

PRIDE IN BARRY

*An association of voluntary organisations, local authorities and others
who have combined together to strive to improve the local environment*



www.prideinbarry.co.uk

Annual General Meeting 27 June 2006

Chairman's Report

Another busy and exciting year to report.

Pride In Barry has continued to be very active in continuing to press for further regeneration and making the case for proper funding. We have continued to ensure the projects identified within our Strategy Document are progressed with the various stakeholders. We have taken some of our own initiatives forward, and we have received interesting presentations on topical matters, and have also given presentations. I will now give an overview.

On Regeneration, on 24th May 2005, the Vale of Glamorgan Council established the Barry Regeneration Partnership Board, and I was invited to sit on the Board to represent PIB as a Non-Exec Member. The Board has met 7 times and the 5 Non Exec's have met many times, either face-to-face, or through telephone and email discussions to discuss progress and direction. This has been a large time consumer of PIB resources, and unfortunately, with very little progress or outcomes to show for that time. I should also state that this requires time off from normal work, as the meetings are held during daytime and Non Execs are the only unpaid attendees. Pride In Barry will need to consider whether this is the most effective use of our resources.

The conclusion I have reached is that the Board is completely hamstrung without proper funding over a longer period of time than current annual funding cycles permit, and without long-term operational resource capability which focuses on outcomes rather than actions. This view has been backed up by a Wales Audit Office report into Regeneration, and my understanding is the conclusions are generally accepted by the Assembly.

Furthermore, the merger of the WDA into the National Assembly has caused uncertainty and disarray over continuity of Barry Regeneration. The position of Andrew Dakin, the Greater Barry Regeneration Officer for the WDA, now DEIN, who has been a champion for Barry Regeneration, a good friend and adviser to PIB, who has been unwavering in his commitment and enthusiasm, is unclear. Again, I reiterate the point that operational capability is vital and I see Andrew Dakin as being the vital cog in Barry Regeneration, and if there really is political will to see this long-term project succeed, then it is time for clarity, certainty, and continuity, and a lot less distraction with internal reorganisations. I call upon Gareth Hall, the Head of DEIN to assure the people of Barry that our regeneration champion will continue unabated and with full support.

As I have just said, the time commitment required to attend and support the Regeneration meetings has been onerous. This would not have been possible had the

Members not agreed at the last AGM to meet less frequently to allow the Officers of the Executive Committee more time for representing Pride In Barry. The Executive Committee of PIB has also been able to hold 4 meetings. I hope that the Members will again endorse this approach.

Throughout the year, Pride In Barry has again had a series of excellent speakers on topical issues. As far as possible, we have ensured that this has fitted into the themes within our Strategy.

- ❖ In April, Dr Eleri Jones of the UWIC Tourism & Hospitality Department gave an excellent presentation on the proposed new Wales Centre for Tourism & Hospitality at Barry Island.
- ❖ In June, Jonathon Jones, Chief Executive of Wales Tourist Board cancelled at last minute due to an accident, and Andrew Dakin stepped in and gave an excellent update on Regeneration.
- ❖ In September, Jane Hutt paid another of her regular annual visits and discussed progress with Regeneration and other matters, and answered questions from Members.
- ❖ In November, Vinny Mott of Sustrans gave us a briefing on the ambitious plans to connect Bridgend to Barry to Cardiff via a National Cycle Network.
- ❖ The February meeting was cancelled due to unavailability of Committee members including myself.
- ❖ In April, David Swallow, WDA, outlined plans for St Athan Aerospace Park and in particular the Defence Training Academy by the Metrix Consortia, which PIB is very supportive of. We wish Metrix every success in bringing this to South Wales.
- ❖ Tonight, we have had an excellent presentation by Coast Watch and the development of the former Coast guard Station at Nell's Point. We wish every success to this Project and encourage organisations and our members to consider taking the opportunity to site exhibitions, and visit frequently to see what is new.

A deserved thank you to all our speakers and all those who have arranged speakers.

We have continued pressing ahead with our PIB Ambassador Award Scheme to encourage and recognise those who promote the Town.

- ❖ I gave a presentation to Barry Rotary Club on the Ambassador Scheme on 19 May 05, and thanks to Gareth Howe for organising this.
- ❖ Similarly, I gave a presentation to Barry Town Council on 5 September 05, and thanks to Derek Wolfe, the Executive Officer for making this happen.
- ❖ We established our Website in February – www.prideinbarry.co.uk - to provide a resource for Ambassadors, sponsors, and information for the Press and public. We have had 307 sessions from North America, 211 from Europe, 35 from Australia, Africa & Asia – a total of 553 which is approximately 110 per month. This shows the good potential to communicate, and the challenge is to somehow involve Barrians around the planet with our Town.
- ❖ Then, in February, Barry Town Council agreed to be the sponsor of the main Pride In Barry Ambassador of the Year Award. This is the catalyst that has enabled us to progress the Scheme. So, the Ambassador Scheme was publicly launched with good Press coverage in February. I would again thank Barry Town Council for their vision in becoming our sponsor.
- ❖ In April, we were able to invite Gold Medal Swimmer David Davies to be our First Ambassador. Working with our sponsor, Barry Town Council, a presentation was

made at a special event at the Mayor's Parlour, which again attracted considerable publicity. Thank you again to Theo Stenstrom for enabling this.

- ❖ We have recently invited a number of Barry organisations and others to consider sponsoring the other excellent Ambassador Awards and await their responses. I believe this is a wonderful opportunity for people to become involved in promoting civic pride in Barry.
- ❖ And tonight, we have been able to create our second Ambassador by recognising one of our own PIB members, Dilys Colbourne MBE Member of the British Empire, who has been recently recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for outstanding work in the community. I speak on behalf of everyone connected with PIB when I say we are delighted at this recognition and achievement. Equally, we are delighted that Dilys has agreed to be one of our first Ambassador's, and know that Dilys will continue to be dedicated to promoting Barry and taking pride in our Town.

I have only outlined the beginning of the success of our intended Ambassador Award programme. There is much work still to be done though. We are looking for further sponsors for the remaining 6 Awards, we need to organise an event to bring together further potential Ambassadors and set out key messages to be delivered, and of course we need to put together the Ambassador of the Year Award ceremony for later this year.

On other fronts, much work has been done by our President Gareth Howe to progress the Blue Plaque Scheme. This will identify Barrians from the past that have achieved great things and are largely unknown by the general public, and recognise them by placing a Blue Plaque on the building most associated with them. Gareth has devised the Scheme, and has been busy identifying funding streams, and a grant application is being submitted tomorrow, with the support of Jane Hutt. We hope that this very worthwhile Scheme is able to be progressed, and thank Gareth for his work.

I would record our grateful thanks for the continued support of Jane Hutt who continues to be a true supporter of PIB.

Pride In Barry has continued to be represented at a number of committees, events and functions throughout the year, such as the Barry Development Group, and the Vale of Glamorgan Conservation Advisory Group.

I spoke last year at the need to review and build on our current membership. We need to ensure we remain representative of our community – and for example actively encourage involvement of young people. I established a new Committee position focussing on **Membership**, to review the current position, identify areas for improvement, and then enhance our membership. Unfortunately, that position has remained vacant, although a very important requirement. I propose to keep that post, and would again encourage anyone to step forward and assume that role, which would be a great help to the continuity of PIB.

I would like to thank my Committee Members and also to you the members of Pride In Barry for your help and support throughout the year. It has been a busy year, and an enjoyable year, and I look forward to the Ambassador Scheme Presentation Night later this year.