

Cllr Lindsay Paterson –January – QDCC

Some updates since the time of the last QDCC meeting include:

### The Council Budget

The 2016/17 [council budget debate](#) took place on Thursday 21 January. The [Conservative group proposals](#) showed a balanced budget, avoiding service cuts, and put additional resources into public priorities like maintaining our schools and improving our roads and pavements. We put forward proposals to spend more on these priorities through challenging inefficiency and looking for the best way of delivering services based on what matters to local residents rather than sticking with the way it has always been done.

I spoke in the budget debate to reject the administration's proposals for reduced opening hours in museums and other cultural venues and to put forward proposals for a cultural trust to realise savings in an alternative manner through tax efficient methods and to encourage further innovation in the service. This would mean that facilities such as the Queensferry Museum would not see their current opening hours cut. I agree that prioritising weekend opening is important, particularly for families; however this should not be at the expense of opening hours across the week.

### Closure of Forth Road Bridge

This caused considerable disruption to residents and businesses in December, with particular problems including parking around Dalmeny Station. All local ward councillors worked together to raise issues with the relevant authorities and we all raised the impact of the bridge closure on Queensferry at Leader's Questions at [Full Council](#) on 10 December.

### 20mph zones

[Conservatives opposed](#) the Council administration's plans for a 'blanket' approach to 20mph zones - covering some 80% of city streets- as we believe this will dilute the effectiveness of targeted areas which genuinely need and benefit from 20mph zones, such as outside schools. My group also expressed concerns about the cost of this project – almost £2.5m at a time of significant financial challenge for the Council. Taxi drivers and key business groups have also voiced reservations, for example over the likely increase in journey times.

### Waste collections

I have been contacted by dozens of constituents in recent weeks about unreliable waste collections across the ward, including Queensferry; Dalmeny and several rural locations. Problems have been varied, but some regular complaints include green bins and food bins left uncollected and communal bins left overflowing. I spoke in the budget debate to highlight these problems to the council administration and will continue to campaign to ensure that waste collections are reliable and provide good value for money for residents.

### Surgery

I hold my monthly surgery in Echline Primary School on Monday 25 January at 6.30pm