

# COUNCILLOR SUSAN WEBBER

representing Pentland Hills Ward



## PARK AND RIDE FLOODING

The SUDs drainage system at Hermiston Park and Ride is continually flooding and this winter's bad weather has made this more apparent. Susan has been in discussions with Council officers and raised safety concerns.

Susan said, "It is now an urgent priority for investigative work and a long-term resolution to be sought. Rest assured I am pressing for action.

"Teams have been out at my request to carry out some

remedial works that hope to address the current issues. There has also been a new policy approved for the management of SUDs, so I am hopeful that this will ensure appropriate maintenance and hence prevent future flooding."



## CONNECTING AND WORKING WITH THE SCHOOLS



After the successful campaign to save Currie Community High School, Susan stays in touch with local schools and attends school fayres throughout the year. Susan said, "There is so much going on and I am pleased to see the investment that is being made with the new Currie Community High School. However, after visiting Balerno High School recently I have serious concerns about the state of the science classrooms in particular.

## NEW LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Cllr Susan Webber has welcomed the Council's announcement on 5th March that it would extend the subsidised 63 service from Hermiston Park and Ride up to Balerno through Currie.

Susan has been campaigning to reinstate a bus service to St John's Hospital since she was elected and, although this is not a direct link, the First Bus service connects our community with the Park & Ride where you can connect with services to St Johns and RIE.

Susan said, "This will also go some way to help alleviate traffic

on Lanark Road as the 63 will now also allow access to the Gyle, Edinburgh Park and South Queensferry for commuters and shoppers. I hope the community seizes the opportunity and uses this service."

The new revised route for the subsidised service 20 for Ratho will now stop in at the Ingliston Park and Ride which will allow commuters to connect with the Tram.

Work still needs to be done to investigate a single integrated ticket option, but Susan has been given assurances this is being progressed.

# DOUBLE WHAMMY FROM THE TRAMS

The start of tram works means many of the Lothian Buses routes will be diverted onto other heavily trafficked routes. This includes the 44, which will see a reduction in the daily service but additional X44 services in the morning and evening.

Baberton residents however continue to express their concerns to Susan about the route 33 change and in particular the terminus now located at Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre.

Susan said, "At this stage all I can confirm is that every bus will now return and travel through Baberton Mains should

passengers wish stay on until the terminus to access the other side of the Baberton Mains Drive route.

"With funds being tied to the Tram project by the SNP/Labour Council administration, we can expect very little in terms of investment or positive changes to services at our end of the city."



## A8 GOGARSTONE JUNCTION

Susan shares concerns that Ratho residents must still face two perilous junctions to access the village, saying, "I was deeply concerned when the decisions were taken by the Council's Active Travel Team to change the road markings and priorities on the A8 at the Gogarstone Junction. There was

immediate action taken to reinstate the airport slip road to two lanes but to date I am still fighting to get the deceleration slip road reinstated.

"I am continuing to work with the Community Council and local residents to ensure that this does in fact happen."

## PENTLAND VIEW LITTERPICK

In February and March Pentland Hills councillor Susan Webber joined the litter pick team at the Pentland View shops in Currie.

new local action group, The Village Green. so please keep an eye out for more information on Facebook at and other social media sites."

Susan said, "It was great to see so many people get involved. Larger co-ordinated litter pick events are being co-ordinated now with the

Susan is also delighted that larger 120 litre bins have been placed in the area following requests from the local community.

[facebook.com/groups/thevillagegreenpentlands/](https://facebook.com/groups/thevillagegreenpentlands/)



Susan is pressing for the much-needed upgrade to the A71 Dalmahoy junction and has been given assurances that the work will start in the coming months.

Susan said, "The whole road surface at the junction has deteriorated and is proving to be extremely hazardous for all road users. This now needs much more than a patch up and I am working with officers to either expedite the junction improvement plan or provide a more substantial repair at this location."

**COUNCILLOR SUSAN WEBBER - representing Pentland Hills**



After pressure from Susan, the flying fox in Bloomiehall Park was repaired last May. Susan said, "I know how delighted everyone has been to see it back and I even managed to have a shot on it myself!"

**EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOL UPDATE**

Councillor Susan Webber says, "Plans for Early Years expansion in Ratho are also causing concerns as this involves changes to the Library and community space. I am staying closely in touch and working with stakeholders." Susan added,

"Meanwhile at WHEC, soon to be called Wester Hailes High School, there will be a programme of improvements planned for the summer which will include the installation of a synthetic pitch and new changing rooms."



Susan shares residents' concerns about traffic and speeding around local schools. She has visited the schools at this particularly busy time with the community police team, Pop Up Kirsty and a real speed gun.

**GRAFFITI**

Recent graffiti on the rail bridge at Riccarton Mains Road was promptly cleaned up by Network Rail after Susan reported it.

Susan said, "I would just like to thank Network Rail for their very prompt action to remove this. I also spoke to the local police team who were sadly unable to identify the culprit as the 'tag' was unknown to them."

## PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Susan continues to seek confirmation of the timeline for the pedestrian crossing for Lanark Road in Currie, saying, "New plans are needed for the crossing at Lanark Road West (Stewart Ave) as the design that went to community consultation last

year did not address the community's expectations. We hope the new designs will be available by April.

"I am hopeful that the assurances I have been given will indeed see the crossing built and in place during the next financial year".

## BUS STOP REVIEW



The Council are proposing a number of bus stops are removed along the 44 route to speed up journey times into the city. Susan has serious concerns with some of the stops that

are being suggested, and that there hasn't been adequate consultation with the community. The report will now be presented to committee on 20th March.

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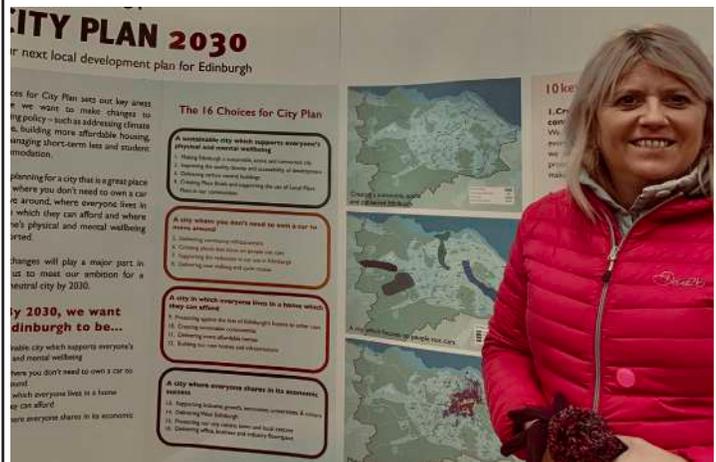
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## CITY PLAN 2030

### Local Green Belt Site identified for new homes



As the Council look to finalise the latest local development plan, City Plan 2030, an area identified as "East Riccarton" has been earmarked for development.

Susan shared her reservations, saying, "I understand the housing issues we face

in Edinburgh as our city grows, however sites like this will pose further challenges to our already stretched infrastructure. Ultimately this is also Green Belt. I am also disappointed that one of our local parks, Curriemuir Park, remains in the new plan as a site to build homes on."

## PAVEMENT PARKING FRUSTRATION

Pavement parking is a growing problem, and Susan supports the new legislation that will make this illegal. Susan said, "I have witnessed a young mum pushing her pram who had to step off the pavement and onto the very busy Lanark Road to get past. Drivers think they are doing us a favour by keeping the road clear however it is causing far more danger to pedestrians. I would ask drivers to consider this and avoid parking on pavements."

## HERBICIDE FREE BALERNO

In February Councillor Webber was able to support and vote through the approval to trial a new glyphosphate free system for management and control of weeds in Balerno. This trial will take place in Spring/

Summer 2021. This coming growing season will see local action group Herbicide Free Balerno co-ordinate and work alongside the Council to manage and control weeds in Balerno without the use of glyphosphate.