

West End News

February 2011 Update

from West End Ward councillor

Fraser Macpherson

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Thomson Street : After many months of road closure due to Scottish Water then Scotland Gas Networks works, I have welcomed an update the City Council has given me that Thomson Street is scheduled to re-open to through traffic in around three weeks' time.



This project has taken longer than planned and the residents have suffered many months of no through traffic and parking difficulties. It is good to see the works now coming towards an end and the street returning to normality.

The City Council has given me a commitment that the road will not be left long term with a patchworks of filled in holes and an uneven surface caused by the extensive works and the road will later be resurfaced properly - although at least 4-6 weeks after the pipes work is complete to ensure that any settlement is evident before resurfacing takes place.



Perth Road at Pinegrove : A couple of years ago, I raised, on behalf of residents, flooding at the entrance to Pinegrove on Perth Road. At that time, the problem was resolved by the cleaning out of the polychannel.

As you can see from the photograph (left), the area was again flooded last week and at the request of residents, I have raised this matter with the City Council.

DUNDEE MUSEUM of TRANSPORT

Dundee Museum of Transport Project in Roseangle : Last week, I had an extremely useful meeting with Terry Small of the Dundee Museum of Transport. Although the museum has long-term ambitions to open at the former Maryfield Transport Depot, it has secured shorter term use of a long vacant building in Roseangle to allow the museum to open.

This is an excellent project and I will be assisting the museum group in any way I can to make the museum in Roseangle a reality. Terry is keen to speak to a future meeting of the Community Council about the museum's plans.



Lighting safety of communal stairs : Over the past few months, I have had a number of concerns expressed to me by constituents about situations where the communal lights on the stairwells of tenements fail. This plunges the stairwell into darkness with obvious health and safety implications.

Just before Christmas, most of the lights on one side of Bellefield Avenue failed together as the wiring is communal and it was very concerning that a number of blocks of flats had no stair lights until that particular fault was detected and sorted.

There have been other examples of the stair lights failing in blocks in the West End and its bound to happen from time to time in tenement blocks where the wiring is old. Given that owners are communally responsible for repairs, getting repairs done can be complicated where a number of flat owners are involved, particularly where there are non-resident landlords.

I have sought advice from the Private Sector Services Unit at the City Council about grant aid for owners faced with a share of a bill for getting communal lighting systems upgraded. They advise :

"Grant assistance is available towards common repairs where the cost per flat exceeds £500. In calculating any approved cost of works we will also take into account savings above £6000.

The owners may wish to engage an electrician to test and report on the installations and obtain estimates. The overall cost to each owner will, as indicated above determine whether individually they will be eligible for grant.

Once they have the report and estimate, if they are needing help to coordinate the work and get everyone to buy-in, the Unit's Advice & Liaison Team can offer assistance in contacting owners and arranging meetings if required."

The team can be contacted on Dundee 435400.