

from Claire Matthew,
Cllr Fraser Macpherson
& the local



August 2006 **** Edition Number 51

Claire Matthew joins the team



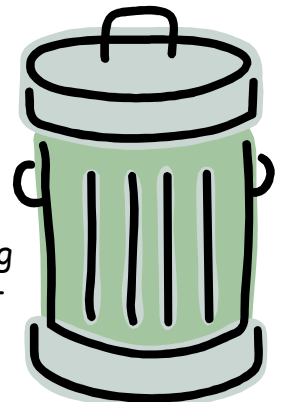
Welcome to City Centre FOCUS Edition Number 51! Over the past five years, your local councillor Fraser Macpherson has regularly produced FOCUS to keep residents in touch with local issues.

As residents may be aware, ward boundary changes take place for next year's Council Election, and the City Centre will be in the new Maryfield Ward. The new wards are much larger than the current wards and Claire Matthew has joined the City Centre LibDem FOCUS team to help with the increased workload.

Claire will be helping to ensure that the local Liberal Democrats continue to work for the City Centre all year round.

Refuse in the City Centre ...

As you'll be aware, in the past, Fraser Macpherson, your local councillor, has been in touch with the Waste Management Department of the City Council about refuse and litter problems. Some of these have been successfully tackled by the use of wheelie bins, but the FOCUS Team is still getting complaints from several City Centre streets. If you have any concerns about this, please send back the "Grumble Sheet" on the back of FOCUS and Claire & Fraser will take these up with the City Council.



MANY THANKS! ... Our thanks go to all residents who kindly help us deliver FOCUS in their local neighbourhood. If you can help, please tick the box on the "Grumble Sheet" on the back page - much appreciated!

The LibDem FOCUS Team - working for our area!



Latest update from Fraser and Claire ...

Marketgait/Nethergate junction ... A number of City Centre residents have commented how much they welcomed the removal of the old tunnel walkway across South Marketgait at the south side of the junction with Nethergate. However, we have received complaints from pedestrians about some vehicles making illegal right turns from Nethergate (at the Deep Sea)

south into South Marketgait. Claire is pictured (right) at the junction.

FOCUS brought these concerns to the attention of the Planning & Transportation Department and were advised that permanent signage would be erected at the junction emphasising to traffic that (except for exempt vehicles - eg buses), the right turn is banned.



We also raised the concern about some vehicles doing a u-turn at the next junction south (travelling south down Marketgait, doing a u-turn at Greenmarket to head north and into Nethergate (west)).

If you are a pedestrian crossing Marketgait from time to time, please let Claire & Fraser know if you have encountered any problems - we'd appreciate your feedback - thanks.

Recycling Prize Draw! ... Many residents will know from previous editions of FOCUS that around a year ago, the City Council opened a recycling centre in Gellatly Street. With this edition of FOCUS, you will also have received a flyer from the City Council advertising the Recycling Centre. If you complete your name & address on the flyer & bring it along with your recycling to the centre before the closing date, you will be entered in a free prize draw to win a £50 voucher to spend in the Overgate Centre.

Your City Councillor, Fraser Macpherson, said, "This is a super way to help publicise the recycling facility and I hope City Centre residents will enter the prize draw. Best of luck!"



Gellatly Street Car Park ... We contacted the City Council about a broken CCTV camera here a few weeks ago and are pleased to report it was fixed shortly thereafter.

Local News updates and contact details ... You can read all the latest Dundee Liberal Democrat news and copies of FOCUS on-line at www.dundeelibdems.org.uk. If you have a local issue or problem, Claire Matthew and the City Centre FOCUS Team can also be contacted by e-mail at claire.matthew@dundeelibdems.org.uk. You can also contact us using the "Grumble Sheet" on the back of this edition of FOCUS or phone us on 459378.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CAMPAIGNING FOR ACTION

Commercial Street update ... Residents will be aware that in previous editions of FOCUS, we have raised the problem of the poor pavement condition outside the new Children's Panel offices in Commercial Street/Exchange Street. Claire is pictured here (right). Following Fraser contacting the City Council about this, a meeting between the office building contractors, Scottish & Southern Electric and the City Council took place, and we are pleased now to see some progress on getting this properly sorted.



Further north in Commercial Street, you will recall back in March, we reported in FOCUS of City Council proposals to improve the crossing of Commercial Street with High Street and Murraygate. This should make a safer environment for pedestrians crossing here, and make it more obvious to drivers of buses and taxis crossing here that it is not a 'normal' bit of roadway and they need to take care as pedestrians cross here. Additionally, improved signage will hopefully further improve matters.

We are pleased to advise that phase one of this work has been approved by the Council's Planning & Transportation Committee and the work here should take place in the fairly near future.



Not so good news ... We were very disappointed to learn that, as a result of the rail tunnel strengthening works, taking place this year, the area around the Tay Road Bridge ramps will be required as a site compound for the extensive tunnel strengthening project.

Whilst we can appreciate the need to strengthen the tunnel, which was build back in Victorian times, unfortunately this results in the loss of the small play park and seating area under the bridge during the tunnel works and Waterfront project. The small green area is enjoyed by many City Centre residents and, as your local councillor, Fraser brought his concerns about this to the attention of the Director and Convener of Planning & Transportation.

The better news is that the Director of Planning & Transportation has identified a site slightly further south where the play equipment can be re-sited meantime and an approach to the Bridge Board (who own that ground) to use it for the play park is being made. A commitment was also secured to try to re-site plants (the trees will remain to screen the compound during the work).

Long term, the really good news is that a large "civic green space" (much larger than the existing green areas near the bridge) will be created south of the Caird Hall (on the site of Tayside House once demolished) and this will include much improved child play facilities.



Claire & Fraser - working for the City Centre all year round



Bus Bay near Debenhams ... The FOCUS Team received complaints from bus users about cars and taxis sitting in the bus bay near to Debenhams at the Overgate Centre, making it difficult for bus users to get on & off the bus. We've raised this issue with the City Council.

Christmas Lights ... Fraser has attended a number of meetings with Council officials about trying to improve the City Centre Christmas lights display this year.



Bus Shelters ... Fraser has done a "walk about" round the City Centre with two officials from the City Council who lead the SmartBus project, which resulted in the new bus shelters and real time bus information. The reason for the walk was to look at the siting of bus shelters and access issues, etc.



The FOCUS Grumble Sheet ... Your Liberal Democrat FOCUS Team is here to help. If you have a problem or complaint which you'd like sorted, let Claire & Fraser know. My problem/suggestion/complaint is:

Your Name _____
Your Address _____
Phone number _____ I'd like to help deliver FOCUS (tick) _____

*Post this to Claire Matthew & Cllr Fraser Macpherson,
Dundee Liberal Democrats, Freepost SC03668, Dundee, DD4 7ZR*