

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



Edition 114

May 2024 edition



Latest news from Fraser, Michael and the West End Focus team!



Welcome to West End Focus Edition 114.

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 concerns, problems and queries.

We are always pleased to help! 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.

Our weekly ward surgeries 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

Bus service - west end of Perth Road : Residents will be aware of the recent unfortunate announcement by Stagecoach of cuts to its bus services between Dundee and Perth that see the axing of the X7 and 16 bus services from 13th May. The Focus Team wrote to the Managing Director of Stagecoach East Scotland calling for the bus company to reconsider its original proposals.

The company thereafter announced an extended service 39 to cover the Dundee-Perth route. However, at the time of going to print, there are concerns that this service may miss out the far west end of Perth Road (which the 39 has covered since October 2022) which could leave the area around Millbay Terrace, Millbay Gardens and Clovis Duveau Drive without a bus service. Fraser and Michael have taken this up with both the City Council and Stagecoach as we are anxious this area continues to receive a bus service.

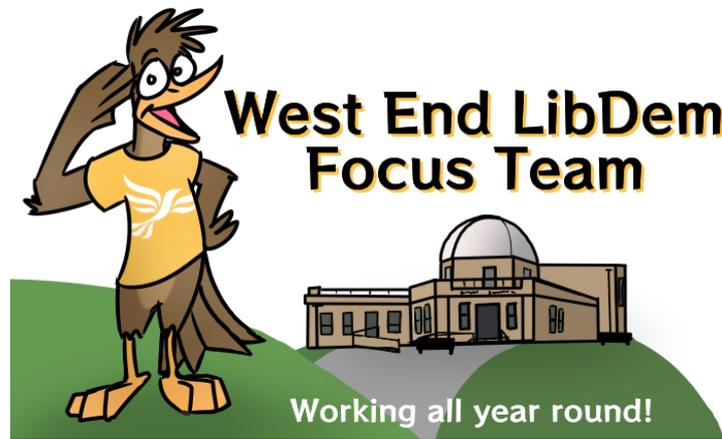


Keep up with West End updates ...



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 3 350 followers. You can view it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dundeewestend
- ❖ Our X/Twitter followers are over 3 250 - again covering West End updates and other local news and events - follow Michael and Fraser on X/Twitter at [@dundeewestend](https://twitter.com/dundeewestend)
- ❖ There are also daily West End updates on our West End Blog at www.dundeewestend.scot



Roads and pavements improvements in the West End

The City Council’s Roads Maintenance Partnership has published its proposed roads and footpaths resurfacing and improvements programme for the new financial year and the West End proposed work included :

Adopted Footway Programme 2024-25

- None at all in the West End

Non-adopted Paths Programme 2024-25

- None at all in the West End

Carriageway Resurfacing Programme 2024-25

- **Riverside Avenue** - at Perth Road Junction
- **Roseangle** (patches full length of road)
 - **Sycamore Place** (whole road)
- **West Park Road** - Blackness Road to Beechwood Terrace

Whilst any pavements and roads improvements are welcome, the current budget is wholly inadequate and far too few roads and footpaths are being upgraded. It is particularly stark this year and brings into focus the bad effect of many years of SNP under-investment in pavements and roads.

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 and Conservatives combined to vote down the LibDem budget proposals 15-12, but Fraser and Michael will continue to campaign for roads and pavements improvements across the West End.



❖ **Logie area - road safety** : Following requests from Logie residents over the years about the need for a lower speed limit in the area given the very narrow streets and many elderly residents, the council is now consulting on a possible 20mph zone which would cover Logie and some surrounding areas such as the Forest Park and Cleghorn areas and part of City Road and surrounding streets.

❖ **Residents’ meetings** : Fraser recently held a very well-attended meeting for the residents of the Abbotsford/Corso area to discuss local issues. Dundee City Council housing officers and Police Scotland representatives also took part. Michael and Fraser are organising a number of similar meetings in other parts of the West End Ward in the coming weeks.

Blackness Library railings : Michael is pictured (right) outside Blackness Library where the railings are badly needing a repaint. The Focus Team has asked that Community Payback repaints these and also repaints the railings at the nearby “Sinderins triangle” which could also do with a fresh coat of paint.



Feedback from residents to the environmental improvements at the “Sinderins triangle” and also at the Miller’s Wynd car park and at the bottom of Pennycook Lane has been very positive.

❖ **Loganlee Terrace** : The Focus Team raised residents’ concerns about rutting of the grass in Loganlee Terrace that took place when a tree needed to be urgently removed. The Forestry Officer has given assurances that the grass will be properly reinstated.

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



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

❖ **West End schools issues improvements** : Fraser is pictured - right - at the pedestrian crossing in Ancrum Road just outside Ancrum Road Primary School. In the space of just 24 hours, the old crossing was hit twice by vehicles and the Focus Team urgently raised this with the City Council. A new crossing was promptly installed. The Focus Team has also raised the need for permanent school crossing patrollers at both Ancrum Road Primary School crossings (Logie Street and Ancrum Road).

Michael and Fraser have repeatedly raised the need to complete the repairs at the West End Campus following last year's fire at the St Joseph's RC side of the campus. The repairs have frustratingly taken some time due to the requirement for tendering by the insurer, but it is hoped the remainder of the works will be completed soon.

Fraser and Michael have also raised the need to replace the badly damaged low fencing in the path from Hawkhill down Pennycook Lane used by pupils of Blackness Primary School.



❖ **Ryehill police station** : Michael and Fraser have made clear their strong opposition to Police Scotland proposals to close Ryehill Police Station. They raised these concerns with the police area commander and made clear that Police Scotland must consider possible shared/community use which was a police commitment when its previous closure proposal was withdrawn in 2016.

❖ **Postal deliveries across the West End** : In the past few months, Fraser and Michael have received numerous concerns around post not arriving on time and deliveries not being daily. Complaints have come from various parts of the West End including Pitfour Street, Forest Park Road, Ancrum Drive and Blackness Avenue.

The Focus Team raised these with the Royal Mail's Public Affairs Manager who gave assurances about future deliveries.



❖ **Kinloch Park fencing** : Residents raised with Michael and Fraser the fallen boundary fencing with the Ninewells Hospital site at Kinloch Park - see left. The Focus Team contacted NHS Tayside whose legal team confirmed repair responsibility lay with the original Kinloch Park house builder.

The Focus Team therefore wrote to the house builder requesting repairs.

❖ **Magdalen Green replacement footbridge proposal** : As residents will be aware, the City Council has a proposal to replace the current footbridge across the rail line at Magdalen Green.

Michael said, "What's clear from feedback from residents thus far is that there is a wide variety of views on the proposal. However, it is vital that everyone locally has the opportunity to give their views to Stantec, the company undertaking the consultation and have these taken into account.

"We are very concerned at the way the consultation has been carried out as in the current phase there is no opportunity as part of the formal consultation for residents who are not part of a community group to meet face to face with the project and consultation team. Also, the consultation makes erroneous assumptions that everyone has internet access to give feedback online."

Fraser added, "I have raised our concerns about the consultation with the council's Chief Executive. Whilst there will be differing views on the proposal, it is vital there is a good quality consultation and everyone feels they have been given the opportunity to give their views on what is being proposed."

❖ **Menziesshill Road** : The Focus Team received residents' requests for a handrail on the steep path from the west end of Menziesshill Road up to Ninewells Avenue. The team raised this with the council and it has been added to the list for future works.



❖ **Roseangle** : Michael and Fraser have raised with the council the need for some playpark repairs at Roseangle (see example - right) and also raised regular flooding concerns at the south end of Roseangle.



City Council revenue budget 2024/25 : 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 :

- **West End issues** - Fraser and Michael strongly opposed the possibility of the closure of the Mills Observatory. Thankfully this was not in the event included in any party’s council budget proposals this year. However, the SNP administration pushed through a consultation on the future of the observatory which Michael and Fraser opposed saying it is tantamount to a “Sword of Damocles” for the staff and observatory users. They are adamant that the observatory must remain open into the future.
- **Local shopping and car parks in the West End** - Liberal Democrats had a package of investment in shopping areas, including the West End, and also proposed scrapping parking charges in seven West End car parks to help footfall in local businesses and residents who use these car parks.
- **Saving local buses** - The Liberal Democrats were the **only** group on the council to attempt to save all the supported bus services across Dundee from the axe proposed by the SNP administration. Sadly, our budget proposals lost the vote 15-12 and this means the end of West End service 204 along with other services in Dundee. The sheltered housing shopping bus service had a short stay of execution to the end of June while a local charity attempts to get external funding to save this valuable service for elderly residents.
- **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.

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