

# Clr Kevin Lang & Clr Louise Young

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 /AlmondCouncillors



## Queensferry & District Community Council – February 2018 Report

### South Scotstoun housing plan

The Taylor Wimpey planning application for 341 new homes on the South Scotstoun fields went before the planning committee last week.

As councillors, we submitted a joint request for a hearing so we could speak before the committee and highlight local concerns before a decision was taken. However, the matter went to a vote and was lost by 4 votes to 7. We are naturally very frustrated that we were, once again, denied the opportunity to represent views within the community. The committee then had to consider the application, which was approved by 8 votes to 3.

One of the most serious issues (as covered in others reports) is the lack of funding for the improvements to Dalmeny Station. We are due to get a report in follow up to our Council motion which was passed in November. That will provide a good platform to initiate discussions with officials on how changes at the station will be funded.

### Beast from the East

We are extremely grateful to the many volunteers who helped clear the snow and ice from the 'beast from the east'. We were pleased to be able to make arrangements for substantial amount of grit to be made available at local schools to assist with the effort.

### Shore Road Sheltered Housing

We met with representatives of CastleRock Edinvar earlier this month in response to the concerns over staff changes at the sheltered housing complex in Shore Road. In response, CRE has agreed to increase the number of visiting care staff from one to two. This will ensure greater cover during the two days on which the main staff member is not present. We will keep this under review.

### High Street project

We joined representatives of QDCC for the first High Street project meeting. Following some initial survey work, the project managers - Ironside Farrar - will be consulting widely on the scope and objectives of the project. The initial project timetable would see works commence around February 2019 and be complete in October 2019.

### Fairtrade signs

We reported last month how, in response to the issues raised by the Queensferry Fairtrade Group, the Transport Minister had agreed to initiate a national review of policy on Fairtrade signs. We took a motion to

the March meeting of the Council. This was agreed unanimously and means the Council will write formally to Transport Scotland and support a change that would allow for Fairtrade signs to be erected in Queensferry.

### **Burnshot Bridge**

We brought forward an amendment at the last meeting of the Council to try and avoid a further delay to the works on the new Burnshot Bridge. There has been a new suggestion that work to integrate the new bridge into the national cycling network would push back construction into 2019. We are pleased our amendment was approved which means any timetable change would have to go before the Transport Committee of councillors for approval and could not be taken by Council officials.

### **Queensferry and Echline Primary investments**

We know there have been concerns amongst parents about the property conditions of both Echline and Queensferry Primary Schools. This followed the results of the Council's condition surveys which highlighted a range of issues needing addressed.

We are pleased to say the necessary repair work, an investment of almost £2 million, is now being prioritised to take place from the summer holidays and should be complete by March 2019.

- QUEENSFERRY PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE - £1,300,000

Commission for refurbishment of the school including roofing, ceilings renewal, windows and doors upgrade, mechanical and electrical installation upgrade, Internal & external fabric improvements, decoration and replacement floorcoverings.

- ECHLINE PRIMARY - £655,000

Commission for refurbishment of the school including roofing, external fabric enhancement, pipework upgrade, boiler and heating upgrade, mechanical & electrical improvements.

### **Burgess Park**

In October, 8 year old Abigail Closier contacted Kevin to raise concerns about the state of the fencing at Burgess Park, opposite the Primary School. After taking up her case, Kevin made arrangements for officials to carry out an inspection and they subsequently agreed to install new fencing during this year's school summer holidays. Kevin made a point of mentioning this at Leader's Questions at the March meeting of Council, highlighting Abigail as a great example of a young person who had worked to make a difference in her community.

### **Garden Tax**

The SNP/Labour administration running Edinburgh City Council has announced its new garden tax will come into effect from July. There are over 124,000 brown bins currently being collected for free in Edinburgh, including 12,200 in our own ward of Almond which we represent.

Properties which do not pay the annual £25 tax will have their brown bins removed. Households will be able to register and pay for continued collection from May.

Council officials expect less than half of households to pay for the service, raising real concerns over fly tipping or people disposing of recyclable garden waste in their landfill bins.