



February 2016 Update

from West End Ward councillor

Fraser Macpherson

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Perth Road Branch TSB closure : I have heavily criticised the decision of TSB to propose closure of the Perth Road Branch of their bank at the end of March.

The TSB's Perth Road Branch is extremely well-used, always busy and has long-standing professional and friendly staff. The loss of the Perth Road TSB would be a great loss to the West End. It comes less than two years after the loss of the Royal Bank Perth Road Branch.



On 26th January, I met with senior TSB officials about their proposed closure but, after a lengthy discussion with them, it is clear that the bank is unwilling to reconsider its decision. I met with TSB's Distribution Director for Scotland and their London-based Public Affairs Senior Manager and put the case for the bank retaining the Perth Road Branch given the loyal customer base it has enjoyed over many years, the importance of retaining one bank branch in the area and the inconvenience the closure would have to local people in the West End, particularly the elderly and those with mobility difficulties.

What was very clear from the meeting is that the bank has decided to close the branch for commercial reasons. The lease on the branch's building is up for renewal and the bank has decided it won't renew it. Although TSB officials said that the decision was not taken lightly, it is clear that the bank is not willing to renew the decision which is very disappointing.

Being aware of the fact that the branch continues to be very well used by customers in the local community, I was anxious that the bank listened to all the points made by the very many residents who have contacted me, expressing their deep dismay at the bank's decision.

The bank officials did give a commitment to ensure that the transfer of accounts will not have to be to their Meadowside Dundee HQ. If a customer would prefer to transfer to Lochee, the bank is willing to do this and the bank has promised that the Perth Road staff will be retained and will transfer to other local branches. However, the bank will not retain their cash machine on Perth Road.

/PTO

I am hugely disappointed at TSB's position as this represents the final bank branch in the Perth Road district shopping centre being lost. It's the sixth bank branch to go in the wider West End and Lochee areas over the past few years and its really bad news, particularly for those less mobile and those who don't use internet or phone banking. I will continue to campaign for the retention of local facilities like this as the loss of them is a real blow to the local community.

West End road safety improvements : The City Council agreed to two road safety improvements in the West End some months ago - at the Blackness Road/Blackness Avenue junction and at the Perth Road/Riverside Drive junction.



I recently asked for an update on what was being proposed and the City Development Department has advised as follows :

"Blackness Road/Blackness Avenue Junction : Existing give way lines at Blackness Avenue to be removed and replaced further north towards Blackness Road. This will improve sightlines with any parked cars along Blackness Road. A requisition has been submitted for pricing to Tayside Contracts and we are currently awaiting the cost estimate.

Perth Road/Riverside Drive Junction : Network Management is currently in consultation with activated signs suppliers to consider sign options. This is to improve safety for road users travelling along Perth Road eastbound to highlight the junction and traffic merging from Perth Road westbound onto Riverside Drive north section/Perth Road."

Glamis Road area - pedestrian safety : Back in 2014, at my request on behalf of constituents, the City Council provided a central refuge island on Glamis Road just north of the roundabout with Blackness Road/Glamis Drive to assist pedestrian safety.



Given the width of Glamis Road, I have since had requests for similar safety measures south of the roundabout and also towards the south end of the road, near its junction with Perth Road (see latter - right).

I raised this with the City Council and have been advised as follows :

"Glamis Road / Perth Road junction and Glamis Road / Blackness Road roundabout has been inspected and there is justification for central refuge traffic islands to be provided at these locations.

However due to the proposed budget cuts I am awaiting confirmation of the budgets for 2016/17 minor works. With the likely budget cuts this scheme will have to compete with other minor works from the available budgets. We will have to evaluate all schemes before confirming the works programme."

I will continue to press for these to be provided as soon as funding is available.