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## **Tayport News September 2007**

**by Maggie Taylor**

### **Alcohol Free Zone**

In 2006 a review of Fife Council's Byelaws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol liquor in designated public places was undertaken. This review only takes place every three years and Tayport had not previously been included in the areas of Alcohol Free Zones.

Consultation took place with Police and the Community Council and they were all in agreement that this Byelaw should be instigated in Tayport.

The Byelaw is at present awaiting authorisation from the Scottish Ministers and assuming that there is no public objection to the promotion of the Byelaw, it is anticipated that it will come effective towards the end of the year.

### **Karen's Garden**

The garden is now well under way. The developers started the digging outwith the timetable for the construction of the garden which has meant that the garden has been sitting all dug but nothing else done for a few weeks.

The colour theme of the garden will be lilac, which was Karen's favourite colour. Elmwood College students are organised to do lots of planting along

with Fife Council, but this will not take place until October, the planting season for shrubs.

Gail van Heerden is constructing the sculpture 'Free Spirit' to be placed on top of the well. Gail has also worked alongside the children of Tayport Primary School who drew their thoughts of Tayport. These thoughts are to be galvanised and will embellish the fence which will surround the garden.

Karen's parents, Frank and Allison, have been included in all the discussions and given their opinions, the result being a garden that they and many others can sit in and remember Karen.

The official opening of the garden will be on 26<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm. Frank and Allison have asked that this be a low key ceremony with no officials, only family and friends.

### **Scott Crescent, Tayport**

Proposals were made earlier on in the year to implement a one way system on Scott Crescent. This would be to allow ease of passage for traffic along Scott Crescent and maximise the amount of parking. Both these factors have been brought to my attention by residents and bus operators.

The proposed one way system is from the west access to Scott Crescent from Scotsraig Drive, to its east access. Police and bus companies are all in favour of the proposals.

These proposals will go to committee and if approved the one way system will be introduced within six months.

### **Removal of Tolls on Tay Bridge**

The Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill was laid before parliament recently and is likely to become law around the end of the year.

A more detailed report is due to come before the Tay Road Bridge Board, of which I am a member, on 17th September 2007.

### **Speed cushions**

The speed cushions and the 20mph speed limit, installed a year ago, have caused lots of problems within the town.

Residents have been concerned about the vibrations to their property since the installation of the cushions. Fife Council has since done seismograph surveys which they say the results indicate that there is no discernable increase in vibrations directly associated with the installation of speed cushions. They are also satisfied that the speed cushions have been installed correctly and in accordance with current legislation/design standards. Residents are not happy with this.

I have now asked that more seismograph tests be done, but from the inside the homes of some of the residents who are mostly affected.

Buses are one of the main culprits for the cause of vibrations and I have written to all the bus companies asking them to make sure that their drivers approach the speed cushions properly and at the correct speed.

Many drivers within the town are not adhering to the 20mph speed limits and are approaching the cushions, sometimes in a very dangerous way. Nelson Street is a perfect example where drivers are crossing the road at the top and using the car park beside the Co-operative to negotiate the road rather than go over the cushions. This is extremely dangerous! I have been informed this week of a pedestrian who was very close to being knocked down by one of these drivers.

Remember, if the cushions are approached at the correct speed there should be no problem in negotiating them and therefore no damage to your car.

**If you are experiencing any problems due to the cushions, please put it in writing to me. This will then help me to put a better case to Fife Council.**

## **Recycling centre**

A few months ago I was approached by a local farmer who knew that Fife Council was looking for suitable land to construct a recycling centre in the area. This offer was taken up and Cllr Tim Brett, myself and Fife Council thought that the site was exactly what was needed in the Taybridgehead area.

Unfortunately due to Fife Council being extremely slow in their progress the farmer has now changed his mind and the site is no longer available.

At Cllr. Brett's and my suggestion, other sites are going to be looked at, but none of them are, to our minds, as suitable as the original.

A recycling centre is of great importance in the area. Fife Council cannot keep pushing recycling if the infrastructure is not there for residents to use.

Residents can use other recycling centres in Fife, but this means a longer car journey.

I will keep you informed.

### **Two weekly bin uplift**

The two weekly bin uplift has been delayed until February 2008 in East Fife.

The idea of a two weekly bin collection will not please everybody but COSLA is urging councils to give up weekly collections of unsorted domestic waste in order to encourage recycling.

Fife Council assure me that Waste Awareness teams will be in place to visit community groups and in public places such as the local shops to answer any questions and give advice on the new service.

I will keep you aware when this is happening.

### **Council Tax Billing and Collection**

A decision was made in 2000 that the payment dates for Council Tax would be on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for Direct Debits all other payment methods on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month and a single instalment before 28<sup>th</sup> June. It was stated then that there are no alternative payment dates to those specified.

Please take note of the legislative guidance on Council Tax Recovery which Fife Council follows.

Recovery cycle :

- Any instalment not paid in full by the date will receive a 7 day reminder requesting the account is brought up to date within 7 days or payment of the full balance is due within a further 7 days.
- If any 7 day reminder is not paid, the right to pay by instalment is forfeited and a final notice will be issued.
- Only two 7 day reminders will be issued in any financial year.
- On the default of a third instalment, the right to pay by instalment is forfeited and a 14 day notice is issued advising the full balance must be paid within 14 days.

- If the balance on the 14 day notice is not paid, summary warrant is granted and a 10% surcharge is applied to the debt.
- If no contact or payment is received at this stage, the debt is passed to a Sheriff Officer for collection.

When 7 day reminders are issued, customers must bring their account up to date and continue to pay all future instalments on or by the due dates.

When a 14 day notice is issued, it is not enough for the customer to bring their instalments up to date and continue to pay monthly, the full balance is due to be paid within 14 days. If this is not possible, a special arrangement can be made based on the customer's circumstances.

**Immediately any Council taxpayer encounters difficulty making their payment, it is important they discuss the position with a member of staff in the Collection Team, Fife Council.**