

CLlr Shields QDCC Report: February 2014

- On Tuesday 4th I attended the Queensferry High School Parent Council meeting. It appears that many within the group are concerned that the school is perhaps not getting the same recognition or attention from the Education, Children & Families department and that more support is required from local community groups and elected members to act as a voice for their needs, particularly over funding. These concerns have been acknowledged and will be actioned ahead of the next meeting.
- I held my monthly advice surgery on Wednesday 5th at the library.
- Following correspondence from a local resident earlier in the month about fly-tipping in Lover's Lane, the West Team came out and inspected it and removed items accordingly.
- The Council budget was passed on February 13th.
- The parent council group at Echline Primary have been in touch again regarding inadequate facilities at the school. The councillors have acknowledged this and will cooperate with council officials on this.
- Following on from Laura's raised concern about collections at the Scotmid car park, I have been given assurances from the West Team that collections will be increased and monitored closely to prevent the same reoccurrence.
- Last Monday, I attended a community council event for Local Development Plans at Waveley Court. Keith was also present as QDCC rep, with other notable west Edinburgh community leaders there as well.
- The news of the proposed plans to withdraw the First Bus services to Queensferry is personally very unwelcome. Having sat at a Petitions Committee just over a year ago with Cllrs Paterson and Work to plead a case for improved services across rural west Edinburgh, attended meetings with First Group representatives, and even been in the company of the transport convenor and transport officials only three months ago, I am quite astounded that this action has been taken and I intend to request further, extensive, and substantial reasons from First for their reasons. LRT need to be kept in the loop as well because many are going to suffer. Not everyone in Queensferry drives! How are people going to get to work, socialise, visit places etc?
- I was very saddened to hear of the death of an elderly cyclist on the B800 road last week. I have made known to Kirkliston Community Council in the past that I believe this road is too heavily exploited by speeders, in large part because there are no cameras, and visibility of signage is questionable when it is dark. Likewise, the placing of the speed limit signs could do with a reassessment. Whatever the actual reason for the terrible incident last week, I seriously hope that we can continue to make progress in the demands for space between motorists and cyclists along this road, similarly with the B924 slip, and that the attitudes of both can be respectful to prevent more casualties and fatalities.

- Apologies for not being attendance at the infrastructure meeting on the 12th, I have been in touch with Dave Sinclair and will be briefed on what was discussed.