

Cllr Shields' QDCC Report: January 2016

Firstly - happy new year to all members.

I held my first advice surgery at the SQ Library on January 6th.

January has been awful month for waste collections - or lack of. Residents of SQ, Kirkliston, and Dalmeny have contacted us relating to missed collections post-Christmas/New Year and we responded immediately to the appropriate contacts to take action. We have been told this relates to staffing arrangements over the festive break (rest periods for collectors) and a higher proportion of wastage (particularly glass) than in previous years.

Following concerns over the condition of the Newbridge-Dalmeny cycle path (potholed, mucky etc.) I contacted Cllr Lesley Hinds to examine the situation and provide an update as to what action will be taken. Last week, we were informed that the condition of the path was inspected and concluded not be a priority to the same degree of others on their list but will keep track of this for future consideration. If anyone has any additional comments to make or opinion on this I would be happy to hear them.

The Almond Cllrs attended the Council Budget meeting on the Thursday past. The financial picture appears very bleak for the year ahead to save £85 million and the main themes that arose related to continuous grievance with waste collection and recycling, education and healthcare provision, protection of cultural exhibits (thankfully Queensferry Museum), sports facilities, and libraries, and the setting of the Council Tax rate.

Lastly, I braved the Loony Dook on New Year's Day to raise funds for QCCC. Despite the inevitable, it was a great experience and delighted to have raised £250 for the cause. Well done too to Diane Job who I bumped into in the water and buddied up with before both realising we'd had our fill of the Forth for one day!

Coming up:

This Wednesday coming, I will be meeting with David Pomphret of QCCC at the Haven to discuss how we can cooperate and confront their financial challenges in the year ahead due to increased pension contributions).

QA will be hosting their business awards on February 4th and are advertising for ticket sales just now.