



West End Community Council Update

from West End Ward Councillor Fraser Macpherson
January 2012

Latest Updates

Kite Flying Concern near Dundee Airport : The Dundee Airport Manager has contacted me recently about his concerns regarding the flying of kites in the flight path near to the airport. For aircraft safety reasons, the Civil Aviation Authority's ruling on kite flying near airports is :

6. Kite Flying close to the Aerodrome

- 6.1 With reference to ANO Article 164 (2) ; a kite may not be flown within the ATZ during the notified opening hours of the aerodrome above 30 metres AGL, nor may a kite be flown anywhere at a height of more than 60 metres AGL.
- 6.2 In the event of a kite being observed or reported flying, in contravention of the above criteria, the Police are to be informed and requested to instruct the persons responsible that they are in contravention of the ANO Article 164 and that they are to cease flying immediately.

The number of incidents is low but there was an incident at the beginning of December involving a kite surfer that was a source of some concern to the airport. Derrick Lang, the airport manager, is keen that the concern is highlighted to emphasise the point that kites should not be flown near the airport. He adds, "We have reviewed the signage in the east side of the area and is adequate but we have no signage at the nature park area, which would be an obvious choice for someone flying a kite." I have therefore raised the signage matter with the City Council.

Mr Lang has also indicated a willingness to attend a future meeting of the Community Council as he has done in the past, not simply to highlight this issue but to give a general update to the Community Council on the operation of the airport and current issues.





Walkway on Riverside Drive : I have received concerns from residents about the state of the walkway from the railway station to Tesco Riverside, much of which is claustrophobic given the concrete barriers that Network Rail insist upon being in place as the adjacent roadway runs in parallel to the rail station concourse.

The Director of City Development has advised me that :

"We currently have plans with Network Rail to extend the Riverside layby as part of the rail station refurbishment/upgrade. This will require the removal of a section of the containment barrier. We have proposed the barrier be removed, or reduced to the minimum possible requirement. If successful, we are considering if we could extend this approach as far as the Tesco roundabout (subject to available funding).

In addition, to improve our position with regards to safety, (we are) assessing the potential to reduce the speed limit from the Tesco goods entrance to Discovery Point to 30mph (currently 40mph)."

City Council officials are meeting with Network Rail on this matter and I will keep Community Councillors updated on developments.

Former McCheyne Memorial Church : Further to my article last month about the falling masonry concern at the former McCheyne Memorial Church at the Perth Road/Shepherd's Loan junction, I have been in contact with council planning officers regarding this.

There has been a degree of activity at the church by representatives of the owner (who is London-based) and the City Council's Conservation Officer has updated me as follows:

"Having visited the site and met with the owner, I can advise that the current works relate to repairs as a result of a burst water mains within the vestry.

The repairs include replastering a number of walls, repairs to ceilings (reinstating the cornicing), painting of timber work and redecorating. I also viewed the church hall and main body of the church, which are currently used for storage.

The owner indicated it was his long term intention to convert (with the appropriate consents and permissions) the whole building to a single house, to be used as a holiday home for the owner's family."

The church has lain empty for over a decade and local residents regularly comment to me that it would be good to see the church building brought back into an appropriate use.



Park and Ride Proposals - an update : Further to the discussions about possible future Park and Ride facilities sited in the west of the city and the subsequent decision by the regional transport partnership TACTRAN to progress the proposal for siting the facility at Wright Avenue, I sought, on behalf of constituents, some reassurances from TACTRAN about the facility.

The park and ride proposals have been largely welcomed by local residents but householders who live to the north of the preferred site have sought assurances that the facility would be properly screened. Residents who currently enjoy excellent views of Riverside Nature Park, Invergowrie Bay and the River Tay to the south rightly do not wish to look out to a car park in the future.

TACTRAN's Project Manager has updated me as follows :

"As the Wright Avenue location has been approved by the Tactran Board we will now be taking forward the detailed design, in partnership with Dundee City Council through the City Engineers.

As you'll be aware the outline design was carefully designed to complement the landscaping of the surrounding park. In particular it was designed to be adjacent to the existing trees as they will provide good screening.

In progressing the design there will be an environmental assessment undertaken and this will include visual amenity for those properties that have a view of the site and I will ensure that appropriate provision will be made for any additional screening that may be required at the site."

There is no doubt that the provision of park and ride facilities will bring significant benefits, not just to the drivers concerned, but to relieving parking problems in parts of the City Centre and the West End. However, it is important that a facility is properly screened and I am therefore pleased at the assurances given by the regional transport partnership in that regard.