

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

Edition 115

April 2025 edition



Spring 2025 updates from Fraser, Michael and the West End Focus team!

Welcome to West End Focus Edition 115! 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.

Fraser and Michael made changes to their surgeries from the start of February taking into account residents' feedback and they are now doing surgeries jointly on Tuesdays as follows :

- * Blackness Library (Tuesdays 5pm - every week during school term time)
- * Harris Academy reception area (2nd Tuesday of each month at 5.45pm during school term time)
- * Ancrum Road Primary School (1st Tuesday of each month at 5.45pm during school term time)
- * West End Campus (come to reception area of St Joseph's RC PS and Victoria Park PS) - (3rd Tuesday of each month at 5.45pm during school term time)

There are also additional pop-up street surgeries, usually on Thursdays, which will be advertised regularly.

Dundee City Council revenue budget 2025/26



At this year's council budget the SNP council administration increased the council tax by 8% and forced through cuts to school budgets of over £½ million - taking, for example, £85 000 out of Harris Academy's budget and £78 000 out of St John's RC High School's budget. It also cut council support to arts and cultural organisations such as Dundee Rep and DCA. Labour supported these cuts.

The LibDem budget proposals avoided taking the school budget and arts and cultural cuts by reducing expenditure in other areas - such as purchasing furniture, removing the second civic vehicle, reducing hospitality budgets and axing alcohol purchases. This would have kept the council tax increase under 5%.

Liberal Democrat proposals would also have seen more street cleaning, forestry and animal control staff, reduced the garden waste and bulky uplifts charge and removed parking charges from seven West End car parks. The SNP won the vote against LibDem proposals 15-5 but Michael and Fraser will continue to campaign for better value for council tax payers from Dundee City Council.

Kinloch Park : Fraser and Michael are pictured (right) in Kinloch Park where the City Council will shortly consult residents on possibly increasing the amount of yellow lines in the street to tackle weekday parking by non-residents.

The council has confirmed it will write to every resident in the street seeking their views before a final recommendation is made on any changes to waiting restrictions.





❖ **West End sheltered area meetings** : In the coming weeks, in addition to weekly surgeries, Michael and Fraser will be holding another round of meetings with tenants in sheltered housing across the West End.

Michael said, “We have had numerous requests for tenants’ meetings - in particular from Logie. We are concerned that the council has put back the start date for internal insulation improvements at Logie to 2027/28. This has dragged on far too long and we will ask that senior housing staff attend our Logie meeting to discuss this with tenants.”

❖ **Perth Road pavement trip hazard tackled** : Unfortunately, two elderly residents have tripped and had falls on Perth Road’s north side just west of Blackness Library. Some of the slabbing there was uneven.

The LibDem Focus Team asked the City Council to undertake repairs and Fraser is pictured (right) where some repairs have since been carried out. However, Michael and Fraser have also asked the council to look at other slabs as, in their view, further repairs are required.



❖ **Lochee Road - pedestrian crossing safety** : Residents drew to the Focus Team’s attention concerns about the functioning of the pedestrian crossing on Lochee Road just east of the traffic lights at Dudhope Terrace. Fraser and Michael therefore asked the council’s road safety team to look at the operation of the junction.

❖ **Royal Mail postal deliveries across the West End** : Residents will recall that Michael and Fraser raised the issue of erratic and/or late post deliveries in the last edition of West End Focus.

Following this, they received further concerns from other streets such as Oxford Street and part of Blackness Road, which they have raised with Royal Mail’s Public Affairs Manager. Please let Fraser and Michael know if you have experienced postal delivery issues recently - many thanks.

❖ **St Joseph’s Court - street signs** : Residents reported to the West End Focus Team that both street signs at the entrance to St Joseph’s Court are missing.

Michael and Fraser are pictured there (right) and they raised this with the Roads Maintenance Partnership which has since raised an Order for new street signs here.



❖ **Derelict buildings in the West End** : Fraser and Michael have sought updates from Dundee City Council on progress with bringing some long-term empty properties in the West End back into a positive use - including Queen Victoria Works in Brook Street and two buildings in Roseangle. They have also raised residents’ questions about the former Laurie’s Nursery site on Perth Road west of the junction with Riverside Drive.

This has planning consent for a care home which must be commenced by October if the consent is to remain valid. Michael and Fraser have also raised the overgrown state of the site.



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

West End roads and pavements improvements : The City Council's Roads Maintenance Partnership recently 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 2025-26

- Lochee Road - Mitchell Street to Tullideph Road
- Perth Road - Westfield Place to Greenfield Place
- Tay Square - north west - replacement slabbing
- Annfield Street - south side full length
- Jedburgh Road - north side from Blackness Road to Kelso Street

Non-adopted programme 2025-26

- Balgay Cemetery - roads

Carriageway Resurfacing Programme 2025-26

- Roseangle - improvements to the setts - this work is actually carried over from 2024-25
- Jedburgh Road - full length
- Ancrum Road and Charleston Drive - Elmwood Road to No. 69 Ancrum Road (the Charleston Drive section is not in the West End Ward)



Any pavements and roads improvements are welcome and Fraser and Michael are pleased that their constant highlighting of the awful state of Jedburgh Road (see left) has resulted in it being included in the resurfacing programme. However, they had also asked for Kelso Street and Kelso Place that adjoin Jedburgh Road and are in a poor state also be included, but there was not enough funding in the budget to allow for this in 2025/26.

The roads and pavements budget is wholly inadequate and far too few roads and footpaths are being upgraded. It is very clear from recent years' programmes that many years of SNP under-investment in pavements and roads is leading to this situation.

At the council's revenue budget, the Liberal Democrat Group proposed an additional £1 million next year for roads resurfacing and £500 000 on pavements resurfacing. Unfortunately, the SNP voted down the LibDem budget proposals 15-5, but Fraser and Michael continue to campaign for roads and pavements improvements across the West End.

❖ **204 West End and sheltered shopping bus services** : As residents will recall, despite opposition from the LibDem councillors, the SNP council administration last year axed the 204 bus service that covered parts of the area that had no bus service, such as Windsor Street/Magdalen Yard Road.

It also axed the sheltered shopping bus service that took elderly residents to/from a supermarket once a week.

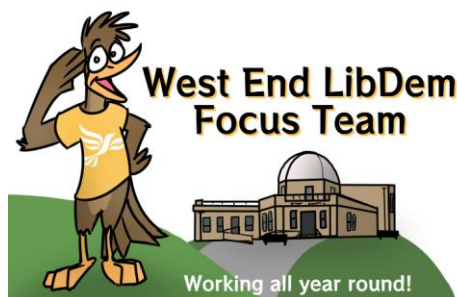
Michael and Fraser tried to reinstate these services at this year's budget but unfortunately the SNP voted this down.



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 :

- * Their West End Facebook Page covers West End news and other Dundee updates and now has around 3 450 followers. You can view it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dundeewestend
- * They are also on X/Twitter at @dundeewestend - and additionally now on Instagram, Threads and Bluesky - just search for @dundeewestend on these platforms
- * There are also daily West End updates on our West End Blog at www.dundeewestend.scot



❖ **Friary Gardens** : During one of the Focus Team's regular street surgeries, Michael spoke with Friary Gardens residents about the overgrown foliage across the north footpath - including a large part of a fallen tree. The Focus Team has raised this with the City Council.

❖ **Street cleaning** : Michael is pictured (right) in Polepark Road where the Focus Team has had more concerns about the poor state of street cleaning particularly around the Eurobins.



The Focus Team raised this with the council's environment management - and also in other streets such as Fleuchar Street - and has received assurances that this will be tackled.

❖ **Pedestrian crossings - Perth Road** : The Focus Team has raised with the City Council requests for an additional pedestrian crossing for the Perth Road shopping area east of the existing one at Sainsbury's. The road safety team is undertaking a traffic survey to assist the process of looking at the viability of this.

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) _____

I would be willing to deliver Focus in a few streets near my home ☐

I would like to join West End Liberal Democrats ☐

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