



from Jenny Blain,
Cllr Daniel Coleman & the local
Liberal Democrats

Serving Downfield, Ardler, Kirkton, St
Mary's, Brackens, Trottick and
surrounding areas



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Special Election Edition - number 58 - September/October 2024



Latest updates from Jenny, Daniel and the Focus team ... that work and care for our local area ... all year round



Welcome to Strathmartine FOCUS Edition Number 58! Jenny, Daniel and the team would like to thank everyone who has given Jenny their support for the forthcoming City Council by-election.

Jenny said, "I am extremely grateful to everyone for their support. I am keen to continue working for all the residents of our local area. With your support on Thursday 3rd October, I will be able to do so as one of your local councillors, working with Daniel, to deal with local matters of concern and reporting back to you in the Strathmartine Focus newsletter."

If you wish to raise any local issue with Jenny and Daniel, please e-mail them at strathmartine@dundeelibdems.org.uk - many thanks!

Saving local banks and other local facilities



Jenny and Daniel are pictured - left - at the Kingsway Circus branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland which, as residents will be aware, the bank is intending to close in October.

The LibDem Focus Team has led the campaign to save the branch with Daniel having obtained cross-party support at the council's City

Governance Committee to oppose the closure. Daniel wrote to the Chief Executive of NatWest Group, who manage RBS, to make clear the community's opposition to the closure.

Jenny added, "As local councillor after 3rd October I will, along with Daniel, campaign against the loss of local facilities - be that RBS trying to close its bank branch in Strathmartine Road or the SNP council closing Kirkton Community Centre or consulting on the possible closure of Caird Park Golf Course.

"We've also asked RBS to give an assurance about access to cash, as the loss of the very busy cash machine in Strathmartine Road would be keenly felt."

Burn Street road condition : The Focus Team has taken up more residents' concerns about the poor road condition at numerous streets in our local area - the photo (right) is from Burn Street where the team has asked the council for repairs.



Jenny added, "As your new councillor after 3rd October along with Daniel, I will prioritise road and pavement repairs. The LibDems proposed an additional £2 million for road repairs in 2024/25 and £1 million on pavements resurfacing which is badly needed.

"Sadly, SNP councillors voted this down. It is vital that we increase the capital programme for pavement and road repairs to tackle poor conditions at numerous locations in our local area."



Caledonian Gardens : Daniel and Jenny received concerns from residents that one of the street signs in Caledonian Gardens is missing. The Focus Team reported this to the Roads Maintenance Partnership to ensure it is replaced.

Concerns over parks maintenance

Under the SNP, the number of grounds maintenance staff employed by the council to look after parks and open spaces has been slashed.

At the time of this year's budget there were 27 fewer such staff than nine years ago thanks to SNP cuts.

Over the summer Daniel highlighted the inevitable result of this at Camperdown Park including :

- the poor state of the mansion house
- smelly, overflowing toilets
- vandalised park furniture
- the unkempt duck pond full of algae
- the very poor state of the former golf course
- widespread weeds in many spots



The Focus Team reported this to ensure immediate issues were tackled but long-term improvement and investment in our parks is vital. Camperdown Park used to have a five-year masterplan to ensure continuing improvements at the park but this was forgotten about after 2017 under the malaise of the failing SNP council administration.

Jenny added, "I am pleased that, following request from the Liberal Democrat Group, a new Camperdown masterplan will now be drawn up.

"After years of decline under the SNP, it is vital there is now a positive and proactive approach to improving our parks across Dundee."

Scotland is 'worse in every respect' since 2014 referendum, says Salmond

The Scotsman - 7th September 2024

Former SNP Leader Alex Salmond has accepted that public services are in "a much worse position" under the SNP Scottish Government than they were ten years ago.

The SNP government has recently slashed £500 million pounds from public services and has followed Labour's disgraceful cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance for pensioners in England with a similar cut in Scotland. The Liberal Democrats would NOT cut the allowance for older people.

Here in Dundee the SNP has run the council for 15 years and has failed - it is tired and out of ideas ... 39 fewer street cleaners and 27 fewer parks staff sort of sums up SNP council failure.

We need the fresh approach Jenny Blain, Cllr Daniel Coleman and the Focus team bring.