

# West End News

## *April 2013 Update*

from West End Ward councillor

Fraser Macpherson

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**Harris Academy - listed building consent application :** As both the planning application for the proposed new Harris Academy building and the listed building consent are 'live' applications, councillors are not permitted (in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct) to give a view in advance of the matter coming before the council's Development Management Committee. However, the planning officer has advised:

"Historic Scotland has approved the listed building application for the demolition of the Harris Academy. The consent is subject to a number of conditions requiring the retention and re-use of historic features and the salvage and re-use of stone etc in accordance with details previously submitted by the agents. The application was determined by Historic Scotland because the building is owned by the City Council.



The consent to demolish is linked to the proposals for the new school and demolition cannot proceed until planning permission has been granted and contracts let for the construction of the new building in order to link the two elements of the development. It is hoped to report the partner planning application (ref: 13/00058/FULM) to the Development Management Committee on 13 May 2013."

**Magdalen Green :** The City Council's Environment Department has advised me that it has engaged a civil engineer to ascertain the reasons behind the drainage/mud problem on the Green in the area south of Taylor's Lane.

**Riverside Drive/Avenue roundabout :** On behalf of residents, I recently raised with the City Council's Road Maintenance Partnership the state of the road surface at the Riverside Drive/Avenue roundabout, near to the Riverside Inn.

I have received the following response:

"There are currently no proposals to carry out resurfacing works at the Riverside Avenue/Riverside Drive roundabout. However the Road Maintenance Partnership inspector has raised an order for the repair of the potholes with a timescale for repair of twenty eight days or sooner.

He will continue to monitor its condition during routine inspections and repair any actionable defects to ensure safety is maintained."

**Mural - St Peter Street :** The striking and unique mural on the side of the most northerly tenement in St Peter Street has been in place since 1982. Residents have said to me that it might be needing a repaint as it has begun to fade over the years.

The City Council's planning officer who deals with public art has advised me:

"The mural is now over 30 years old which is very unusual for a mural of this type. The mural was carried by a group called Artists Collective in 1982. The artists worked with the children of Blackness Primary School who were involved in a Dundee history project. The Gable at that time needed a lot of repair and therefore the mural costs (funded by SDA) such as the scaffolding costs were shared with the repair budget.



I have not seen the mural close up for some time so unaware of any recent problems. Though the mural has faded in its brightness, it is still appears to be reasonably strong and readable. Unless the paint is showing signs deterioration and peeling off then it is better to leave it alone.

To refresh the whole surface with new paint we should consider a budget of well over £25k.

I will go and have a look at the gable, but if the paint is still sound I would probably recommend little to no action at this time."