

CLLr Kevin Lang & CLLr Louise Young

A: City Chambers, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ

T: 529 4389/ 529 4572

E: kevin.lang@edinburgh.gov.uk /

louise.young@edinburgh.gov.uk

 /AlmondCouncillors



Queensferry & District Community Council – November 2018 Report

Waste collection chaos

The biggest issue over the last month has been, by far and away, the chaos in the new waste collection system. We have been inundated with complaints from constituents in Queensferry about late collections or, in many cases, bins missed altogether. Some residents have gone as much as seven weeks without a landfill collection.

At our request, senior waste collection officers appeared before this month's North West Locality Committee to account for the terrible service residents have received, and despite months to properly plan for the new system. The latest information provided to us that the problems should be resolved by the end of November. Meanwhile, we will continue to assist those residents who approach us directly.

Garden tax refund scheme

At the November meeting of the Council, the Liberal Democrat council group brought forward a motion to introduce a garden tax refund scheme. At present, the terms and conditions of the new annual charge means people cannot claim a refund, no matter how bad the service and how many missed collections. We do not believe this is fair, especially when part of the rationale for the garden tax was that it would lead to an improved and more frequent service.

We were pleased that councillors approved our motion which requires Council officers to now work up a refund scheme for presenting to and approval by the Transport and Environment Committee.

Road repairs budget

At this month's Council, Kevin asked questions which uncovered that only a third of this year's road and pavement resurfacing projects are likely to be complete by end of March as planned. We do not yet have a breakdown of which projects will be delayed. However, we are now very concerned at the likely knock on impact this will have on roads and pavements which were due to be resurfaced in future years. The Transport Convener also failed to provide us with a convincing answer on the reasons for the poor delivery of this year's resurfacing plan.

20mph review

At this month's Council, Louise questioned the Transport Convener on the plans for the citywide review of the 20mph rollout. We know there are many residents who want to raise concerns over some streets already in the programme or to submit requests for additional streets to be included. We also know of people who would like to see the whole thing scrapped if it is not enforced properly.

The opportunity to contribute to that review is open now. All comments and requests can be sent to 20mph@edinburgh.gov.uk

Louise secured a commitment by the Convenor to ensure all community councils and similar stakeholders are written to and invited to formally provide feedback before the conclusion of that review.

Binks park

Following our work with residents on Rose Lane and the site visit hosted in September, we have been provided with a draft improvement plan for the park area around the Binks car park. This includes pruning and cutting, new and improved grass areas and more appropriate bushes. We are also working on a new bollard to the east of the car park to avoid vehicles parking on green space areas and also additional waste bins. We have had a lot of positive feedback from residents. The emails have been shared with June as chair of the environment sub-committee.

Scotstoun Avenue traffic calming

We have been told by transport officials that the work on the Scotstoun Avenue traffic calming is having to be reviewed (and consequently delayed) because of the work Cala carried out at the west end and which officials claim they were not aware of and did not approve. At the time of writing, we are still trying to get clarity from Cala on this. However, we do not consider it acceptable that we face another delay in the delivery of this important traffic calming because of one relatively small set of works at one end of the road. We are continuing to work on this.

Corus Site application

In response to some differing initial views from constituents, we conducted a thorough survey of all residents in the Varney estate about the Corus housing application, particularly on the issue of road access.

Around 66% of residents are opposed to the development plans as a whole. In terms of access, 84% were in favour of access via Ferrymuir Gate and only 14% in favour of access via the existing estate. We are working with Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP to press Transport Scotland on this as we see no convincing reason as to why access could not be made available from the west.

Bankhead Road – housing / car parking problems

We have had a lot of complaints from residents in Dalmeny about the contractor vehicles parking on Bankhead Road next to the housing development. This is clearly exceptionally dangerous, forcing drivers to come out into the middle of the road or further right at what is a serious blind spot. The developer has promised to take a firmer attitude towards their staff and sub-contractors, but this remains a major issue.

Other updates

- We were both delighted to join our constituents for the Remembrance Sunday event on the High Street. We were pleased to see such a strong turnout of local people and our thanks go to all those who helped organised this important event.
- We are pushing to get the railings at the Ferrymuir roundabout repaired. They have been left in a damaged state for too long. Roads officials have promised to get this work completed shortly.
- Roads officials have completed an initial survey of Dalmeny Station and are developing plans for additional car parking restrictions on Station Road/Burdock Road as well as a one way system in the main car park. We are also seeking to use this process to finally get the car park disabled spaces made legally enforceable.
- The November meeting of the Housing and Economy committee was asked to approve the Forth Bridges Tourism Strategy. As a member of the committee, Kevin used this to again raise the issue of Hawes Pier toilets.

