

Air quality improvements at Lochee Road long overdue and utterly vital



Following last week's debate at Dundee City Council's Community Safety and Public Protection Committee on air quality in the city, as reported in the local media, I have called on Dundee City Council to ensure it acts on promises made to improve air quality in Lochee Road by tackling traffic congestion and reducing emissions in the street.

The report before committee included this commitment :

"Investigations into potential interventions to reduce both emissions and traffic congestion on the Lochee Road corridor will continue to be explored by the Head of Sustainable Transportation and Roads during the LEZ development process. These investigations will take a route corridor approach and take cognisance of potential traffic displacement onto other, less appropriate roads in residential areas. The route corridor review will also require to consider future bus priority, active travel and traffic congestion."

As residents know, I have long campaigned on air quality issues, particularly in relation to Lochee Road where, as recently as January 2020, I again highlighted deep concern that, yet again, leading air quality campaigners Friends of the Earth had highlighted air quality concerns in Lochee Road in its Scotland's most polluted streets survey with Seagate in the city also

highlighted in the January national air quality survey.

Whilst I welcomed the commitment to tackle the traffic congestion in Lochee Road, I pointed out at the council meeting that I have been pressing for this for many years, on behalf of my constituents who live in Lochee Road. There are a number of specific and affordable actions I made clear I want to see the council do immediately.

Firstly, tackle the junction with Cleghorn Street where, following minor accidents, the operation of the junction was to be reviewed for road safety reasons. This should tackle the tailbacks of traffic trying to turn into Lochee Road.

Secondly, the operation of the traffic lights at Polepark Road and Dudhope Terrace junctions need to be reviewed. If they were more efficient, we would see fewer tailbacks of cars and therefore a decrease of emissions into the air in the Lochee Road area. Following the committee meeting, I had a lengthy and useful discussion with a senior roads officer at the City Council about this and possible modelling to see what could be achieved by possible lights sequencing alterations.

I have highlighted that, earlier this year, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air published research showing many likely long-term health benefits from the pollution reductions in the UK and elsewhere in Europe, including fewer children developing asthma, fewer preterm births and fewer deaths long-term from better air.

It is therefore vital there is a proactive approach to tackling the air quality issue. I have raised this on numerous occasions with the council in the past and we need to see a situation where no Dundee streets have unacceptable air quality. A significant number of constituents live in the tenement flats on the south side of Lochee Road near to the junction where nitrogen dioxide are unacceptably high. It is therefore important that the council has a clear strategy for improving air quality here.

The proposed city centre low emission zone will help the surrounding area in particular in relation to buses that go up and down Lochee Road that have to access the city centre – they will have to be newer and cleaner. However, detailed work tackling the specific issues at particular streets with air quality issues, like Lochee Road, is vital.

Actions speak louder than words and we do need to see momentum to achieve a proper and lasting solution. Residents deserve to breathe clean air in every street in Dundee.

West End Community Council – election of additional community councillors



Nominations for West End Community Councillors

Dundee City Council is keen to encourage nominations of Community Councillors to join the West End Community Council.

The purpose of a Community Council is to:

- Act as a voice for local people
- Actively seek views and concerns in the area
- Make public bodies aware of local needs and opinions

If you wish to become a Community Councillor, you must have a completed nomination form returned to the Community Council Liaison Officer.

All relevant information on becoming a Community Councillor, a map of the West End Community Council boundary and nomination form can be viewed and downloaded online at: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/community-council-elections>. Alternatively, information and forms are available at Blackness Library. Current opening hours are:

Monday: 10:00-13:00
Tuesday: 14:00-17:00
Wednesday: 10:00-13:00
Friday: 14:00-17:00

Please contact Natalie Mackland (Community Council Liaison Officer): on 01382 436796 or natalie.mackland@dundee.gov.uk for more information.

Deadline for nominations: 30th October 2020

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West End Community Council is calling for nominations for new Community Councillors as there are spaces to fill. West End Community Council has space for up to 10 more Community Councillors.

In order to fill these spaces, there will be a recruitment period known formally as an 'election' where we call for nominations to join the Community Council.

Community Councils play an important role in the local West End community and are an important link between the community and public bodies.

It is important to note that West End Community Council's boundary does not cover the whole of the West End Ward as the Community Spirit Action Group covers areas like Pentland, Tullideph, Ancrim and areas around Forest Park Road, Cleghorn Street and Brook Street – the areas to the north of the ward.

The community council area is therefore most of the south of the ward – roughly everything south of Blackness Road east of Balgay Road, everything in the ward west of Balgay Road, plus the Logie area.

There are also conditions for eligibility in terms of age and being on the electoral register – all this information can be accessed online or in Blackness Library.

As this is a statutory group, there is a process and publicity format for nominations which started from this Monday (5th October) and forms must be completed and returned by 30th October.

More information is on the poster on how to obtain the information required online or via Blackness Library.

The community council is a great way to become involved with our local community so do please consider getting involved if you live in the community council area.

Getting things done – Perth Road #dundeewestend

As the saying goes, all things come to those who wait, and this particular update is a great example of that!

Absolutely ages ago, at the request of residents, I asked the City Council's Private Sector Services Unit to contact the agents of the tenement block at 142 Perth Road that had been graffitied (at some considerable height).

At the time, the problem for owners was access to the large area of graffiti but I am pleased to advise that, while the scaffold was up on the neighbouring block, one of the managing agents has arranged removal of the graffiti as the photos below highlight – my thanks to them :





[Weekly Road Report – West End Ward](#) [#dundeewestend](#)



DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL – WEEKLY ROAD REPORT

Forthcoming Roadworks

Blackness Road (at junction with Bellfield Street for a distance of 25m or thereby in an easterly direction) – closed from Monday 19 October for 3 days for BT work.

Blackness Road (at Bellfield Street) – temporary traffic lights from Monday 19 October for 3 days for BT work.

Riverside Drive (at Mayo Avenue) – off peak temporary traffic lights on Tuesday 27 October for maintenance work to DfT traffic sensors

[Latest update during the COVID-19 health emergency](#)

COVID-19

**Information updates from
Councillors Craig Duncan
and Fraser Macpherson**

Further update – for Sunday 4th October from Councillor Fraser Macpherson (West End) and Councillor Craig Duncan (Broughty Ferry)

FLU VACCINE ADVICE

NHS Tayside is encouraging members of the public in at-risk groups, as well as health and social care staff, to take up the offer of a free flu vaccination.

The seasonal flu vaccination programme has now launched and NHS Tayside will be offering those who are most at risk the opportunity to protect themselves from flu.

- People aged 65 and over, adults with a long-term health condition such as heart, lung or kidney diseases, unpaid carers, and those living with someone who was previously shielding should contact their GP to book an appointment. This year's flu vaccinations will be delivered in a variety of settings, so your appointment may not take place in your own practice.
- Primary school pupils will be offered the flu vaccination at their school, while parents of children aged 2-5 who are not yet at school, and young people aged 12-18 with a long-term condition should contact 01307 475240 to book an appointment.
- Pregnant women can access immunisation through their midwife.
- All NHS Tayside staff and frontline social care workers are also strongly encouraged to take up the offer of a flu jab to protect themselves and vulnerable people who may be more likely to suffer complications from flu. Staff will be made aware of opportunities to get vaccinated in healthcare settings, care homes and at community pharmacies across Tayside.

The second phase is planned to begin in December and will include those aged 55 to 64 (by 31 March 2021) who would not usually be eligible.

CARE HOME VISITS

We support the right of families to safely visit residents in care homes. Find out more about what is needed here:

https://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/care_visitors

STUDENT ADVICE

New guidance encourages students to remain on campus if they are able to do so. This guidance covers where students are isolating and require support to allow them to comply with the requirement to self-isolate. The household students are returning to are asked to also self-isolate and states that public transport should not be used.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/student-accommodation-guidance-on-visits-home/>

STUDENT CAMPAIGN

We have proposed five measures to help support and protect students following the outbreaks at many universities.

https://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/student_catastrophe

NEW GRANT FOR THOSE SELF ISOLATING

People on low incomes will be eligible to receive a new £500 grant if asked to self-isolate. The new Self-Isolation Support Grant will help those who would lose income if they need to self-isolate, such as those unable to carry out their work from home.

This grant is for those who will face financial hardship and will be targeted at people who are in receipt of Universal Credit or legacy benefits, with some discretion to make awards to others in financial hardship.

Applications are due to open from 12th October and will be delivered through the existing Scottish Welfare Fund, which is administered by local authorities.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-grant-for-those-self-isolating/>

PARENT AND BABY GROUP LIMITS

There has been a lot of concern about the limit of five adults at a time for parent and baby groups.

Our colleague Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP raised this directly with the First Minister in Parliament. She agreed to ask the Chief Medical Officer to look at greater flexibility for group sizes.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=399346058130217>

QUARANTINE COUNTRIES

Travellers arriving in Scotland from Turkey, Poland and the Caribbean islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba must quarantine on arrival.

They are required to self-isolate at home, or another specified address, for 14 days from 4am yesterday – Saturday 3rd October.

Those arriving from the Azores and Madeira no longer need to quarantine.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/quarantine-rules-imposed-on-travellers-from-further-destinations/>

INFORMATION

UK Government news: www.gov.uk/search/news-and-communications

Scottish Government Updates: www.gov.scot/news

Dundee City Council updates: www.dundeeccity.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19

NHS Inform –
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

NHS Tayside website: www.nhstayside.scot.nhs.uk

Helpline for those who do not have symptoms but are looking for general health advice Tel: 0800 028 2816.

Health Protection Scotland Guidance –
www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19

Federation of Small Businesses: www.fsb.org.uk/coronavirus

Helpline for small businesses, Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm. Tel: 0300 303 0660.

Ready Scotland Information – www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus

Tayside Cares – www.taysidecares.co.uk

SUPPORT AND ADVICE

This has been an anxious and uncertain time but we want you to know that we are here to try to help constituents in whatever way that we can.

CONTACT DETAILS

WEST END WARD – Bailie Fraser Macpherson

Phone – Dundee 459378 (home)

E-mail – fraser.macpherson@dundeecity.gov.uk

Facebook updates : www.facebook.com/dundeewestend