

# Deputations

## City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 16th December, 2021

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

### Deputations

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#### Contacts

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CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Item No 3

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

16 DECEMBER 2021

## DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Subject	Deputation
<b>3.1 In relation to Item 8.3 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Rust – Community Councils – Notification of Key Information and Consultations</b>	(a) Colinton Community Council (written submission attached)  (b) Keep Edinburgh Moving (written submission attached)  (c) Leith Central Community Council (written submission attached)  (d) New Town and Broughton Community Council (written submission attached)
<b>3.2 In relation to Item 8.8 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Cameron – Improving Accessibility and Inclusion for Edinburgh Citizens and Visitors</b>	WelcoMe

Rt Hon Frank Ross  
Lord Provost  
City of Edinburgh Council  
City Chambers  
High Street  
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Dear Lord Provost

**Deputation on behalf of Colinton Community Council – Full Council – Thurs 16 December**

I would be grateful if you allowed the attached written deputation to be considered in support of:

Item 8.3:

Motion by Councillor Rust – Community Councils – Notification of Key Information and Consultations

Councillor Rust is one of our local city councillors and we are pleased to support all five paragraphs of his motion which we regard as apolitical.

Regards and thanks,

David Houston  
Vice Chair  
On behalf of Colinton Community Council

## **Need for Proper Consultation Processes** **between the City of Edinburgh Council and Colinton CC**

In general, we feel that several CEC Officers are not giving proper respect to the needs of Colinton Community Council in terms of a reasonable process of consultation about any matter which will materially affect our local population.

By reasonable, we mean advance notification of any new initiative or any significant change in CEC policy or services and the opportunity to consult our residents about these and the time to give a considered response, preferably by the holding of a regular Colinton CC meeting (held in public) to discuss the matter fully and ensure we are representing the views of our residents.

The specific instances recently are as follows:

1. Proposed ETROs in respect of Lanark Road – late information with lack of detail and unreasonable response deadline
2. Review of Active Travel measures on Lanark Road following Spaces for People changes to road geometry under emergency legislation – inappropriate process where individual representatives were invited to meetings and presented with information that was not readily disclosed to the whole Community Council
3. Review of Public Toilet Provision – no advance notification of proposed closure of Colinton toilets. This required a deputation to the Transport and Environment Committee and subsequent meeting with the Chair to resolve the issue.
4. Provision of Coffee Shop space in Spylaw Park – no advance consultation

We do acknowledge better consultation with:

1. Road Safety team over safety improvements in Bridge Road
2. Winter Roads team over improvements in snow clearing and grit bin provision

However, these are exceptions to a general position where CEC officers do not seem to appreciate that better CEC policies and services depend on good local consultation with Community Councils. There also needs to be greater sensitivity to the position that community councillors are volunteers, need time to react but will add considerable value to proposed changes because of their wealth of local knowledge.

David Houston  
Vice Chair  
on behalf of Colinton Community Council

**Deputation from Keep Edinburgh Moving  
City of Edinburgh Full Council 16 December 2021**

**Agenda item: 8.3 Motion by Councillor Rust:  
Community Councils - Notification of Key Information and Consultations**

Thank you Lord Provost and Councillors for accepting and reading our deputation. We are making this deputation from the perspective of local residents who need to be effectively represented by Community Councils.

Keep Edinburgh Moving is a collective of community groups which formed during the pandemic, in response to Spaces for People schemes being installed without public consultation. For many schemes, Community Councils were unable to submit a stakeholder response, or were unable to represent a breadth of community views in a response.

This problem appears to be ongoing - not purely related to the pandemic situation. We believe this is partly caused by the very short timescales given to Community Councils to respond and a flawed process of updating/managing contact lists.

This is causing several issues:

1. Some Council stakeholders are also lobby groups representing single interest groups. They proactively shape policy and are sometimes given advance access to plans (or even invited to shape plans) as was seen in the pandemic response where at least one lobby group was invited to a council planning meeting when Community Councils apparently were not. In instances like this, when subsequently given short notice to respond, Community Councils are already beginning on the back foot in terms of understanding the proposals and impacts on all groups in their communities, which is unfair if deadlines are too tight.
2. Community Councils are bound by a Code of Conduct. This includes representing the community and not simply their personal view. Without reasonable notification of proposals, Community Councillors may have insufficient time to gather feedback to be able to effectively represent the community, leaving them exposed to complaints. This is an unacceptable position for volunteers to be put in by the Council and divides communities.
3. Ultimately failure to capture Community Council insight leads to poorer quality Council proposals and failure to deliver Best Value. It is clear that in the Place directorate for example, council officers come from a breadth of geographic areas bringing lots of fresh insight and experience. It is always valuable to learn from how things are done elsewhere and it must be merged with in-depth local knowledge and experience from Community Councils (often with members who have lived in their local area for decades) to create effective and non-discriminatory approaches for every unique local community.

Thank you for considering this deputation.  
Keep Edinburgh Moving

## Item 3.1(c)

**Subject:** Deputation to the Council meeting of Thursday 16 December - Cllr Rust's motion at 8.3 of the Agenda

Dear Mr King,

I am emailing with reference to the Council meeting of Thursday 16 December and Councillor Rust's motion at 8.3 of the Agenda, which is calling for the Council to give Community Councils enough time to consider Council consultations in their normal meeting cycles, which is either 4 or 5 weeks, depending on when the meetings fall in the month.

Leith Central Community Council supports this initiative and requests that you treat this email as a deputation in support of the motion.

Examples of Council initiatives where we were required (at least initially) to respond inside our monthly meeting cycle include at least one Spaces for People proposal in 2020 and the Phase 2 parking consultations for Easter Rd and Bonnington, which were advertised on 15 February (the day we met) with a closing date of 14 March - the day before our next meeting. As Community Councillors are volunteers and do not check every council website every day, we did not become aware of the consultation until the day after our 15 February meeting.

In that case a 2 weeks' extension was granted which enabled us to invite concerned residents to our 15 March meeting, and then for us to consider a response. This suggests that 5 a 6 week consultation period should be the minimum.

The same happened with the recent CPZ TROs and consultation advertised on 22 October, just after our October 15 meeting, and due to end 12 November, before our November 18 meeting. The period for commenting was extended a further 3 weeks, but it would be helpful if 6 weeks, not 3 or 4 weeks, were to become the norm.

A very recent example is the updated Public Consultation re Leith Walk/Halmyre Street which was notified to us on 13 December. The notification explained that an interactive website will be published on 20th December 2021 until 3rd January 2022 where the proposals can be viewed, and feedback provided directly to the Applicant's design team. Not only is this a 3 week deadline over the Christmas period, it is also worth noting that Leith Central Community Council, as do many other community councils, don't hold meetings in December or in July. Furthermore, the Scheme for Community Councils requires Community Councils to hold a minimum of only 6 meetings per year.

We understand that the City Council are closely involved with this Masterplan and will ask the senior planner to request an extension to the consultation, including the option to present at the January LCCC meeting, but again this could have been avoided if a 6 week period were standard.

Please confirm receipt and that that you treat this email as a deputation in support of the motion.

Kind regards,

Charlotte Encombe  
Chair, Leith Central Community Council



Rt Hon Frank Ross Lord Provost  
City of Edinburgh Council  
City Chambers, High Street  
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Dear Lord Provost,

**Deputation on behalf of New Town & Broughton Community Council – Full Council – Thursday 16 December**

I would be grateful if you allowed this written deputation to be considered in support of:

**Item 8.3: Motion by Councillor Rust – Community Councils – Notification of Key Information and Consultations**

We are pleased to support all five paragraphs of his motion which we regard as apolitical.

Please note one matter that is not covered by this motion is the issue of the **late release of committee papers** — normally the first opportunity to see council proposals. Moreover as the deadline for deputations is now earlier, we only have a few days to agree and communicate our position on matters which can be important to our area. We ask for all committee papers to be released at least one week before meetings.

Regards and thanks,

Carol Nimmo

Chair of New Town & Broughton Community Council

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