

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

Edition 112

Spring 2023 edition



Latest updates from Michael, Fraser and the Focus team!

Councillor Fraser Macpherson, Councillor Michael Crichton and the West End Focus Team are grateful to all residents who have been in touch recently about local issues.

The Focus Team is always pleased to assist anyone in the West End with any concerns, problems or queries.



Michael and Fraser hold weekly ward surgeries during school term time as follows :



Tuesdays - Councillor Fraser Macpherson

5pm prompt - Blackness Library

5.45pm prompt - Ancrum Road Primary School

Thursdays - Councillor Michael Crichton

5.45pm prompt - West End Campus (entrance to St Joseph's RC and Victoria Park Primary Schools)

6.30pm prompt - Harris Academy



Since last year's election, Fraser and Michael have also held meetings for residents in the Logie area, Sinderins and Pennycook Courts, the Corso/Abbotsford area, Morven Terrace/Ancrum Place, Blackness Court and the Tullideph area and more will be held in the coming months.

Getting in touch! 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.



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 3 100 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



❖ **Tidy-ups required across the West End** : Michael and Fraser continue to raise residents' concerns about tidy-ups required across our area. The council has agreed to the Focus Team's requests to have the paths at the Union Place car park tidied as well as the area round the car park in Polepark Road and the adjacent grass area. They have also raised the need for better management of Balgay Park - in particular the need for improved maintenance of the Planet Trail.



❖ **Road safety - Blackness Avenue** : Michael is pictured (left) in Blackness Avenue near the Lytton Street junction during works to install a traffic island to assist pedestrians to cross this busy road.

The Focus Team had, following residents' requests for better crossing facilities, asked for a signalised crossing further up Blackness Avenue and, although numbers crossing did not meet the criteria for this, council roads engineers agreed to a traffic island to let pedestrians safely break their crossing half way across the street.

❖ **Secure cycle parking** : The council is proposing secure residential cycle parking facilities at numerous locations across the city. West End identified locations are Stephens Yard off Shepherds Loan, Cleghorn Street, Miller's Wynd, Rosefield Street, Roseangle, Saggar Street and Polepark Road. Fraser and Michael have made suggestions to the City Council about where some of these could be located off-street to ensure no loss of existing parking.

❖ **Path from Tait's Lane to Peddie Street** : Residents will recall that Michael and Fraser have previously highlighted the unkempt state of this path, particularly the planters and a lot of graffiti. There's now been a couple of site visits to discuss a positive future for the planters and Fraser and Michael are grateful to a local resident who has proposed community use of the planters for growing herbs, vegetables, fruits or flowers.



Given the waiting list for allotments, this is a really good idea and the council has agreed to bring the site up to a standard where this can happen. If any resident is interested in getting involved, please e-mail peddietaits@gmail.com - many thanks.

❖ **Bus issues** : Fraser recently met with the new director and general manager of Xplore Dundee and discussed bus service reliability. The council has finally made progress with replacing timetables at bus stops with 350 stops now having correct information. Michael and Fraser have also been pressing for publicity for the Stagecoach Service 39 which now serves the very western end of Perth Road, together with the need for an additional bus stop opposite Clovis Duveau Drive.

❖ **Roads and pavements improvements** : Fraser is pictured (right) in Dunmore Gardens during the recent much needed road resurfacing - along with Dunmore Drive. The Focus Team had long-raised the need for a new road surface given the really poor road condition in both streets.



Michael and Fraser have sought assurances that the much-needed resurfacing in Rockfield Crescent will take place in the near future and have also raised the need for road repairs in many other West End streets including Tullideph Place, Colinton Place, Bellefield Avenue and Saggar Street. They are pleased to report that the poor road surface in Sycamore Place near Balgay Road is scheduled for resurfacing in the new financial year.

Fraser and Michael - keeping in touch - all year round!



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

❖ **City Council revenue budget 2023/24** : The Liberal Democrat Group had a fully-costed alternative budget proposal to the SNP administration's budget that would have seen a far better outcome for residents including :

- **Street cleaning improvements** - We proposed re-employing every single street cleaning post that has been lost since 2015 under the SNP - some 39 posts - to get the city back into a much cleaner state. We would also have cut the bulky uplifts and brown bin charges - not increased them as the SNP has done.
- **Pavements and roads upgrades** - Our proposals would have seen an extra £3 million spent this year on roads and pavements resurfacing - badly needed given the state of so many roads and footpaths across the city.
- **Council Tax kept down** - Given soaring inflation, food prices and energy bills, Liberal Democrats proposed keeping the council tax increase down to just 1% - as opposed to the SNP's large increase of 4.75%.
- **Local shopping and car parks in the West End** - Liberal Democrats had a package of investment in shopping areas including City Centre and Perth Road and also proposed scrapping car parking charges in seven West End car parks completely to help residents.
- **Saving local buses** - The SNP council administration has 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. We strongly opposed the bus services cuts that will impact especially on older residents.



❖ **Invergowrie Medical Practice** : Further to the previous unfortunate closure of GP services at the Ryehill Health Centre, Fraser and Michael were dismayed at the recent doubt over future GP services at the Invergowrie Medical Practice. Although across the local authority boundary with Perth and Kinross, nearly 350 patients live in Dundee - 108 of them in the West End.



The Focus Team has spoken with a number of residents and has corresponded with Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership about the situation.

❖ **Ancrum Place and Morven Terrace sheltered housing** : At the council's Neighbourhood Services Committee recently, Michael welcomed a tender proposal to install controlled entry systems to the upper floors of the housing in Morven Terrace and Ancrum Place.

❖ **Tullideph Road paths** : In the last edition of West End Focus, the Focus Team highlighted the poor condition of the paths at the back of the flats on Tullideph Road that back onto Loganlee Terrace.



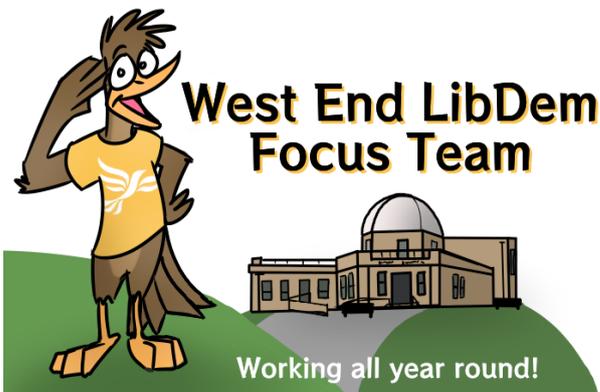
Fraser and Michael raised this with the City Council and we are pleased with the new paths since laid - see right.

❖ **Elliot Road playing fields** : Fraser has now taken part in two meetings to look at improvements to the poor-conditioned tennis courts at the Elliot Road playing fields and a project to progress a multi-use games area is being progressed.

❖ **Road safety - Balgay Road/Blackness Road/Blackness Avenue** : Promised road safety improvements at this junction have now been installed and Michael and Fraser are closely monitoring this going forward, given previous concerns about the accident record here.

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





❖ **Flooding at Riverside recycling centre** : Fraser and Michael have been in regular touch with environment management about flooding at the recycling facility that has led to some short-term closures. The council is taking flooding alleviation steps to tackle this problem.

❖ **Eurobin mess issues** : The Focus Team has tackled a number of spillage/mess issues at various locations including Rosefield Place, Saggart Street and Blackness Street.

❖ **Victoria Park** : Michael is pictured (right) at the entrance to the Victoria Park playpark. The Focus Team has asked for repairs at the gates and for proper latches to be fitted to each gate.



❖ **Perth Road sites** : Fraser and Michael have written to the new owners of the sites on Perth Road at the corner of Ryehill Lane and at the top of Westfield Lane asking them to tidy the sites which were previously owned by JC Decaux.



❖ **Real time information - Glamis Road** : The Focus Team has raised with the City Council the non-functioning bus real time information at the stop in Glamis Road adjacent to Balgay Cemetery.



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