

QDCC - February report – Cllr Lindsay Paterson

Some of the issues, events and meetings since the last QDCC meeting include:

Almond Neighbourhood Partnership meeting- 28th January

The business meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership took place in the Rosebery Hall on a snowy evening and various items of relevance to Queensferry were discussed, including the Dementia Friendly South Queensferry project; local police and fire service performance reports and a £591 grant was made to the South Queensferry/Rosebery Hall CE Centre helping towards funding for a sea kayaking programme.

Local Development Plan 2

The decision on the Local Development Plan (LDP2) should have been taken at the February meeting of the Planning Committee. In preparation for this meeting, many residents and community groups, including QDCC, have invested significant time and effort in preparing letters and reports objecting to proposals within LDP2. It is therefore extremely disappointing that the decision was taken by the council administration to put back the LDP2 debate until May. The last time the LDP2 was discussed at Planning Committee, Conservatives opposed LDP2 arguing that the amount of additional housing that we been required to accommodate in the updated plan is overwhelming, and that we need to protect our green spaces and allow development in a sustainable manner. I will continue to liaise with my party colleagues on LDP2 during this period of “limbo” and work with residents, community councils and other groups.

The Budget

The budget debate took place on Thursday 12th February, setting out the council’s budget for 2015/16.

I spoke in the budget debate and highlighted some aspects of the alternative Conservative budget, including a proposed £2.5m of additional revenue funding for effective and efficient repair of potholes to prolong the life of the repairs delivered; the rejection of all cuts to public toilet provision including in Queensferry and Cramond; and funding to alleviate the effect of proposed reductions in library opening hours, including at Corstorphine and Kirkliston, and maintain a greater level of service.

Constituent correspondence

I have received a large amount of correspondence about LDP2 in the past few weeks. Some of the other items in the mailbag for the QDCC area include problems with trade waste collections operated by the council; domestic waste collections and potholes.