

Councillor Caldwell's ward report for LCCC

1 Bicycles on Leith Walk closed lanes - raised under Open Forum by resident;

Action; I contacted TTN to put up more 'Bike Lane Closed' signs, which they did, but anecdotally I don't believe it's made much of a difference.

2 Bin hubs - Dalmeny St concerns previously raised by Cllr Pierre;

The bin hubs have had ongoing 'growing pains' and I was disappointed Councillors didn't vote for a recent amendment in September's TEC which would've stopped some of these issues expanding to neighbouring CCs. However I gave an oral and written deputation to the last TEC (written is attached) and was pleased that Cllrs are starting to come together a bit more to revisit Phase 1 issues, such as identified by Pierre. In summary we're now getting details soon on how feedback will be collected and I'll be pushing for KPIs such as noise and flytipping levels to be collected. I am continuing to liaise with Erica and her team until then.

3 Speeding on Leith Walk at night - raised in Open Forum by resident;

It was raised that the stretch outside Leith Depot has drivers "doing up to 80mph" on traffic free hours of night and early morning. Obviously speed bumps can't be placed on a tram track. This area has now been identified for the next batch of speed monitoring in the next month or so, which is just as well as those wires won't be able to run across the tram line once the tram actually starts running down there. I've attached the relevant letter.

4 Leith Chooses

I'm continuing to work with community councillors on the steering group as the application deadline is this Friday 14th.

5 Bus shelter next to Leith Walk Police Box

Raised with SRO Hannah Ross at our meeting however she outlined to me the challenges of moving it forward. I believe there's a TTN site visit being arranged. Carried forward.

6 Bicycle lane lips on Leith Walk and Croall Place etc.

I've made clear to TTN that my preference is some kind of paint on the lip to highlight it. However I'm hoping we start a ward councillors forum as we get to final weeks and can keep liaising on that issue through that channel. Ongoing.

7 Abbeyhill Colonies and Rossie Place parking - raised by Cllr Sheila

Met with reps of Residents Association after concerns were raised that Rossie & 7 Colony Streets. Actions were agreed by myself and Councillor Dalgleish. I liaised with my LibDem colleagues on TEC to put in an amendment with the following wording; "agrees that the process of monitoring and review within the Abbeyhill colonies, as promised on page 65 of the report, should involve public consultation not later than six months after the implementation of the new controlled parking restrictions; with a subsequent committee report on the consultation results and a recommendation on whether to retain this area within N6" which passed.

8 Deputation mentioned in item 13b

I wish to raise some 'learning experiences' and 'food for thought' for both the Convenor and members of the Transport and Environment committee in regards to the nearly-completed rollout of Phase 1 of the Communal Bin Review across the communities of Leith, Pilrig, Bonnington and Abbeyhill. Although there are frustrations, I wish to preface this by thanking Officers for their engagement during the process which has been significant given the enormous task they were delegated from a previous iteration of the Transport and Environment committee. It is also significant due to the statutorily moderate range of powers delegated to them.

There are several items in the report which I believe need highlighted and addressed.

8.a Decision-making process challenges

8.a.i Phase 1 (existing bin rollout) engagement

Further engagement for Phase 1, outlined in 7.2, is welcome, but this report does not outline how residents, particularly in my ward where rollout began around a year ago, can engage and influence change through the correct channels. I hope particular consideration is given to this in the next report. Several residents have indicated to me that they feel their neighbourhood in Leith Walk ward has been treated as a trial for the rest of the city since rollout began in 2021, which I do not believe was the Council's initial intention. I note that two community councils in my ward have played an important role at engaging officers at the early stage and believe any engagement mechanism should continue to include them. Again I am grateful to Officers who have attempted engagements under the current scheme and it's constraints.

Appendix 3 currently states that only "If road safety or accessibility concerns are raised post implementation or post approval of the TRO, the location will be revised accordingly.". Again, this does not take into account other reasonable concerns such as noise (ie glass), smell, or view for nearby properties, nor desired lines for pedestrians.

8.a.ii Phase 2 (upcoming bin rollout) engagement

For future rollouts, section 7.3 states that 'all feedback from the public on specific locations gathered through the TRO process is considered and accommodated where practicable and in accordance with the project's parameters and criteria', however it is difficult to justify that statement when the Transport and Environment committee on September 1st did not approve the change of any proposals due to non-vehicle traffic-related concerns.

8.a.iii Operational challenges

8.a.iv Regular collections

Sections 4.4 and 4.5 outline 'more regular collections', and while this has generally been a net positive upon the previous system, with collections occurring three times a week, when collections are missed, as has happened on several occasions in north Pilrig, it leaves residents with less options than before in terms of places to dispose of their waste and/or recycling. This provides greater challenges to residents when the whole route is impacted versus one individual bin-hub being missed.

8.a.v Flytipping

There have been a large number of reports regarding flytipping next to the bins. Although I can only provide anecdotal evidence, I would suggest that the new bin hubs attract a large amount of flytipping. I appreciate there has been a new protocol with waste lorries now having reporting mechanisms in-cabs and new training for Cleansing officers to report flytipping en-route, but I would also request Transport and Environment committee examine the large number of flytipped items in bin-hubs and explore options to make uplifts easier for the end-user to mitigate the amount of furniture which is being collected by the Council (ie making uplifts free).

8.a.vi Recycling contamination

The last challenge I would ask Transport and Environment Committee to dutifully monitor is mixed-recycling contamination and what impact having different types of bins grouped together has had on contamination levels.

I am happy to answer any questions upon request.

Thanks and regards,

Councillor Jack Caldwell

Leith Walk ward (Scottish Liberal Democrat group)