

GRAHAM HUTCHISON

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Queensferry & District Community Council

Councillors Report— January 2018

Full Council - Thursday 14th December

The full council met on Thursday 14th December. I raised questions to the Finance and Resources Convenor on the subject of a transient visitor levy and to the new Planning Convenor on access to planning materials for the visually impaired. I also put forward a motion congratulating members of the Scottish Ambulance Service who had been awarded Team of the Year at the Staff and Volunteer Awards 2017.

There was little substantive business at the meeting to report on.

Full council will meet again on Thursday 1st February and then again on Thursday 22nd February to set the budget for 2018/19.

Budget 2018/19

As the Conservative Group Finance Spokesperson I am in the process of preparing an alternative council budget. The budget meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd February, the final local government settlement from the Scottish Government will be announced the day before.

Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

I chaired a business meeting of the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership at the Rosebery Hall on Wednesday 17th January. The main business of the meeting was a discussion on Locality Improvement Plans and on the Locality Model. The first meeting of the new North West Locality Committee will be held on the 9th of February where a Convenor will be elected. The date of the next neighbourhood partnership meeting is to be confirmed.

Local Issues

Gritting — The recent spate of ice and snow has resulted in a number of complaints from residents about a lack of gritting. From the feedback that I've had it is clear that some work needs to be done to review how the council determines priority routes as well as increasing provision and improving re-stocking of grit bins on streets which will not be gritted.

Dalmeny Park — A number of residents in Dalmeny Park have raised concerns with regard to driver behaviour in the estate.

New Gas Governor — Scottish Gas Networks will be replacing the gas governor on Burgess Road. The new gas governor will be placed adjacent to the current site where there are 5 trees at present and new trees will be planted when the old gas governor is removed.

Events

Christmas in Queensferry — It was a pleasure to attend the Christmas in Queensferry light switch on Thursday 29th December and the reception in Rosebery Hall afterwards. Well done to everyone involved in putting on such popular and successful community event with a great turnout despite the freezing conditions.

Queensferry Heritage Trust — On Thursday 11th January, I was on the panel for a Queensferry Heritage Trust discussion on local government in Queensferry past and present alongside QDCC Chair Keith Giblett. The discussion was well attended and it was a very interesting evening.

Surgeries

A reminder that I am holding monthly surgeries at Queensferry Library at 6pm and Kirkliston Library at 7pm on the second Monday of the month, with the exception of December, March and July. To date the Queensferry Surgery has to date been by far the least well attended, please help to spread the word. I will be reviewing surgery dates, times and locations in the summer.