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Queensferry & District Community Council – January 2019 Report

Fears over council services after major budget cut

The SNP Scottish Government has announced plans which will force Edinburgh Council to cut its budget by a massive £41 million this year.

We fear that cuts on this scale risk having a major impact on key local services such as nurseries, local police, road repairs, leisure facilities and social care. It comes on the back of the chaos we have already seen with waste collection.

The final budget meeting of the Council is due to take place in February. It is hoped that the budget negotiations in the Scottish Parliament may force Ministers to find additional money for Councils like Edinburgh. However, there is no guarantee of any additional funding.

Waste collection chaos

Unfortunately, the chaos we have seen in the Council's waste collection system continued into January. We have continued to be inundated with complaints from local residents over late or missing collections. Despite the problems seen since October, the Environment Convener only instructed officers to take urgent action in the second half of January. We consider it unacceptable that so many people have had such a poor level of service, especially over something so basic as waste collection.

Hawes Pier toilets

In response to our motion at the North West Locality Committee, an initial refurbishment survey was undertaken for the toilets at the Hawes Pier. The survey has given an estimate of £100k-£120k. We are awaiting a final report for sending to the Council finance committee for a share of the docking fees to be set aside to provide the necessary funding for this.

Craigiehall Housing Plan

A new planning application has been submitted for over 1,000 new homes on and around the Ministry of Defence land at Craigiehall just to the south of Burnshot Road.

Plans for housing on the site were first suggested back in 2016. The new application includes:

- a total of 1,151 new homes, including affordable housing.
- a possible new primary school.
- a park and ride facility at the north east of the site nearest to Burnshot Bridge.

The Council has now commenced the statutory consultation period for people to lodge comments. Comments can be submitted by Sunday 24 February.

Scotstoun Pharmacy

We were sorry to hear the application to open a new pharmacy at the Scotstoun shops was refused by the NHS panel. There was an overwhelming response to the consultation in favour of the new pharmacy and we fully support the applicant in the appeal which is now lodging. We are actively supporting this alongside Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP and Christine Jardine MP.

Other updates

- We are pleased that, after much pressure, the railings at the Ferrymuir roundabout have finally been repaired. They were left in a damaged state for too long.
- The traffic regulation order to extend yellow line parking restrictions along Shore Road are due before the North West Locality Committee on Wednesday 30 January.
- We have had further discussions with officials from the parks and greenspaces team about Ferry Glen. The initial design option to stabilise the slip with structural stone was estimated to cost around £300-400k. Even this would not guarantee the long term stability. We had pushed for a new alternative design but this would cost £15k and, unfortunately, the current budget constraints are preventing this from happening.