

from Cllr Michael Crichton &
Cllr Fraser Macpherson
and the West End Liberal Democrats

Edition 113

Summer 2023 edition



Summer updates from Fraser, Michael and the West End Focus team!

Welcome to West End Focus Edition 113! Councillor Fraser Macpherson, Councillor Michael Crichton and the West End Focus Team are always pleased to assist anyone in the West End with any concerns, problems or queries.

Michael and Fraser can be contacted as follows :



- By e-mail - westendfocus@dundeelibdems.org.uk

- By phone - Dundee 459378 - or send back the Grumble Sheet on the back of this edition of Focus.

Ward surgeries do not take place during the school holidays but will return from 15th August and are as follows :

Tuesdays during school term time - Councillor Fraser Macpherson - 5pm prompt - Blackness Library and 5.45pm prompt - Ancrum Road Primary School

Thursdays during school term time - Councillor Michael Crichton - 5.45pm prompt - West End Campus (entrance to St Joseph's RC and Victoria Park Primary Schools) and 6.30pm prompt - Harris Academy

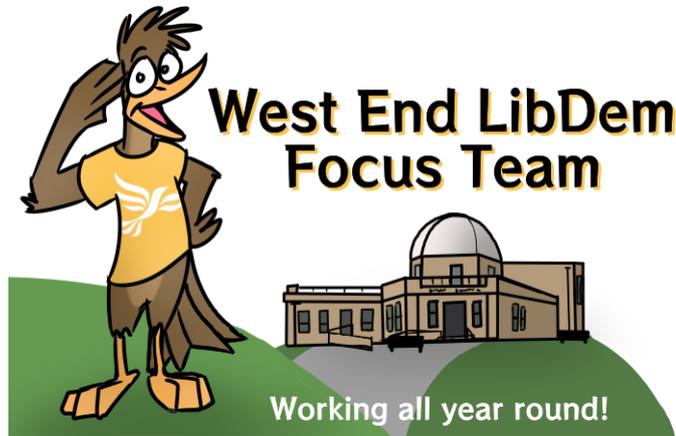
Save the 204 and sheltered shopping bus services!

At this year's council budget, SNP council administration forced through cuts to council-supported bus services which will sadly mean that the 204 service across parts of the West End will be axed next year along with other services including the sheltered housing shopping bus service.



The 204 - although it sadly does not serve some of its original area around Newhall Gardens, Invergowrie Drive and Glamis Drive - remains a vital service for residents in the Magdalen Yard Road/Windsor Street area and also in Scott Street and Tullideph Road - all streets that lack main bus services. The sheltered shopping bus service runs services on Tuesdays for folk at Tullideph, Logie and Pine Court and on Thursdays for folk in Corso/Abbotsford, Pennycook Court, Muirlands and Paton's Lane - taking shoppers to Tesco Riverside to shop and back afterwards. In addition, the "Out and About" service that takes older folk on day trips will also see its funding withdrawn.

Michael and Fraser strongly opposed the bus services cuts that will impact especially on older residents. Michael said, "In the totality of the council budget, the savings from these cuts are minor and alternative savings could have been found. Taking away these services is indefensible. We will continue to campaign to save them before the axe falls in April 2024."



❖ **Street lighting south of Ninewells Hospital** : Residents recently contacted the West End Focus Team about the inadequate street lighting near Ninewells Hospital in the path past Maggie’s Centre towards the Technology Park - behind the Carseview Centre.

Fraser checked with the council’s street lighting partnership but the paths are not in the council’s ownership. He therefore took up the matter with NHS Tayside which has checked its ownership and part of the area is its responsibility.

NHS Tayside will now ensure the paths are inspected and will consider investment in additional lighting ‘alongside other demands on a risk profile basis.’ The Focus Team will continue to press for improved lighting here.



❖ **Planters in Blackness Avenue** : Residents contacted Fraser and Michael recently about the unloved state of the planters at the bottom of Blackness Avenue, opposite Blackness Library.

The Focus Team contacted the council’s environment management and the planters were thereafter cleaned up and a commitment has been given to ensure they are restocked with new plants.

❖ **Junctions of Benvie Road with Mitchell Street & with Fyffe Street** : Residents contacted the West End Focus Team about the very worn white junction lining at these two junctions in Benvie Road.

Michael said, “We took this matter up with the Roads Maintenance Partnership along with the need for resurfacing at both junctions. Refreshed white lining is now promised although we have been advised there’s not enough funding for resurfacing at present. There is definitely a need for greater capital funding for roads and the Liberal Democrat Group will continue to campaign for this.”



The Focus Team was also contacted about very faded white lining down Ninewells Avenue north of the entrance to Ninewells Hospital. Having already successfully asked for a refresh of the lining south of the entrance, Fraser and Michael asked for fresh lining in the northern section and this has been agreed to.

❖ **Pentland issues** : Michael and Fraser have, on behalf of residents in Pentland, assisted with several issues in the area recently including bin collection issues, overgrown bushes and grass cutting.



❖ **Blackness Court** : Over a long period, Fraser and Michael have received concerns from residents in both parts of Blackness Court - 161 and 163 - around problems with the heating system, including non-functioning heaters and heating that was impossible to control - in some cases being permanently switched on, making properties stiflingly hot in summer months.

Following raising this with landlords Home Group on a number of occasions, they were pleased to be recently advised that both Blackness Court buildings have been included in this year’s heating replacement programme. The work is targeted to start in July and should be completed by September.

**Cllr Michael Crichton and Cllr Fraser Macpherson
work all year round for the West End**



Latest West End news from Cllr Michael Crichton & Cllr Fraser Macpherson



❖ **Roads and pavements improvements** : The road surface in West Park Road roughly north of the junction with Beechwood Terrace up to Blackness Road is in very poor condition - see photo left. Last year, Fraser and Michael asked for it to be included in the 2023/24 capital programme for resurfacing and this was agreed by the Roads Maintenance Partnership.

However, thanks to the cut in the Roads Maintenance Partnership budget made by the SNP council administration, it did not make it into the finalised programme. The Focus Team has been assured it is at the top of next year's list and, should any roads project not go ahead this year, it would be first to be added back into this year's programme.



Michael and Fraser have also reported roads improvements required in numerous other West End locations including the Invergowrie Drive/Perth Road junction (pictured - right), Marchfield Road/Crescent and Forest Park Place.



❖ **Footbridge south of Harris Academy** : Unfortunately, some months ago, there was vandalism of the footbridge over the rail line south of Harris Academy, which has resulted in the footbridge being closed.

The repair has taken some time for the council to arrange as requires a rail line possession agreement with Network Rail. The tender was recently agreed by the council's City Development Committee at which Michael sought and was given an assurance that the footbridge should be re-opened before the end of the school summer holidays.

❖ **Planet Trail at Balgay Park** : Fraser recently took part in a walkabout round Balgay Park to discuss park management issues - kindly organised by the Chair of West End Community Council, with two senior members of the council environment team also attending.

Numerous issues were discussed and agreed - the state of paths and the roadway, weeds, signage and the condition of notice boards being examples.

Further to the residents' concerns about the state of the Planet Trail in the park, mentioned in the last edition of Focus, Fraser has now been assured the Perspex in the Planet Trail signage will be renewed. He is also grateful to the local resident who has kindly offered to redesign/remake the images for the boards.

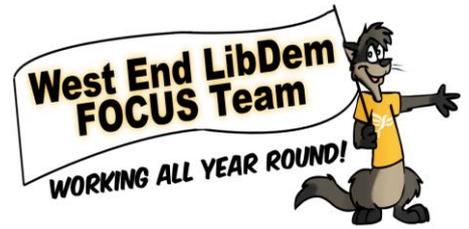


Keep up with the West End News ...

In addition to the regular FOCUS newsletter, Michael and Fraser also do daily on-line West End updates :

- * Our West End Facebook Page covers West End news and other Dundee updates and now has over 3 150 followers. You can view it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dundeewestend
- * Our Twitter followers are over 3 200 - again covering West End updates and other local news and events - follow Michael and Fraser on Twitter at @dundeewestend
- * There are also daily West End updates on our West End Blog at www.dundeewestend.scot

❖ **Graffiti issues tackled** : The Focus Team has raised a number of concerns about graffiti recently and raised these with the council's Rapid Response Team to get graffiti removed. This included graffiti along the path from Bankmill Road to Rosefield Place.



❖ **Tennis Courts at Victoria Park** : Michael is pictured - left - at the tennis courts which were needing a clean-up to make them playable, given the amount of leaves and other debris lying. Following residents' concerns, Fraser and Michael got in touch with environment management to ensure there was a tidy-up.

Fraser and Michael have welcomed news that Victoria Park will be one of eight parks' tennis facilities that will benefit from a Lawn Tennis Association parks investment programme.

❖ **Tullideph Road** : Some time ago, a lorry damaged one of the street trees in Tullideph Road, near the junction with Ancrum Road. The tree was badly damaged and had to be removed.

Fraser and Michael raised residents' requests that a new tree be planted and the council's Forestry Officer has given a commitment to do this during the 2023/24 planting season or earlier if possible.

The FOCUS "Grumble Sheet" : The West End Focus Team is here to help. If you have a problem or complaint that you'd like sorted, let Councillor Fraser Macpherson, Councillor Michael Crichton and the Focus Team help.



My problem/suggestion/complaint is:

Your Name _____
Your Address _____ Postcode _____
Phone number _____ E-mail Address (if any) _____

Post this to Michael and Fraser at our Freepost address :
Freepost DUNDEE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
(please just write Freepost DUNDEE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS all on one line on your envelope)
You can alternatively e-mail your grumble to westendfocus@dundeelibdems.org.uk