



West End Community Council Update

from West End Ward councillor

Fraser Macpherson *** June 2018

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Blackness Post Office - electronic door entry : As mentioned at a previous Community Council meeting, residents have reported concerns that the electronic door entry button at Blackness Post Office, to assist customers with mobility difficulties, was still not working and so I again took this up with Post Office Limited.



The company's External Affairs Manager has responded positively as follows :

"Thank you for getting in touch in relation to the door entry button at Blackness Road Post Office.

I have asked the field team to raise this issue with the postmaster. You may know that the vast majority of our post offices are operated by independent agents. As such Post Office ltd is not responsible for the building.

Before we issue a contact which allows agents to provide services, we do insist on certain things such as the building being accessible for people with disabilities. This usually means that the branch needs to be DDA compliant. I don't believe such a button comes under this legislation.

Therefore whilst we can ask and encourage the postmaster to take action, we unfortunately cannot insist on such action being taken as it doesn't breach any contractual issues.

That said we will impress on the postmaster the importance of getting this fixed and the inconvenience it is causing customers."

Bus stop east of Harris Academy moved - trial basis : For some considerable time, along with nearby residents, Harris Academy and its Parent Council, I have suggested to the City Council that the westbound public bus stop on Perth Road that lies just east of Harris Academy should be moved very slightly west to in front of the school.



This would have the following advantages :

- + Far better standing area for passengers waiting for a bus as the plaza in front of the school is spacious.
- + Less crowded situation than where the current bus stop is when passengers are waiting at the stop and school pupils are exiting the school at the end of the school day.
- + The existing bus stop is extremely close to the School Crossing Patroller; in front of the school is not.

There has been a lengthy debate with council transportation officers about this but, at last, a trial move was agreed to ascertain how well this works - this commenced on 9th May.

This update was sent by a City Council transportation officer to Harris Academy which fully explains the trial period arrangements :

"I refer to the Harris Academy Parent Council Meeting of 8th March 2018 where (we) agreed to investigate the possibility of moving the bus stop for a trial period to monitor the effect of the bus stop move especially at the end of the of the school day. I am pleased to confirm that we have agreed to move the bus stop into the bus lay-by in front of the main school entrance for a trial period to commence from Wednesday 9th May until Friday 1st June inclusive.

Discussion have been ongoing with the bus operators who have agreed to the trial period being put in place. The parking team has also been informed of this change and the necessary changes to the plate will be carried out on Tuesday 8th May 2018. During the trial period the bus stop will be

enforceable between the normal times of 0700hrs - 2300hrs where only buses will be legally able to wait. The parking team have agreed to be in attendance on occasion during the trial period.

Can you please notify staff and parents that the bus stop will now be out of action for general vehicles use during the trial period and that any misuse may result in the vehicle receiving a Parking Charge Notice (PCN).

The transport team will monitor the effect of the local bus services using the revised stop during the trial period with a view to making a decision about the trial period becoming the permanent stop location."

Initial feedback from residents has been very positive about the bus stop move and on 1st June, I received the following update :

“Bailie Macpherson

The trial ran during May and officially ends today Friday 1st June 2018 however we have agreed to extend the current trial until the end of this school term on Friday 29th June 2018. At that point a final decision will be taken as to whether the current stop location will be made permanent.

To date the trial has gone very well and the positives have outweighed the negatives. We continue to have issues around enforcement of the bus bay at all times of the day, particularly when the parking enforcement team are not in attendance. I am hopeful that we will be able to make the trial location permanent.

Regards

Mark H Devine

Transport Officer
City Development Department
Dundee City Council”

During the remaining trial period, I would welcome any further feedback from residents - many thanks.