

CLlr Shields' report: June 2014

- I held my monthly advice surgery at SQ Library on Wednesday 4th.
- This month has seen vast discussion about proposals for South Queensferry within the Local Development Plan for west Edinburgh, highlighting Buillyoen Road as one of the main spots for development. While I am far from convinced that the Planning Committee are anywhere near a solution for the Cammo Greenbelt, I will certainly make known to you now that I sit firmly in the camp whereby South Queensferry is currently overloaded and bursting with housing and planning developments to the point of overkill. It is imperative that developers and national government officers behind these plans acknowledge, respect, and conform to the will of the local residents who know their community and have valid points to make about safeguarding it, not merely operating to fill quotas. I will keep an eye on updates for this but I think QDCC should request as much transparency as possible from CEC Planning and any rumblings heard from developers as these talks proceed. I have already submitted a letter of objection to the Planning Committee where Cammo developments are concerned and raised a question at full council to ensure residents are assured of transparency with all interested parties, I would have no qualms about doing the same for South Queensferry.
- Bin collections: Sincere regret and apologies that these have arisen again, we have been in contact with the Environment Team in West to inform them of new cases or old ones that need to be brought back to attention. There really is no worthy excuse for this to be happening and I have full confidence that Dave Sinclair's team will be aware that there has been slippage over the past month.
- The Almond Neighbourhood Partnership meeting last week was again very successful with the main report surrounding community plans for the phase 2014-17. Lindsay has covered the applications to the community grant fund relevant to South Queensferry, all of which are very welcome and encouraging to the progress of ambitions amongst local groups in the area
- Last week, the three councillors and some of partners from the ANP met Stephie Dolan, the new Community Policing Inspector for west Edinburgh. It was a pleasure to meet him on the evening and perhaps a future QDCC meeting with him may be an idea.
- Like my fellow councillors, the news that the Museum has re-opened is a relief but more importantly fantastic news as South Queensferry enters this very important period for Homecoming events over the summer and into the autumn.
- Delighted to attend the Queensferry Lifeboat Open Day today: a great turnout, weather stayed nice, and plenty for all locals and visitors attending to see! Well done to everyone involved in all the activities and stalls no show. I've taken a few snaps and keen to be seen on my Twitter account!