

Five things you need to know today



Witnesses sought to Serious Road Collision – Leith Walk – South Central Neighbourhood Partnership – Sleep Out 2012 – JK Rowling

A motorcyclist remains in a serious condition in hospital following a road collision that happened in Edinburgh last Saturday, 15 September.

Police are issuing a fresh appeal for witnesses to the collision, which happened around 6.30pm, at the Old Craighall Roundabout at its junction with the A720.

The motorbike and red Peugeot had entered the northbound A1 off-slip apparently intending to turn west on to the A720, when the collision occurred.

The 66-year-old man was initially taken to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for treatment, and is currently receiving treatment at St John's Hospital in Livingston. No one else was injured in the incident.

Police remain keen to speak to the driver of an HGV that may have been on the slip road at the time, likewise any other motorists who were in the area who saw what happened.

Anyone with any information should contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

Following a recent article in the [Edinburgh Evening News](#) where traders complained about a lack of information from the council as to when improvements to Leith Walk would actually start, there has been little forward movement according to the Leith Business Association. The Vice Chair of LBA was moved to write a letter by email to all local councillors asking if there could now be some more information made available about the promised programme of works. The works to be done include utility works, improvements to pavements, facilities for cyclists, improvements in the way that domestic and trade rubbish is handled and the roadway needs to be resurfaced too. The council leader, Andrew Burns, has replied to LBA and promised a meeting in early October between the Transport convener and the business group to address all of the issues.

As well as the [dedicated page on their website](#), the Council [will also use Facebook](#) to update residents and businesses as to what it is doing, and when.

South Central Neighbourhood Partnership meets today at 6pm at the City Chambers. One of the things they are to discuss is the ongoing problem of barbecues on the Meadows, and also the Street Name Bank. No matter what area of Edinburgh you live in, you can access the street name bank for it here [on the council website](#). It is a fascinating read of names suggested for new streets in each area.

You are invited to give up your warm cosy bed for one night in November to raise awareness of the homeless in Edinburgh. More details about the Sleep Out 2012 in Festival Square [can be found here](#).

All that JK Rowling has to do to get column inches, is raise

her head briefly above the private parapet that she seems to have managed to conduct her life behind. Last week, it was the mere fact that she had put her Merchiston home on the market. A few weeks ago it was the planning application for a play area for her children in her Barnton garden. This week, it is the much-anticipated first novel after Harry Potter which will be published on Thursday. But one of the myths that still persists is where Harry was written in the first days of her life as an author. The Reporter always believed that it was a cafe upstairs in Nicolson Street that is probably Spoon these days, the Elephant House claims that it is on their well worn tables that the wizardry unfolded, and now, to add to the myths, Decca Aitkenhead writing in [The Guardian](#) reports that it was in Leith that the quidditch began. Now Leith is famous for quite a lot of things, but we have to confess that we do not ever think we have heard it associated with Ms Rowling. What do you think?