as possible without interfering with each other.
- The reservoir should be kept as a publicly accessible resource, but should not be refilled as there is already filled basin. I disagree with planning structures based on attracting visitors as I do not believe in the commercialisation of the reservoir area if it is provided a level of environmental protection, as the centre would distract from the aesthetical natural value of such an environmental space.
- Sailing and fishing sound like activities for people with time and money on their hands. Cycle paths and way-marked tracks would encourage and engage a wider audience.
- Preserve Lisvane reservoir as SSSI for wildfowl, but develop Llanishen reservoir for public use.
- One of the original objections (to housing development) was the traffic flow onto the main road. Will all those who wish to use the 'visitor centre' & 'cafe' be compelled to come on foot!! Many or most of the items under '1' above were being offered for negotiation in the original proposal for housing development
- Long term future of the reservoir should be secured as legally protected open space. Llanishen reservoir should be re-filled immediately. Alternative use for the reservoir could be considered. Bearing in mind the need to preserve the wildlife and sites of special scientific interest [access] cannot be fully unrestricted. Remove blockage/ check structure/close scour valve now. The proposed sale of the reservoir to the 3rd party

should have a watertight legal document stating the purchase of the reservoirs is on condition that the reservoir is fully filled and maintained and all the proposed ideas i.e.. visitor centre, sailing, fishing, care of wildlife etc. are detailed in the purchase as a requirement of the sale. It is important for the future of the reservoir that there are no legal gaps.

- Decisions and the way forward implemented soon! Our children and grandchildren are growing up without accessibility to the reservoirs. This green space is so important to us all.
- It is such a pity that the area ever got to be in the hands of business because too many of our lovely areas have been left unattended & many libraries and educational nature services cut and closed. Sports centres likewise. No thought has been given to the profit which could have been made or the funds coming into the Welsh economy - not enough purses?!. The Llanishen Reservoir is only one such place in which the money raised was more? than the enjoyment of many who would appreciate all aspects of this lovely site and it is much to the RAG's hard work that there appears to be a major light in this tunnel - which can also be enjoyed by the handicapped. My best wishes go to RAG's committee of officers - I wish them every continued success.
- Equal consideration should be given to public access & use, local housing development, conservation & financial sustainability. One might consider Cosmeston Lakes a good example.
- It would be lovely to have the reservoirs back open to the public. I don't think it should be too accessible to cars and too much public although it would be nice to see a low key centre/café on site. Too much activity would disturb wildlife. I live around the corner on the Close and see a lot of cars coming down from Lisvane making it hard enough to get out of "The Close" so definitely don't want a new housing development on the site.
- My low score boxes are such because I believe that with the ownership "unsecured" these would necessitate financial outlay to the owners and could be considered extra financial burdens during this period of financial uncertainty. Let's just ensure that the "10"s boxes take place asap and consider the "1"s at a later stage unless the owners are themselves very keen to develop them - in which case great!
- Once refilled the area should be restored to as it was.
- Q2.4 This may cause fly-tipping - closure of Wedal Road site
- People are increasingly suffering from diabetes and are clinically obese from over weight from sugar filled diets and lack of exercise. A lot of this is due to lack of facilities in cities. Bicycles & dog walking aid all outdoor recreation like running, fishing, sailing. The army keeps saying most Britons are unfit to train for the armed forces they are unfit wimps if we are to have healthy individuals we need green lung spaces in cities we can't all cram round the available spaces. It is also a flood for all surrounding ? In the event of a ? tidal bore up the Severn to the Caldicott side should a massive amount of water rush into Cardiff this site acts as a reservoir to allow water to collect and run off. Should this open ground be left there It's like a landscape blotting paper catchment for flooding. The result of a huge amount of water from bore or rain could be potentially catastrophic for Cardiff. Excess housing would bring N Cardiff down & S Cardiff.
- Without understanding the legal position the refilling of the lake is clearly an important step. Is this something the council can pressurise the owner to do as if there is no profit in it they'll do nothing.

Nature Conservation

- In a city the importance of the environment and protection of wildlife / wildfowl cannot be over-emphasised. We owe to future generations to do what we can to preserve and protect the environment.
- I believe that the reservoirs should be preserved mainly with conservation and wildlife in mind, i.e. with a minimum of building, path laying, noise and pollution. The area should be left as natural as possible with access for walkers and cyclists on naturally worn

pathways, not tarmac. If a visitor centre is to be established this should be purely to educate and provide conservation advice and courses.

- I feel strongly that the emphasis should be primarily about conservation (historical and educational). Encouraging children to connect with nature and outdoor pursuits and for everyone to be able to enjoy the reservoir once again.
- I think it is extremely important to retain the SSSI status of both reservoirs which could be lost if they became too commercially-centred. Wonderful opportunity to promote nature on our doorstep with thoughtful developments in a very minor way – information boards and maybe a bird hide to encourage wildlife enthusiasts. Protection of birds top priority.
- I consider wildlife conservation to be the highest priority. Access should be restricted to responsible use only. I stopped visiting Lisvane reservoir due to degradation as a consequence of irresponsible dog-walkers, with an unacceptable level of dog fouling, dog mess bags hanging from bushes, dogs running freely down the embankments and chasing swans and other wildlife.
- Like all surveys some questions are mutually incompatible. I would like to see the place turned into a nature reserve, but controlled public access is very important - if people do not visit the site they will not feel they 'own' it. A small visitor's centre would be OK, but not a large one with multiple meeting rooms - I large one would destroy habitat and cause disturbance to wildlife. Sailing on one reservoir only should be OK in winter but not during the summer when birds are breeding.
- Nature trails or wildlife spotter sheets for children would be great to help them learn about the environment.
- A natural area where mainly locals can enjoy the wildlife and facilities - is my preference for the way forward.
- Q1.6 (Use as wetland nature reserve). Only if fishing & water sport organisations are disinterested.
- Q1.6 I don't see why wildlife and people can't coexist. They always have previously.
- Q1.6 I have specified that the suggestion of having a wetland nature reserve where the reservoir only need be partially refilled sounds a very good idea.
- Q1.6 could cause a mosquito problem for local residents (cf Parkgate on the Wirral).

Access

- Access could be via an annual fee which could help with maintenance costs e.g. £12 a year
- Public access cannot be completely free 24/7 certain times/areas would need to be restricted.
- SSSI's are important, but I feel very strongly that people should be allowed to walk/cycle around Lisvane Reservoir. Dogs on leads only. And then there should be no need for closure of access around Lisvane Reservoir.
- When Welsh Water were owners of the space we paid for an access license to walk the area. This seemed a good idea which could be re-instated. Not an excessive amount to be negotiated. Money used to to enhance the facility. A tea & coffee shop also sounds a nice idea as a meeting place.
- In the past, public access was restricted to permit holders only. I would like to see permits reintroduced to restrict access to those with a genuine concern for the area.
- It should also have an area to walk or run around it, but it should possibly have restrictions at nesting or breeding times if necessary.
- I don't think that it would be wise to have unrestricted access to the area. There used to be a permit system which naturally restricted access to local people who used it regularly and made the effort to acquire a permit. Not a good idea to turn it into a Roath

Park type attraction, bearing in mind the very desirable conservation elements and the attraction of a calm and peaceful walking (no bikes!!) area in the middle of this substantially residential area.

- I believe that the site should be a publically accessed green space which could be developed to provide a place for a number of activities - the decision whether to completely refill the reservoir or to develop it as a wetland space should be considered in consultation with groups interested - it's not possible to do both. In small areas public access and dog access could be restricted to protect wild life but this should be kept to a minimum. If a visitors centre is possible it must use green technology and should maximise uses to include a cafe and community/ educational spaces. Footpaths should be maximised.
- Regular use by groups such a sailing clubs and fly fishers could act as unofficial "wardens" to deter antisocial and anti-environmental behaviour by visitors. Footpaths could act as a useful walking/cycling corridor, but care needs to be taken for this use not to become detrimental to the site.
- Partial restrictions at certain times of year, or for example, restricted access to Lisvane reservoir would be a good compromise to allow for conservation efforts alongside the leisure facilities.
- Access to certain areas of banks could be restricted while still allowing full walk around access.
- Absolute priority should be given to breaking the long-standing stalemate, so that progress is made to provide pedestrian and cyclist access to the paths around both reservoirs, even if some level of development has to be accepted.
- Access only during daylight hours as per park regulations.
- Additional background would be helpful in order to answer questions 2.2 and 2.4, that is, if unrestricted access were allowed, what would be the negatives?
- Environmental Protection - This needs a lot of thought. Q's 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 is of no use if you allow 2.4

Transport

- I would need my car to visit as bus service is not very frequent
- It needs a car park on both the Cyncoed and Llanishen side.
- Public transport is very limited in the Lisvane area and this should be taken into account for access by car.
- Many people are less fortunate to be able to cycle, walk or use public transport - A car park will be essential.
- Re. parking. Realistically, public transport will not be adequate to serve the needs of the visitor centre – hence space must be allocated to car parking for users of the facilities (sailing, fishing) as well as casual visitors who live more than walking distance away (and those less mobile).
- Please think about traffic/parking implications of any initiatives
- The main Rhyd-y-penau Rd is not suitable for visitor parking. It interrupts main traffic & residential access etc. Ample car parking must be provided on site with easy access. There are enough problems with existing "dog walker" traffic!!
- Parking may cause a big problem when Venues, Charity Runs e.g. when traffic will be at its most!!

Disabled Access

- For disabled people in particular it may be essential to provide car parking
- A decent car-park for disabled drivers would be appreciated - I cannot envisage returning unless I can park & use scooter to go round.
- Re. Q3.7. The site should easily be accessed by the disabled and guide dogs allowed.
- Question 3.7. Don't forget the disabled, good access and parking for them too.
- Elderly people in particular should be allowed access by car as it can be too far for some to walk and no public transport suitable.
- Vehicle access should be granted to Blue badge and young children parking but not in a central place that would spoil the natural feeling of the parkland site itself
- The reservoir needs to be accessible to all and to cater for disabled people
- Modes of transport in 3.7 are difficult for the disabled and elderly
- Regarding 3.7, please include access facilities for the disabled such as electric/motorised wheelchairs
- Q3.7 Except for wheel chairs - poor bus service - small car park?

Dogs

Pro

- I would not in any way support a dog-hating proposal.
- 2.3 dogs should be kept on lead and bins provided for dog walkers as in Cefn Onn Park. They should NOT be banned. Dog walkers love the countryside and nature walks.
- Dog walkers has always been a big part of the reservoir and are the free security eyes who are out at all times. Most dog owners are responsible and love the wildlife and fauna. We also keep to the paths for our own safety
- We have well behaved dogs. I would like to be able to continue walk them in a natural environment with restrictions (2.3) and access to waste disposal containers. Only well behaved dogs should be allowed off their leads.
- Dog walkers should be encouraged BUT dog waste bins are essential to avoid mess and eutrophication of the grasslands.
- Please consider dog walkers
- I would also see it as being important that it is used as now as a space for dog walkers as it provides great space and benefit for this group who are probably the people who use the area most at the moment.
- The site is currently used almost exclusively by dog walkers and it would be a huge loss to us if all dog walking on the site is restricted.
- Our family's priority is access being maintained for the public - it's one of our favourite locations for dog walks and would such a loss to the local community were it to be closed to public access.

Against

- Frankly, I would not welcome dogs at all - if the area was to become a reserve. There are plenty of other places to walk dogs. There are always some selfish lazy dog walkers who will not clean up after their dog.
- No dogs.
- Control of dogs on the site is very necessary.
- No dogs
- Limited access to dogs - provision of specified areas with 'litter' bins.

Neutral

- Any dog-walking pathway must be segregated from the reservoir embankments to avoid fouling and disturbance of the rare plants, fungi etc.
- There are many dog walkers in the area so maybe a separate path
- There should be a separate area for dog walkers so that the greater part of the reservoir should be free of dogs
- Dogs on leads at all times.
- I do feel there should be some form of restricted access for dog walkers, and bins provided for their mess. We can no longer take our grandchildren to Cefn Onn it's known locally as Poo Park they cannot run free because of the mess these dog owners leave behind, and it's not nice to find this mess on your shoes or wellies.
- No problem with dogs being allowed on site as long as they are kept on leads and their owners clean up after their mess.
- Plentiful provision of bins for dog mess should be provided, as in Parc Cefn Onn.

Water Sports

- Whilst I would love sailing to be promoted (my three children benefited absolutely) in the current economic climate it will not happen. Fly fishing requires less personnel support. Any activity is better than no activity. Need to prioritise.
- Sailing a definite. I learned to sail there with school & Scouts. The Octopus Diving Club I used to belong to used to dive there and help to move the buoys around.
- I would definitely like to see it used again as a water sports facility.
- Personally, I would absolutely love to see a return of sailing on Llanishen reservoir!
- I don't feel strongly about sports, but they were carried out before without detriment to the site and might provide useful income and users willing to help look after it.
- I learned to sail at Llanishen in the late 70's early 80's and I have always been appalled by the way this magnificent piece of land has been handled. It should be refilled to allow people of today enjoy the same level of satisfaction that sailing has given me through the years.
- The sailing centre is an absolute must have. I heard the Scout movement were also interested in developing a facility and they have the money to do it.
- Please include kite surfing along with wind surfing.
- Re 1.4 & 1.6 - Ideally sailing etc. should be re-instated but if a total refill of the reservoir becomes impractical, then it should definitely be used as a Wetlands Nature Reserve instead.
- Canoeing would be a low impact activity. I used to canoe on Roath Park Lake with Cardiff Canoe Club until Health and Safety forbade it.

Fishing

- Care would be needed to be taken with fly fishing if people are walking nearby due to the fish hooks
- A good idea to have sailing but not fishing. Dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists passing behind fishermen flinging their lines.
- Like to see coarse fishing as well as fly fishing.
- It would be better to allow swimming rather than the ability to have a few fishing.
- Fly fishing restricted to small reservoir. Seasonal restriction on activities rather than access.

- Note: fishing interests and other water sports like sailing and windsurfing are difficult to integrate. Fishing needs totally separate designated areas away from windsurfing. Note the slight clash between question 1.4 and 3.4. Overall a good survey – well done.
- Fishing damages embankments?
- Fishing is not compatible with the ethical treatment of wildlife. Would you allow shooting as well?

General Facilities

- There should also be "benches" available for visitors to sit and enjoy the peaceful surroundings including the wildlife. The centre should charge a small fee for the hire of rooms and for fishing and school children should learn to sail free.
- A children's playground would be good
- Bins, particularly for dog waste, should be more readily available. Likewise, recycling points/compartments would be useful
- A toilet facility should be available, if possible a compostable toilet or similar eco-friendly alternative, either within the visitor centre or externally. This should facilitate disabled visitors but NOT be solely available via a radar key so others can use it
- It would be nice to have additional facilities, but people just want to walk around it freely.
- More seating/benches/picnic tables around the site. Extra dog bins. A few water taps around and at site entrance/exits.
- Written information for visitors would be useful.
- The paths at Cefn On Park are a credit and should be adopted here.
- Maybe bird watching hides around the perimeter? If there is a visitors centre, could it be used for environmental education by local schools?
- I'm surprised you didn't enquire as to the possibility of Partnership in ownership and management. Community, Council, Celsa, Sailing, etc.
- Use of re-filled reservoir for open water swimming would attract triathlon clubs for training and competition.
- A climbing wall or similar would encourage positive use of the site by young people alongside sailing and the educational visitor centre.
- A bird hide. Planting a wild flower area in a suitable location. Introduction of great crested newts.
- The site needs more signage to encourage and inform walkers and other users. The information boards don't need to be massively detailed, as long as they include QR codes so smartphone users can connect to a website with links to lots of other resources.
- No motorised sports.
- I would hope that if this ever materialises buildings etc. that sufficient security systems would be put in place. As an allotmentere we have had several break-ins being so isolated. Sufficient lighting to and from entrance and buildings
- Swimming! There are no outdoor swimming pools or lakes anywhere around Cardiff
- Where would car park be?

Visitor Centre and Café

Pro

- A visitor centre would be nice but not if it's used as an excuse to open the area for recreation on the grounds of expense
- It is probably time to think about making it more attractive to the wider community by considering facilities like a visitor centre, cafe etc. Llandegfedd Reservoir has recently gone in this direction very successfully.
- A café would be great as long as it's economically viable. Perhaps a room with coffee machine / toilets if figures don't add up?
- Cafe – okay, if it is well managed and not a source of litter.
- As any development will require financial cost, consideration should be given to income generating facilities such as a bar, café, restaurant etc.
- The site could generate income to cover its maintenance if approached in the right way. Some leisure activities and a cafe, teamed with a sensible conservation approach (areas segregated for wildlife only) would provide a valuable resource for the community. Local schools could use the watersport facilities, and the idea of a function room with a beautiful view over the reservoir, whilst being within Cardiff itself is surely a no-brainer?! The hospital staff would use it, and the University would use it. Not to mention the law firms etc. Do it the right way, get the right people involved, and it will be another Cardiff success story.
- A small café could help raise funds which could be used for nature conservation purposes.

Against

- A visitor centre should not be priority (later maybe). The important issue is to get the reservoir filled again and used by public quickly!
- I do not consider the visitor centre a priority. What matters is restoring the reservoirs and surrounding areas as a place of natural beauty. No need for vast expenditure beyond that or further commercialisation.
- To put all these facilities together would destroy the wildlife we have been fighting to save. It may be subject to vandalism. There are three good cafes at the roundabout which deserve any custom going.
- I should like to see the Reservoir and surrounding parkland restored to the conditions it enjoyed before WPD arrived on the scene. The tranquillity of the area will be totally destroyed by the construction of visitor centres, cafes and any other commercial enterprise. Let us try to keep one natural resource free from American style so-called "development".
- I consider any building however small would initially cause a lot of disruption. Activities will give a reason for cars, car parking, etc. All of which I thought we had been trying to stop.
- Not sure about a visitor centre. How would it be paid for? Who would run it? Might it draw in too many people? Facilities for sailing and fishing will be required, of course.
- I would suggest no cafe or buildings. Keep it simple – benches, perhaps picnic tables and maybe a hide for bird watching?
- I think a toilet is more important than a cafe.
- Whilst the concept of a visitor centre/cafe is good, I feel that such should not be considered until a survey has been completed to establish who exactly would use it, and how frequently. It would be a shame to go to the expense of setting such a concern up and after an initial burst turn into a white elephant. If you consider the excellent visitor centre at Kenfig Pool which has been running for a number of very successful years it is sad to see this is no longer open due to Council cutbacks. Hopefully it may be up and running at some future time but, if a similar situation were to arise at Llanishen Reservoir, it would be very disheartening for those who had worked so hard to get the

project off the ground. A definite NO at this particular time when so many cutbacks are in effect.

- Buildings should be discouraged to preserve green space and wild life.
- Building should be kept to a minimum, to preserve the natural open space feel.
- Café facilities would not be financially viable cf Cefn Onn Parc and many other sites in the city
- I believe there is no requirement for a visitor centre/cafe as it would create too much disturbance and destroy the very peace and quiet which visitors are looking for. Who would run it? Where would people park and who would monitor the access to sensitive environments?
- As far as a visitor centre/cafe are concerned, these cost money, may not earn money and may be vandalised so it may be too adventurous an idea - public toilets might be worth considering. Please keep this space for wildlife and people - it's too good an opportunity to throw away.
- Establishment of a visitor centre runs the risk of vehicular traffic spoiling the rural nature of the site and contributing to its degradation.
- Open green spaces such as this should be left in a natural state as possible. There are enough cafe's etc. elsewhere, what is wrong with a thermos flask and sandwiches on a bench in the fresh air.
- As a keen birder and responsible dog walker it would be a luxury to have somewhere to enjoy both without the restrictions that managed meeting places inevitably bring.
- Can see merit in keeping things simple by focusing on restoring the reservoir to a public space, to be used for water activities and walks. Some parts may need to be cordoned off for conservation reasons. Whilst a great long-term aim, I have a slight concern that having a visitors' centre and more elaborate plans could hinder more immediate needs - which is to get the reservoir back after all these years.
- Would cafe be sufficiently used? - (included in visitor centre?)
- A cafe would be nice but hard to justify and create parking & access problems.
- A small clubhouse for the sailors etc with gear store and changing rooms etc. and with public toilets is all that is needed. No café or other commercial activities.
- Do not think a café is a good idea if design of Roath Park café is anything to go by. Bad job there!

Neutral

- The concept of a visitor centre is great BUT it would result in the imposition of an unacceptable financial cost which would be on-going. By all means rebuild the sailing and fishing facilities and if possible consider the viability of a café BUT keep in mind the overriding need to provide and maintain free public access.
- If a visitor centre is included it would need to be accessible by car/car parking etc needed - Plenty of cafes in the immediate area - not necessary. Information boards about the site/wildlife etc. more appropriate.
- Mini Hydro Electric power station to provide green sustainable energy for any new building [i.e. - Archimedes Screw]
- Ensure volunteers from the local communities have a role in the running of any visitor centre that may be established.
- If water sports are deemed the preference then a cafe is essential but NO LITTER because of preservation. If wildlife area is preferred (my preference) then NO CAFE (reduced litter) and restricted areas for nesting and endangered species. A good design could include these requirements. Perhaps Observation Hides for a wetland area, etc.
- Visitor centre to include information (CADW) on the history and building of the reservoirs and on the importance of water (Environment Agency, Water Authority etc.).

- Whilst I would welcome a visitor centre and café, the standard of ***** and upkeep needs to be considered and as it would be ***** would be helpful particularly to allow those with limited ability to enjoy the facility. Thank you for your dedication to raising these issues.
- Re 3.5 At least a kitchen for people to use if hired out.

The Fence

- Could priority be given to removing the fence?
- Get the fence removed - I can arrange its removal!
- First priority though needs to be to remove the fence and restore public access.
- The sooner it is refilled and the eyesore fences removed the better. WPD should have been fined or sanctioned for committing such an atrocity, they ruined a beauty spot.
- The stockade around Lisvane reservoir should be removed, as public access is far more important than protecting mushrooms and a few birds that can easily fly elsewhere.

Cycling

- No cycles at all! The main thing is to secure a proper network of pedestrian paths (no bikes - they are a menace) accessible freely all the year round. Have a car/bike park.
- There should be no cycle paths. None in past i.e. cycles were not allowed. Incompatible with peace and quiet, fishing, environmental protection, etc.
- Regarding point 3.9 we feel that there is insufficient room at the site to accommodate cyclists.
- Bikes should not access
- The bikes should be kept well away from pedestrians
- NB. No cycle paths; no cycling: The site should be a haven for walkers/strollers.
- Cycles just as a means of travel to reservoir and not a race track. No, no, definitely no to cycle paths.
- We do not approve of cycling in the grounds in any park.
- Cycle use - for accessing the area, fine - but probably need a rack for security; recreational cycling including fancy stunts, etc, will be incompatible with nearly all other activities and conservation aims - will need to consider how to deal with this - and, worse, recreational motorbike use. Maybe a wheelchairs only policy on site?
- There should be a cycle path, but perhaps just one, across the site, linking Llanishen/Lisvane with Cyncoed.
- Footpaths should be for pedestrians only. Cycling should only be on a designated cycle path if one is provided, otherwise prohibited.
- PLEASE no bikes as this would only encourage the YOBS on trials motor bikes and off road mountain bikes to cut up the very grasslands and embankments you are trying to conserve. If you wish to see what we mean just take a walk down the back path through the woods in Rhyd-y-Penau park and see the damage caused by BMX and mountain bikes that have used the paths that were carefully laid by the friends of the park.
- Cyclists on pedestrian paths are usually inconsiderate with regard to the pedestrians. They should have their own, separate, clearly labelled paths.
- There is also a fine line between encouraging cycling and more visitors (e.g. to the café) and the greater possibility of environmental damage.
- No cycling.
- Not convinced that this site is a good one to focus upon cycling - it's not big.

- No horses or bikes as they cause damage and over-use of paths.
- Q3.9 (Cycling) Ok but not too near centres of activity - e.g. outside wall of reservoir away from fishing/ water sports.
- Cyclists are frequently in breach of rules (Queen St, pavements etc) and treat cycle paths as race tracks to the detriment of wildlife and pedestrians. Please keep the lycra nuts at bay: Roath Park, Cefn Onn are better for their absence.
- Footpaths can be shared between pedestrians and cyclists.
- The existing footpaths around the top of the embankment should be reopened but no other paths should be allowed. There should be no cycle paths anywhere on site.

Alternative Visions for the Site

- Typically for this type of survey, no mention is made of the money required to establish and maintain the facility as envisaged by the survey. Unfortunately, RAG's blanket opposition to any development has resulted in the present totally unacceptable condition of the site. Go back to the first Western Power proposal - some housing to generate funding, small lake, wetlands, paths, traffic access only from Rhydypenau roundabout. Forget the fungi, not as rare as once thought and of very limited interest to the general public.
- As a resident of Cyncoed for nearly 30 years and resident within the catchment of the reservoir for nearly 40 years I wholly agreed with the need to stop Western Power building more homes for the rich and taking huge profits for themselves.

However, I also disagree with the suggestions of use that RAG are currently proposing. There are sufficient cafes within easy walking distance of the reservoir and another would only negatively impact on current businesses within the area. Reinstating sailing, windsurfing etc., add nothing to the area other than providing more facilities for those who can afford them. From all the newsletters I have received I am left with the impression (rightly or wrongly) that RAG want to keep and enhance the facilities of the reservoir for personal pleasure rather than supporting the real needs of our broader community within Cardiff.

I believe there is an excellent opportunity to show that we in the catchment area of the reservoir have the broader needs of the wider community at heart. Therefore, I propose the following as alternative suggestions that will demonstrate this.

1. Use the site to build affordable homes for first time buyers
2. Use the site to demonstrate that there is a level of humanity within the area by building homes or a refugee centre for those people fleeing war torn areas such as Syria.
3. Use the site to develop a refuge centre for people experiencing difficulties within their personal lives, this could be domestic violence, young people with personal issues etc.

I do hope these suggestions are taken seriously (and that the suggestions are not just deleted, call me a cynic) as I believe they will add more to our community than cafes, fishing and sailing.

Encouragement for RAG

- Well done. Keep at it!
- Congratulations on your success so far and best wishes for your future plans.
- Keep up the pressure!
- Carry on the good work
- We do appreciate all the work which has been on-going for so long.

- Thank you for all your efforts. It has been a long journey and it's far from over it would seem.
- Thank you for all your continued efforts to keep the reservoirs in the public domain in spite of the intransigence of the large corporations.
- No other suggestions. Thanks for all the hard work. It is very much appreciated. The way these questions are put is really great and it says a lot. Hope this beautiful reservoir will very soon be as it was some years ago and even much better for generations to come. God bless all of you who worked so hard with so much dedication, truly the British way of life and being so caring. Wishing you all best imaginable.
- All the works undertaken by yourselves have been priceless. You have worked very hard over the many years. It would be wonderful if things could move on - fill the reservoir and sort all that needs doing. Well done to you all.
- Love you guys :)
- Meanwhile, thank you for holding out for so long.

Complaints about RAG

- After 13/14 years of RAG residents campaigning, it seems strange to be asking the same questions that began the campaign in 2001, and when I became a member firstly. I do not wish to join again and since Andrew Hill left as Chair it has been a lack-lustre campaign: nothing happens but talking. What about some action, RAG chair, and now? 2001 to 2015 is about time, don't you think Mr Cowie? Talk to Celsa now!! They only paid £1 for it!
- Why should any organisation have any say in such authoritative (aggressive) way - believe they control of property they do not own??? - I have lived around Roath Park for the past 10 years and have always believed the area around the ex-reservoir was a privately owned habitat for yachtsmen and anglers and have never stepped foot in its boundaries (or found out where any access point was). Am I correct in assuming that people living around its perimeter are the prime movers in the action group? Nimbys in fact?? Have you thought of bringing Jeremy Corbin onto the committee?