

from Jenny Blain, Cllr Daniel Coleman
and the local Liberal Democrats



Edition 57
September 2024

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Strathmartine news from Jenny, Daniel and the Strathmartine Focus team!



Welcome to Strathmartine Focus Edition 57.

Jenny Blain, Councillor Daniel Coleman and the Strathmartine Focus Team are grateful to all residents who have been in touch recently about local concerns, problems and queries.

We are always pleased to help! We can be contacted at strathmartine@dundeelibdems.org.uk and Daniel has his weekly councillor ward surgeries as follows :

First Thursday of each month :

5.45pm prompt - Ardler Complex,
Turnberry Avenue

(pictured - right)

Second Thursday of each month :

5.45pm prompt - St Mary's Community
Facility, St Kilda Road



Third Thursday of each month :

5.45pm prompt - Kirkton Community Centre,
Derwent Avenue

Fourth Thursday of each month :

5.45pm prompt - Garry Place sheltered housing
lounge

All welcome and no appointment necessary.



Macalpine shops - positive news : As residents are aware, the Strathmartine Focus Team has long campaigned to ensure that the owners of the derelict block of shops in Macalpine Road are demolished as they have been a long-standing eyesore.

Jenny and Daniel are photographed there - left - and are pleased to report that progress has finally been made on the redirection of a BT Openreach cable that was holding up removal of the shop units. It is therefore hoped that demolition should finally take place soon.

Keep up with Strathmartine updates ...

In addition to the regular Focus newsletter, Jenny and Daniel also do daily on-line updates :



-  ❖ Their Strathmartine Facebook Page covers local news and now has around 1450 followers. You can view it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/danielcoleman.strathmartine
-  ❖ Their X/Twitter followers are over 850 - again covering Strathmartine updates and other local news and events - follow Daniel and Jenny on X/Twitter at [@ColemanDundee](https://twitter.com/ColemanDundee)



Strathmartine updates from Jenny Blain and Cllr Daniel Coleman

WORKING FOR
STRATHMARTINE
ALL YEAR ROUND!



❖ **Zip-wire at Clatto :** Jenny and Daniel are pictured - right - at the zip-wire at the playpark at Clatto which had been out of action for some time.

Daniel said, “After both the Friends of Clatto and I raised the fact that the zip-wire wasn’t working, a “repair” was undertaken by the council. However, the tension on the wire was still not correct rendering the zip-wire unusable. The Focus Team has continued to raise this with the council to ensure it was fixed properly.”



Jenny added, “We are very grateful to the Friends of Clatto for also raising this continually and tenaciously. Play equipment must be well-maintained by the City Council.”



❖ **Improving public transport across Dundee :** Strathmartine Focus edition 55 highlighted that Dundee Liberal Democrat councillors were opposing proposals by the SNP-controlled council to remove dozens of bus stops across Dundee. The logic of making passengers walk further to get to a bus stop makes absolutely no sense and there is no evidence that fewer bus stops would speed up bus journeys as the council claimed.

Jenny is pictured (left) at the bus stop and shelter in St Kilda Road outside the community facility which was one stop/shelter earmarked for removal. However, the council proposals envisaged other stops being removed including in Birkdale Place, Old Glamis Road, Laird Street, Strathmartine Road and Turnberry Avenue.

Jenny said, “The feedback we had to our previous article about council plans to remove bus stops showed that local residents strongly opposed this. The council would be better putting its efforts into repairing vandalised bus shelters, cleaning shelters and also ensuring all bus stops have up to date bus timetables, rather than wasting time and public money reducing the number of bus stops.

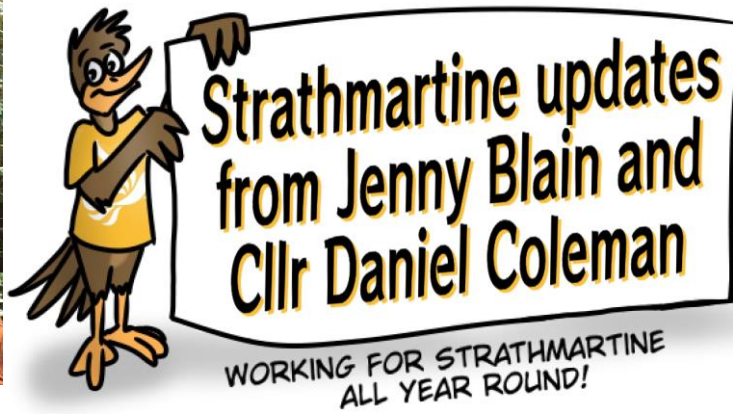
“As your new councillor after 3rd October, along with Daniel, I will also campaign to ensure that the shoppers’ bus for sheltered tenants in Strathmartine and across Dundee is reinstated. This was axed by the SNP in August - a miserable cut that impacted on older residents. Liberal Democrat councillors will continue to work to ensure the service is reinstated.”

❖ **Save the Winter Fuel Allowance!** : One of the first actions of the new Labour Government was to axe winter fuel allowance for all pensioners in England and Wales who are not in receipt of Pension Credit. Disgracefully, the SNP Scottish Government has also decided to do the same to Scottish pensioners who do not receive Pension Credit.



Jenny said, “Both Labour and the SNP have failed older people by axing Winter Fuel Allowance for most pensioners. Hundreds of pensioners across Dundee will be worried about losing this vital support and how they will afford their energy bills this winter.

“Stripping support from many of the poorest pensioners in Dundee just when energy bills are set to rise again is simply wrong. Liberal Democrats are campaigning in parliament to save the allowance for all pensioners.”



❖ **Save Caird Park golf course** : Dundee’s Liberal Democrat councillors have strongly opposed unwelcome and unnecessary SNP “consultation” proposals to close Caird Park Golf Course, Broughty Castle and Mills Observatory. Daniel is pictured (right) attending the consultation event about the future of Caird Park Golf Course at the regional performance centre in the park, where he made clear his opposition to any attempts to close the golf course.



Jenny added, “When this was first proposed by the SNP council administration earlier this year, Liberal Democrat councillors made it absolutely clear that we do not wish to see these attractions downgraded let alone closed and we will look to ensure there is funding to keep all three facilities open into the future.”

❖ **Future of Kirkton Community Centre** : Last year, when the SNP council administration pushed through a proposal to close the Kirkton Community Centre.

Liberal Democrat councillors strongly opposed this, with Daniel proposing that any decision on the future of the community centre should be deferred pending further and better consultation with the local management group and the wider community.

Jenny said, “Daniel and I will continue to campaign for any changes to community facilities in Kirkton to be made only with the consent of the Kirkton community. Demolishing the popular community centre and trying to move all activities to Baldrigon Academy and St Paul’s RC Academy is not acceptable. It is clear to us that the local community wants and deserves a proper stand-alone community centre as it has had since the 1970s.”



❖ **Roads improvements across Strathmartine** : As residents know, the Focus Team reports many roads across our area that residents report are in need of repair.



Jenny is photographed (left) in Gleneagles Lane where the road surface is badly deteriorated and the photo - right - is of the terrible road surface in Americanmuir Road at the junction with Strathmartine Road.



Jenny said, “As well as reporting all poor road surfaces in our area to get them repaired, at the council’s revenue budget, the Liberal Democrat Group proposed an additional £2 million next year for roads resurfacing and £1 million on pavements resurfacing to properly tackle the state of many footpaths and road surfaces that we get so many complaints about.

“Unfortunately, the SNP voted down the LibDem budget proposals 15-12, but we will continue to campaign for roads and pavements improvements across our local area.”



Jenny Blain and Councillor Daniel Coleman work all year round for our local area!

We're all backing Jenny!

Strathmartine councillor Daniel Coleman is delighted that Jenny Blain from the Strathmartine Liberal Democrat Focus Team is standing to join him as one of the Strathmartine Ward councillors.

Daniel said, "Other parties will be knocking at your door asking for your vote but **only** the Liberal Democrats keep in touch all year round through the Strathmartine Focus newsletter. Jenny will continue our tradition of working hard for our local area and keeping in touch with residents."

Former Strathmartine councillor Helen Dick, who represented our area for 9 years until her retirement in 2012, added, "Jenny is a local resident like me, and I am pleased that through Jenny, Daniel and the Focus team, the tradition of the Focus Team working hard for local residents continues with the team updating residents regularly through the Strathmartine Focus newsletter - now in its 22nd year."



"It is great to see a team that stands up for our local community and gets things done. Just like Daniel, Jenny will represent the Strathmartine area well."

Claudia, Downfield

"Jenny will make a fantastic councillor, working hard for us all year round for everyone in the Strathmartine area."

Chris, Downfield.



"Daniel and Jenny work hard for everyone locally. They have a record of action in the Strathmartine area."

Joyce, St Mary's

Get another really hard-working councillor for our local area :

JENNY BLAIN

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