

Clr Kevin Lang & Clr Louise Young

A: City Chambers, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ

T: 529 4389/ 529 4572

E: kevin.lang@edinburgh.gov.uk /

louise.young@edinburgh.gov.uk

 /AlmondCouncillors



Queensferry & District Community Council - November 2017 Report

Dalmeny Station

We were pleased that our motion, calling for an action plan to address the capacity and other access problems at Dalmeny Station, was approved unanimously at the October meet of Edinburgh City Council (which fell just after the last meeting of QDCC). In order to obtain cross party support, we agreed to a slightly extended timetable so that officials must report by next spring. You can see the text of the full motion passed on our website.

<https://kevinlang.mycouncillor.org.uk/2017/10/26/dalmeny-station-motion-success/>

Queensferry High Street

In our report last month, we listed the questions we intended to ask at full Council about the high street project. You can see the answers in full here.

<https://kevinlang.mycouncillor.org.uk/2017/10/31/kevin-demands-answers-on-queensferry-high-street-project/>

The headline is that procurement is progressing for the appointment of a consultant to carry out consultation and design for the project. This appointment should be made by early 2018. It is expected that the scheme will commence on site in late summer 2018.

Bo'ness Road public meeting

Thank you to all the QDCC members who attended our public meeting at the beginning of the month to discuss the traffic issues on Bo'ness Road. We were delighted with the numbers attending (shown by the fact more seats had to be laid out).

Representatives of the local police and the Council's road safety team were in attendance to answer questions and discuss what options exist to try and address the problem. A series of action points were agreed and further traffic and speed monitoring is planned on the road. We will keep QDCC informed.

Neighbourhood partnerships

A point of great discussion at QDCC meetings over the last six months has been the future of Neighbourhood Partnerships.

The new Locality Committees were agreed at the November meeting of Council and will include all elected councillors in that locality. Queensferry is included in the North West Locality which covers Almond ward as well as four other Council wards.

When the proposed committee remits were published, we were concerned about the lack of specific reference to retaining Neighbourhood Partnerships. We feared this left open the possibility of removing them entirely. We strongly believe in the partnership model and the principle of involving communities in decision making processes.

This is why we tabled an amendment to the remit to explicitly retain the power to keep Neighbourhood Partnerships. We were delighted this amendment was passed.

Binks car park

At the September meeting of the Council, Kevin raised the problem of the flooding at the Binks Car Park. Work started just a few weeks later. Whilst the problem was more complicated to resolve than first thought, officials are now confident the new line put in between the gullies on the east side of the car park and the main sewer pipe have resolved the problem.

Proposed new pharmacy

We have been in discussions with Will Samson who is proposing to open a new pharmacy at the Scotstoun shops. NHS Lothian is now undertaking a joint public consultation with Samson Ferry Limited. If approved, the pharmacy would operate 9am-8pm Mon-Sat and 10am-4pm on Sundays. It is the NHS Lothian Pharmacy Practices Committee (PPC) which decides whether to allow the pharmacy to open. The closing date for comments is 26 March 2018.

Street lighting

We have received a great deal of correspondence about broken street lights and the length of time being taken for repairs. There is currently a significant backlog at the Council, caused in part by a shortage of employed electricians. As a result, we have been told it is taking, on average, a month to get street lights repaired. We consider this to be a wholly unacceptable level of service, especially during the darker winter months and have raised this with the Transport Convener. Meantime, we will continue to assist with individual street lights being out.

Other issues

- We were pleased to see the 3G pitches getting unanimous approval from the planning committee.
- We have submitted an objection to the Shore Road TRO.
- We managed to get a new grit bin located next to Loch Road. The work to repair the road by Hopetoun Estates should be done shortly.
- We have received concerns over taxis, HGVs and delivery vehicles parking on the roads next to the new development at Ferrymuir. This is being taken up with transport officials.
- In response to many pieces of correspondence (including a number from the new developments), Kevin raised the lack of lighting on the NCR1 cycle track at the November meeting of the Council. The Transport Convener has agreed a follow up meeting with transport officials.
- We have picked up some specific issues relating to the 43/X43 bus service including the need for additional services at peak periods as well as the stopping points in some city centre locations.
- Kevin and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP are due to meet with Transport Scotland to discuss the traffic issues which have emerged since the opening of the Queensferry Crossing. This is due to take place in December.
- We understand the paper recycling bin at Scotmid has been removed. We have picked this up with waste officials.