

Councillor Andrew JOHNSTON

representing Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart



REMOVING UNSIGHTLY GRAFFITI

A number of residents have contacted Cllr Andrew Johnston regarding graffiti and he was pleased to arrange for the Council's graffiti project officer to attend a meeting of Craiglockhart Community Council in January.

Andrew said, "The Council recognises it is a problem but as ever the ability to tackle it comes down to resources. Often there is confusion as to whose responsibility it is to remove graffiti. For example, utility companies, Network Rail and Scottish Canals should be contacted directly if the graffiti is on their property. I am aware this is not always easy. The Council is in the process of creating



an 'identification and contact' sheet for its website with the aim of making it easier to contact the responsible party. I have listed some important contact

information below and remember if the graffiti is on council property and is offensive, then the Council has a target to remove it within 24 hours."

REPORTING GRAFFITI?

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/graffiti>

Offensive graffiti or graffiti on Council property should be reported via our website:

Search for: 'Edinburgh Council Graffiti' or Tel: 0131 608 1100

Graffiti on private property is the owners responsibility. If Known: Utilities, Education Bodies, Scottish Canals, Network Rail, Etc can be contacted direct.

#OWVEDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
CITY COUNCIL

EDINBURGH CITY COUNCIL BUDGET

As many residents will be aware the Council sets its Budget in February.

This year is a little different and the SNP-Labour administration propose to set a three-year budget. Regardless of the approach, there will be some very tough decisions to make. Normally the Council

would run a consultation to find out what the people of Edinburgh think but instead this year a series of workshops were held.

Andrew said, "I have been critical of previous budget consultations but am not convinced the workshop approach has worked or has been a better gauge of what

council taxpayers think. I am keen to hear if you felt better informed this time or aware that the Council will have to make £34.87 million of cuts this year and £87.25 million in total over the next three years."

Andrew added, "As you read this, the Budget may have been set. I would ask you to

bear in mind that in 2017 the SNP-Labour administration made 52 commitments, covering a whole range of policies. One commitment which you may recall is number 49 'Limit Council Tax increases to 3% a year until 2021'. Next time you look at your Council Tax bill you will be able to see if they kept their commitment."

THE POOR STATE OF OUR ROADS

The poor state of the roads across the ward has been a regular source of concern in Andrew's mail bag. Many have observed the length of time it takes to fill in a pothole or get faded yellow lines painted.

Andrew said 'It doesn't have to be this way and our budget plans this year included extra money to tackle potholes. Often a temporary repair is made first, only for the Council to have to return and make a permanent fix. Getting it right first time would make a huge difference and make our roads a safer place'.



CONTACT ANDREW

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THE IMPACT OF TOURISM

Edinburgh is rightly feted as one of the best cities in the world to visit and tourists have a significant input into the local economy. With that comes challenges and many residents have shared concerns with Andrew regarding how the Council handles large scale events such as the Christmas markets on Princes Street Gardens.

Andrew commented, "It is fair to say that there was particular controversy this year

over the planning process, impact on the gardens and also the burning of memorial benches. At time of writing the Council had still not contacted the owners' of the benches which were burnt, and an investigation is under way. I am clear that lessons must be learnt next year so that Edinburgh residents can have confidence that these large-scale events work for everyone. So far no one has got in touch to say they are pleased..."

Get involved!

Andrew is always on the lookout for volunteers who can help him with leaflet deliveries!

If you are able to help, please contact the Andrew through the Edinburgh office on 0131 336 4213

SURGERIES

Andrew holds regular surgeries at Fountainbridge Library and he wants to thank everyone who has attended recently. Sometimes it is easier to raise issues in person rather than on email or the telephone.

Details of Andrew's surgeries can be found on his page on the Edinburgh Council website. You can also contact Andrew on 0131 529 4355 and andrew.johnston@edinburgh.gov.uk

