

# Cllr Kevin Lang & Cllr Louise Young

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## Queensferry & District Community Council – January 2020 report

### Edinburgh Council budget

The Council is due to set its budget for 2020/21 in February. It is anticipated that a further significant reduction in the grant funding received from the Scottish Government will force the Council to find £40 million worth of cuts. This is over and above the multi-million pound reductions in spending from the last few years, placing further strain on key services.

Some of the proposals to address the shortfall include ending the Council's entire funding of community police officers. The removal of qualified teachers from Council nurseries is also included as an option.

### City Plan and mobility plan

The Council is due to launch two major consultations on 30 January.

The City Plan Choices document is the precursor to the new local development plan. It sets out varying options for land development. Two such options could see a significant loss of greenbelt land to the east of Kirkliston, almost doubling the size of the village. The Craigiehall site, which had been subjected to a speculative planning application last year, is not included as an option for development.

The city mobility plan is effectively the 2030 transport strategy. Whilst there are a number of positive proposals, the plan is entirely un-costed leaving the deliverability of the plans open to question. At Transport Committee, Kevin mentioned how the report was silent on development of Dalmeny Station despite all the concerns raised. Also, there is real doubt over whether the Council has sufficient control over public transport providers to deliver the improvements suggested.

### Hopetoun Road closure

Council roads officials closed Hopetoun Road to close to through traffic (between Morison Gardens and Plewlandcroft) from 6 January for 13 weeks. This follows serious safety concerns over the bridge which has already led to the walkway underneath being closed.

We had pushed for arrangements to be put in place to assist vulnerable residents affected by the diversion of public transport. However, it does not seem a protocol exists for circumstances such as this where the work is being undertaken by the Council.

We intend to pursue this at the next Council meeting. A good example of effective action was the arrangements which were put in place for the SGN works in Queensferry last year.

### **Queensferry High closure**

The new Queensferry High building is to be open from 30 March. However, as part of the transition, parents have been told the school will be closed for an additional four days before the start of the Easter break.

We have pushed for a solution to address the planned extended closure of Queensferry High 31 Mar-3 Apr. There was no engagement or consultation with parents about this before it was announced.

Many parents have been in touch concerned about the four additional days of closure and the challenge this creates for working parents who need arrange alternative childcare or take annual leave/unpaid leave.

There will be no pre-existing 'holiday clubs' in place to provide an alternative option, as this is normal term time for other schools.

Louise successfully took a motion to the Council's education committee on the issue. This means parents are being surveyed on their ability to accommodate these four days without financial or other loss. Her motion also seeks proposals for an additional holiday club type service (or alternative solution).

### **Cala Homes**

We were pleased to see that hundreds of local people attended the Cala Homes drop in events over the two days to discuss the plans for the Springfield site next to the Queensferry Crossing.

Approximately 180 homes are planned for the site with 25% affordable housing. There would be a single entrance into the development from Bo'ness Road.

We spoke with the Cala staff and saw them considering changes to the layout in response to some of the points made at the drop in sessions. A planning application is likely in March/April with a final decision by the end of the year.

Separate to this, we also met with Cala Home representatives to understand their plans for the Builyeon Road site which is more complex given the differing land ownership, the location of the new school and the changes to Builyeon Road itself.

### **Binks park**

We are continuing to work with the Council greenspace team to get Bellway to deliver on its promise from last autumn to remove the bushes and improve the Binks park area.

### **Shore Road**

The results of the traffic survey in Shore Road were received in December. The recorded average speed of traffic was not sufficient to initiate automatic traffic calming. However, locality roads officers are continuing to consider what options exist to address flow and avoid vehicles driving onto pavements.

### **Scotstoun Avenue**

Following our last correspondence with road safety officers on 8 January, we have been promised sight of the final design for the traffic calming on Scotstoun Avenue. It appears as though problems with the requirements of Lothian Buses have held up progress.

### **Dundas Park**

Our last correspondence with the parks team on 14 January confirmed they were still trying to identify new funding sources for the required improvements to the play area at Dundas Park.

### **Bo'ness Road crossing**

The delivery of the new crossing on Bo'ness Road is due in the spring.