

from Cllr Helen Dick & the local

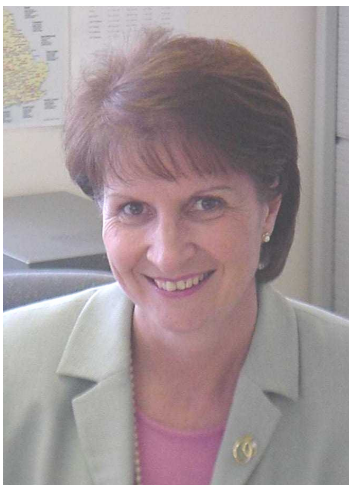


LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

April 2006

Edition Number 23

Report back from your local councillor ...



In this edition of FOCUS, Helen reports back on a number of local issues recently raised by residents. If you wish to speak with Helen about any matter of concern she can be contacted at home at any time on 811518. Details of Helen's surgeries are given below and you can also send back the "Grumble Sheet" on the back of this edition of FOCUS.

Can Helen ask a favour of you? Helen has been unwell lately and, as you'll be aware, delivering FOCUS across a wide area of Downfield and Kirkton is a considerable undertaking. Many thanks to those residents who already help Helen by delivering FOCUS in their own street. If you can spare a little time to help do this in your street, do please let Helen know by ticking the box on the "Grumble Sheet" - many thanks.

Helen's Surgeries :

Kirkton Neighbourhood Centre - Every Monday - 5.15pm sharp (except school holidays)

Downfield Primary School - Every Monday - 5.45pm sharp (except school holidays)



CLOAN ROAD ... As residents will be aware, the new traffic management one-way system is now in place. There have been some enforcement concerns and Helen would welcome your views about the new arrangements.



DOWNFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL? ... Many thanks to those residents in the Downfield area who have expressed interest to Helen in the possible re-establishment of the Community Council. If you are interested but have yet to advise Helen, please let her know by ticking the box on the "Grumble Sheet." Helen is meeting with the Leisure & Communities Department during April to move things forward.

The LibDem FOCUS Team - working for our area!



Latest update from Cllr Helen Dick ...

Foster Road ... Last year it was necessary to remove a tree in the street, but this has left the pavement in a bad state of repair. Helen has contacted the City Council about this and has been advised that the Planning & Transportation Department has been preparing a programme of footway repairs where mature trees have been removed. It is hoped the work at various locations will be carried out in the near future.



Haldane Avenue Shops ... The Kirkton Tackle Crime Group mentioned to Helen that there had been concerns raised about the operation of the one-way traffic system at the Haldane Avenue shops - for example motorists entering by the exit sign. Helen is pictured (left) at the entrance to the shops on a recent very wet day! Helen raised this matter with the Planning & Transportation Department who indicate that the one-way system is now compulsory and enforceable.

Vegetation problem ... Following receiving complaints about overgrown greenery encroaching over the pavement on the west side of Strathmartine Road from Clepington Road to the bridge further north, Helen received an assurance that Dundee Contract Services (based in the premises immediately west of there) would attend to this.

Pathway along Kingsway ... Helen has received complaints about the state of the footway that runs along the north side of Kingsway between Foster Road and Old Glamis Road. The part near to the flyover near the college gets very waterlogged in wet weather - as can be seen from the photograph (right). Indeed, in heavy rain it is virtually impossible to get past without wading through deep puddles. Helen has raised the issue with BEAR Scotland, who have responsibility for maintenance on Kingsway and the adjacent paths.



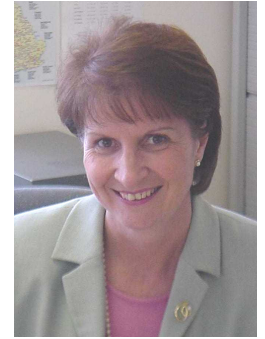
Helen's website ... In recent months, Helen has extensively upgraded her website - it links to Dundee and other local news, downloads of FOCUS and other local information, links to local resources and forthcoming events. You can also e-mail Helen's "e-surgery" directly from her website. You can read Helen's website at www.helendick.org.uk.



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The FOCUS Team - working for Strathmartine all year round



Bus Shelter Issues ...



The photograph (left) shows where the bus shelter and stop outside Downfield Post Office should be but at time of going to press are still missing. Following residents' complaints (and indeed the matter being raised on the Tay Talk In) Helen received feedback from the Planning & Transportation Department about the delays. Helen has been advised that the new shelter was delayed firstly because of the erection of scaffolding against the adjacent tenement and then the discovery of basements extending into the footway. The basement issue has required a change in design and a new roof has had to be ordered. However, Helen has been assured the shelter will be in place very shortly.

Helen has also has received complaints that the new-style shelter in Strathmartine Road on the east side just north of Gillburn Road affords little protection against the elements. On raising this with the City Council, Helen was advised that there are difficulties with providing a wider shelter here due to mobility guidelines for pedestrians, parents with buggies and wheelchair users. The department felt that no modification was possible but Helen is continuing discussion to see if anything could be done to improve the facility - for example a slightly wider roof would help.



Not so good news ... You may recall that, last September, Helen successfully moved refusal of an application for a 12.5 metre mobile phone mast in Derwent Avenue at the City Council's Development Quality Committee. The application by mobile operators O2 resulted in objections by means of a petition signed by 31 local residents, together with two other letters of objection. Although Helen was successful in moving refusal of the mast at Council Committee, the applicant has the right of appeal to the Scottish Executive Reporters' Unit, and unfortunately the Reporter has upheld O2's appeal, so the mast can be built. Speaking at the March meeting of the Committee, Helen pointed out her concern that, yet again, unelected civil servants had overturned a decision made by democratically elected local representatives.



Roundabout concerns raised again ... In the three years Helen has been our local councillor, she has received many complaints about both the traffic management operation and road safety aspects of the roundabout at Kingsway West/Strathmartine Road/Kingsway. Helen has raised this issue with both the City Council Planning & Transportation Department and with trunk road operators BEAR Scotland. Following further concerns raised by residents, Helen has written to the Director of Planning & Transportation at Dundee City Council pointing out the continued issues raised by local residents and asking that these are again raised with BEAR and also with the Scottish Executive, which has ultimate responsibility for trunk roads. Helen will continue to keep residents advised of progress and will, as always, welcome your views.



Pedestrian Safety at Clepington Road ...

A number of residents have pointed out how difficult it can be to get across Clepington Road safely east of the Kingsway West Retail Park. Helen is pictured (right) at the bus stop just east of Johnston Avenue. Its particularly difficult crossing safely when traffic is at its peak coming out of the Kingsway West Retail Park at the weekends. Helen contacted the City Council about this and has been advised that the location has been added to the list for consideration for pedestrian crossing suitability. Helen will keep residents advised of progress.



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 Helen know. My problem/suggestion/complaint is:

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

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

I'd be interested in a re-established Downfield Community Council (tick) _____

**Post this to Helen at Cllr Helen Dick, Dundee Liberal Democrats,
Freepost SCO3668, Dundee, DD4 7ZR**