

Cllr Shields' Monthly Report

- Hosted my monthly advice surgery at the library on Wednesday 2nd November.
- Attended QDCC special meeting with LRT buses, but remain sceptical as to whether we will notice any further change going forward despite being informed of a review to services in 2018. Grateful no less to the two representatives that gave their time to meet us.
- Honoured to accompany QDCC members, Queensferry representatives of a variety of bodies, and Cllr Work to the remembrance service on the High Street. Well-attended as ever.
- Welcomed Paul Lawrence of CEC to our arranged special meeting with QDCC on November 14th. Mr Lawrence gave an honest account of the current status of the Council's management during this "transformation period" that has often left community council groups, elected members, and residents perplexed and understandably dissatisfied with the level of service provision across the board since it was enacted. We are hopeful of getting Mr Lawrence and the CEO back at a later date (Mr Kerr could not attend unfortunately) but that will be likely some time after the elections next May. This was followed up by the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership business meeting two days later where community representatives laid bare their need for urgent attention to the process practices and building of relationships/communication from officers. I feel we can conclude a sense of optimism in this but the proof lies in what change we may see in the months ahead. The NP is a necessary tool to utilise though.
- The NP meets on Wednesday at the High School to go over this year's returns for the Almond 'Youth Decides' Initiative – Queensferry's contributions being from the Rosebery Hall (recreational/dance/sport) and the Library (public-speaking development/reading).
- During the month I attended a QCCC fundraiser held at Dundas Castle. As well as for the care group, this was also in aid of Dalmeny Kirk and the RNLI and was a very successful evening.
- I will address in greater detail on Monday evening but I met with St Margaret's Church last week to discuss a proposal they have and are keen to learn of QDCC's opinion on it.