

GRAHAM HUTCHISON

Scottish Conservative & Unionist Councillor for Almond

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Queensferry & District Community Council

Councillors Report— February 2018

Full Council - Thursday 1st February

The full Council met on February 1st, where I asked questions on the administrations presumption of a 3% council tax increase, the formation of new Locality Committees and on the administrations track record with regard to openness and transparency. I was not particularly impressed with any of the answers received.

Budget 2018/19—Thursday 22nd February

The full council met again on February 22nd to set the budget for 2018/19. I presented the Conservative Groups budget motion as Finance Spokesperson, after a debate lasting over 5 hours the administrations budget was passed including a maximum 3% increase in council tax and a £25 annual charge for garden waste collection. I have included a copy of the Conservative Group budget motion with my report.

North West Locality

The new North West Locality Committee met for the first time on February 9th. Councillor Robert Aldridge (Lib Dem - Drum Brae/Gyle) was elected as Convenor with Councillor Max Mitchell (Conservative - Inverleith) as Vice Convenor. The lack of preparation by the erstwhile senior councillor over the last 9 months was clear from the chaotic nature of the meeting. While a lot of questions remain on the operating model for the locality there was a clear consensus across all parties that Neighbourhood Partnerships will continue in some format feeding into the Locality Committee.

Local Issues

Shore Road Sheltered Housing — I was not aware of the plans by Castlerock Edinvar to withdraw care services from this site from April 1st until contacted by QDCC. I have since been contacted by representatives of residents and the doctors at South Queensferry Medical Practice. Myself and Councillors Lang and Young have submitted a joint letter to the directors and had arranged a meeting for last Thursday which had to be postponed due to the over-running of the council budget meeting, this will now be re-arranged.

Waste Collection — There appears to be recurring issues with missed waste collections in Stoneyflatts and I am taking this forward on behalf of residents. I have also aided residents in obtaining replacement bins.

Hill Court — I have been making enquiries on behalf of residents in Hill Court as to any plans the council has to refurbish the fabric of the building, this will be confirmed following a meeting in early March.

Parent Councils

I attended the Parent Council meetings at Queensferry High School on January 31st and Echline Primary on February 6th and have taken away a number of issues to raise with the Education officers at the council.

Events

Edinburgh Chinese New Year Celebration 2018 — I was pleased to see QDCC Chairman Keith Giblett and his wife at the Chinese New Year Concert at the Usher Hall on Thursday 22nd February.

Surgeries

I will not be holding any surgeries in March. They will resume in April, Queensferry Library at 6pm and Kirkliston Library at 7pm on the second Monday of the month.

Holidays

I will be on holiday from Saturday 3rd to Tuesday 20th March (inclusive), for urgent issues please contact my assistant Irene Aitchison, irene.aitchison@edinburgh.gov.uk