

QDCC- February report – Cllr Lindsay Paterson

Incident in Echline Gardens

The whole community is in shock at the discovery of two bodies in Echline Gardens and the police investigation is underway and at an early stage. Radio Forth interviewed me asking for my/community initial reaction which has been shock, disbelief and sadness.

Budget

Thursday 13th was budget day for the council for 2014/15. I made a speech in the debate proposing £850,000 of additional investment to prolong the life of pothole repairs delivered and an extra £1m of capital investment in roads and pavements.

The priority for the Council must be efficient delivery of front line services and serving our citizens more efficiently, putting the customer at the heart of all the Council does and delivering high quality services at the best possible price.

FETA

I attended a FETA board meeting on Friday 21st and a meeting of the bridges festival working group. Much of the discussion at the board meeting focussed on future financial arrangements, and we also had a presentation from Kate Downie (<http://www.katedownie.com/>) who is Artist-in-Residence to mark the 50th anniversary of the Forth Road Bridge. Her activities will include the production of a limited edition commemorative print; large scale drawing, film and sound research, culminating in the exhibition 'Zero to Fifty: The Road Bridge Diaries' which will open at Hopetoun House in Queensferry during the Edinburgh Festival and be a key event for the Forth Bridges Festival in September 2014. Local schools and community groups will be able to visit her studio and participate in the project two days a week.

Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

The next meeting of the NP board takes place on Wednesday 26th at Cramond Kirk. Agenda items include the transport subgroup – which will be an opportunity to discuss the changes to bus services in Queensferry with the arrival of Stagecoach- and an update from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Childcare provision

Tom Thumb Nursery playgroup, based in the Vennel Hall, have contacted all Almond councillors regarding their concerns about the impact of the Scottish Parliament's Children and Young People Bill and the playgroup's capacity to cope with the increased hours of childcare provision in the Bill. I am meeting with representatives of the playgroup this afternoon to discuss their concerns further.

Surgery

My surgery in Echline Primary takes place tonight at 6.30pm.