

**Colinton Community Council – February 2017**

**Constituency**

**Roads**

I have not been made aware of any TTRO's affecting the ward.

**Waste**

There are currently delays with the domestic waste and food waste bins in the Pentland Hills area. I have not been contacted, however, on any waste/recycling issues in the Colinton/Bonaly area.

**Budget**

The City of Edinburgh Council set its annual budget on 9<sup>th</sup> February. [Here is a link to the coalition motion:](#)

**Redford Barracks Working Group**

As you are aware the Council has agreed to convene a Redford Barracks Working Group which I will chair. I have decided to organise an informal meeting at the end of March to discuss the remit and gather the communities view on the key issues. I will ensure that all interested local politicians, community groups and relevant officers from housing, planning, health and social care, schools and culture and sport are present. The first formal meeting of the working group will take place after the May elections.

**Remit**

**Culture Project Fund**

The City of Edinburgh Council's new £45,000 Cultural Project Fund was launched on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January and this is a fund I have developed with officers as a result of feedback through the Desire Lines consultation and will focus, in its first year, on performance arts.

Grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded to organisations based in Edinburgh to help with the costs of producing new performing artwork.

Applications are only open to organisations that are not currently funded by the City of Edinburgh Council and will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The strength of concept and ideas
- The quality of project management,
- The extent to which the plans demonstrate partnership working and resource sharing
- Local and/or city-wide importance of the project, including who will participate in or otherwise benefit from it
- The difference that this funding will make to the project.

The closing date for applications is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20203/funding\\_opportunities/866/developing\\_the\\_arts\\_in\\_edinburgh](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20203/funding_opportunities/866/developing_the_arts_in_edinburgh)

### **Scottish PEN – 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

I was delighted to speak at the above event and unveil the plaque at the Writers' Museum to celebrate and commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scottish PEN.

Scottish PEN, founded in 1927, is the Scottish arm of PEN International which has for over nine decades promoted literature, fostered cross-cultural exchange and championed freedom of expression. It is now the world's strongest voice in support of writers and readers everywhere. With continuing attempts in many parts of the world to silence writers, its work is needed more than ever before.

### **Macmillan Cancer Support**

I was delighted to launch Edinburgh's new Cancer Support Service at the Central Library. Macmillan Cancer Support has awarded City of Edinburgh Council £550K over three years to deliver Cancer Information and Support Services within six libraries in Edinburgh. The first two, Central and Craigmillar, opened in autumn of 2016 and Leith and Drumbrae will commence in the spring of 2017.

A Cancer Information and Support Service is a free service providing information, support and signposting for people affected by cancer. It is located within a library, offering support to vulnerable people in a community setting. As well as offering a listening ear, volunteers can refer service users to other Macmillan programmes in Edinburgh as well as those offered by our partners. The service also works with Cancer Support Scotland to provide free counselling and mindfulness at Craigmillar Library. There is also a range of Macmillan information booklets and access to specialist books.

### **Ross Pavilion Launch**

I was delighted to take part in the official launch of the Ross Pavilion project with Norman Springford. The first stage will consist of an architectural competition, the winner of which will form the basis of the new Ross Development Trust's £25 million transformation of Princes Street Gardens, due to commence in 2019.

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2017/02/design-competition-launched-today-for-ross-bandstand-replacement/>

### **Jazz and Blues Festival**

I have had a number of meetings and conversations with officials and the festival organisers about the issues around the use of St Andrew Square and alternative locations in the city centre. There are concerns about operating conditions at new locations and I have asked the Executive Director of Place to provide an assurance so that plans for the summer event can be completed.

I am hoping that the new Ross Pavilion in Princes Street Gardens can become a regular space for future Jazz and Blues Festival's, though these discussions are still in their infancy.

## **Sport and board meetings**

I have had various meetings to progress our key infrastructure projects at Meadowbank and Hunters Hall Park. I have met with officials to discuss community access to schools and met with ward councillors from the Almond Ward to review the position on proposed sports facilities at the former Moray House Cramond Campus.

I also attended the Festival City Theatres Trust board meeting and have organised a tour of King's Theatre for elected members to discuss the Trust's plans to redevelop the venue.

**Cllr Richard Lewis  
Convener of Culture & Sport  
February 2017**