

Councillor Report for Southside Community Council: From Cameron Rose

- 1. Bin collections:** The main issue which continues is waste collection. I have had several meetings with residents and waste staff and clearly the struggles continue with collection changes continuing – both for individual and on street collections. Do continue to report direct where you can (the contact centre is not always responsive) and escalate to your councillors if you are not getting a solution.
- 2. Phone mast in Bowmont Place.** A temporary mast as erected in the grounds of the Craggs Sports Centre before Christmas as the established site in Roxburgh Place was subject to renovation (the building is owned by the University who are refurbishing). There is a debate over whether the temporary mast needs planning permission and that is being explored further by, amongst others, the Enforcement Section of the Planning Department. The mast serves two major networks (3 and EE) which have relatively limited cover in the area and it was considered essential to have public coverage in the area over the festive period. An immediate concern for local residents, though was the generator with its noise and fumes. After liaison with the company's representatives the generator has been removed and a power supply obtained from the Craggs. Link to more details [here](#).
- 3. East Preston Street roadworks:** Following [problems with part of the road subsiding](#) resulting in partial closures the last note I have is the following from Wednesday 3rd: *“Scottish Water just confirmed this afternoon that they wish to come onto the site to repair the water leak. This will require them to occupy the East Bound carriageway on EPS. This is likely to take around 4 days, however there is damage to other utilities in the area of the sinkage and this might require inspection by those utilities involved. Given that the eastbound carriageway will be closed to all traffic, diversion routes for those vehicles travelling North and South will be put in place. This may be quite complex for those vehicles travelling North however the usual information will be provided to various communication partners for this purpose”*. Some residents suggest the diversion is not as efficient as it could be. Reported for review.
- 4. Police Officer of the year:** St Leonard's based Sgt Neil Wilson 2015's Police Scotland's [policeman of the year](#). He was instrumental in getting temporary legislation through which has helped reduce the use and sale of 'legal highs' in the area.
- 5. Economy Watch:** Regular statistics on the Edinburgh economy are available [here](#). In the last two years there has been a steady increase in the numbers of adults in employment, 73.7% in autumn 2015 and trending upwards – 0.8% more than the same period the year before. More dramatic is the fall in those claiming Job Seekers Allowance, down to 1.1 per cent in December '15. That figure is 39% lower than the number of those claiming a year previously. Southside & Newington has the second lowest rate of overall benefit claimants in the City – the number claiming has fallen by 24% in 2 years.