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 /AlmondCouncillors



Queensferry & District Community Council – August 2018 Report

Council performance on key services

At this month's Council meeting, councillors received a report which showed the administration is failing to meet a host of key performance targets. In particular, the figures show Edinburgh is considerably behind its performance metrics on street cleaning, fixing road defects, waste collection, school attendance and school satisfaction, tackling homelessness, social care and late discharge, issuing building warrants and dealing with planning applications.

In many cases, Edinburgh is the bottom half of Scottish local authority performance. We supported a move to develop a comprehensive action plan to address the failings. Unfortunately, this was voted down by administration councillors.

Dalmeny Station

The report arising from our motion at full Council last autumn on the issues at Dalmeny Station finally came before the Transport & Environment Committee this month. To say it was a disappointment would be an understatement. We were promised an action plan. Instead, we got a description of the current problems and some general and vague promises of action through future reviews but without firm timescales. Kevin attended the committee to explain how the report was unacceptable. Thank you to Keith Giblett for also attending and speaking at committee. Because of these representations, officials are having to develop a more detailed plan which must be finalised by October.

High Street Project

As covered in a number of other community council reports, the second public consultation on the High Street project has provided mixed results. Whilst there was a clear majority support for sets rather than tarmac in terms of road surface, there was an almost even three way split on the access options. Further study work is to be undertaken. However, it is clear the final decision will leave some unhappy. We have also been clear that any work to restrict flow on the High Street must be met with other work to try and mitigate the movement of even more traffic onto Station Road / Rosshill Terrace.

Garden tax

Final figures showed that 51% of households currently with brown recycling bins in the Almond ward (which includes Queensferry and Dalmeny) had registered to pay the new garden tax by the deadline. This compares to a city wide average of 46% and figures as low as 15% in the city centre. Further registration periods will open later in the year.

Rosebery Avenue resurfacing

Earlier this year, we made a big push to get the whole of Rosebery Avenue resurfaced. We couldn't believe it had been left off the Council's priority list given the terrible state of the road surface.

We have had final confirmation from roads officials that the whole of Rosebery Avenue will be resurfaced with work likely next month. We know there are some connecting areas on Burgess Road and William Black Place which desperately need sorting too and we'll push to get them done at the same time.

Hawes public toilets

We have been working with Cllr Graham Hutchison and will be bringing a motion to the next locality committee in September on the Hawes public toilets. We are seeking action which would allocated a defined amount from cruise liner visit docking fees so there is dedicated money available for much needed improvements.

New crossing confirmation

At the August meeting of the Transport Committee, it was confirmed that new pedestrian crossings have been programmed for installation on The Loan in the 2019/20 financial year and Ferry Muir Road in the 2020/21 year. There are 58 crossings due for installation across the city over the next three years.

Binks park

We are currently working with residents on Rose Lane and the head of parks and greenspaces to try and develop an action plan on the park area next to the Binks Car Park. At present, the area has been left to become overgrown blocking views of the bridges. Whilst some tidying up has been carried out in response to our representations, we think there is a huge amount of potential here for improvement.

Other issues covered

- We were pleased to see the long awaited cycle storage shelter in place at Dalmeny Station.
- The project team undertaking the building of the new Queensferry High School issued an alert on planned evening working in August and September. We have taken up issues raised by some residents with respect to early morning work which had not been communicated.
- We have been working with residents who objected to the planning application to expand the Premier Inn. We are concerned that possible failures within the statutory notification process left some nearby residents unaware. The application was one objection short of having to go to the planning committee and, as a result, planning officials approved the application without recourse to elected councillors.
- In response to resident concerns, we have been pressing officials to get the remaining street names installed at Dalmeny Park. These should be in within the next few weeks.