

Five things you need to know today



Community Council Elections – Council meeting today – Scotland’s road casualties – Advice for Bonfire Night – Testimonial Dinner

There are community council elections in [three](#) areas of the city today. In the other areas the number of people nominated has not exceeded the number of places and so the nominees will simply be installed as members of the community council. We have a list of all community councils [here](#) if you feel like getting involved! There are no community councils in Southside or Northfield/Willowbrae as there were insufficient nominations to form a community council.

Community councils are groups of people who care about their local area and want to keep it as good as it is or indeed improve it. They usually meet once a month and represent the views of the local community to the City council on matters such as planning and licensing.

The full council meets this morning at the City Chambers and we will be there to fill in the blanks for you. All council papers are online [here](#).

Follow our liveblog [here](#).

Live webcasting of the Council’s meetings and committees is set to be extended further, giving the public a chance to view more decisions and debates, if a report to this week’s Council is approved.

The proposals recommend installing equipment to allow the webcasting of meetings held in the Dean of Guild Court Room, and could see meetings such as the Transport and Environment Committee and the Planning Committee broadcast live.

The extension of the webcasting service comes following an initial pilot launch in September 2012 which has seen meetings held in the main Council Chamber [webcast and the footage](#)

[stored online.](#)

Transport Scotland has just published the numbers of road casualties in Scotland in 2012. While they are sobering reading they are lower than previously and are the lowest since records began.

- 12,676 reported casualties in total in 2012 – 1% fewer than in 2011 (12,777) and a 34% reduction on 2002 (19,275) and the lowest figure since records began;
- 174 people killed on Scotland's roads in 2012 – 6% fewer than in 2011 (185), 43% fewer than 2002 (304);
- 1,974 reported seriously injured in 2012 – 5% more than in 2011 (1,877), 39% fewer than 2002 (3,229);
- 1,164 child casualties, 12% fewer than in 2011 (1,316) and 58% fewer than 2002 (2,745)
- 2 child fatalities in 2012, 5 less than 2011 and an average of 4 over the last three years.

You can read the whole report [here](#).



Every year careless bonfires take firefighters away from other incidents – putting lives at risk. Choosing to attend only official bonfire events will help keep people, property and vital resources safe.

Bonfire Night is the busiest time of year for the fire service, and during the bonfire period firefighters typically see a 40% increase in emergency calls. Having to tackle bonfires means it could take crews longer to attend serious incidents – with potentially tragic consequences.

Careless bonfires also see public money go up in smoke – in previous years costs have been estimated in millions of pounds

of damage.

Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Lewis Ramsay, Director of Prevention and Protection for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We want everyone to enjoy the celebrations and I would urge the public to join Scotland's fight against fire and attend official bonfire events this year. Not only is it the best way to stay safe, but careless bonfires take crews away from serious incidents in our communities – so choosing to attend organised events will protect people, property and ensure our firefighters can get to where they are most needed.

He added: "Every year we work with our partner agencies to raise awareness of the risk and dangers associated with bonfires and fireworks as well as the preventative measures which can be taken to improve community safety – as local people must continue to play their part in making our communities safer. We have no better ally in the fight against fire than our local communities who can make a difference and work together for a safer Scotland."

ACO Ramsay continued: "Our pre-planning and response arrangements have been much easier to co-ordinate this year, given the commencement of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Our approach incorporates best practice from across Scotland and ensures services are delivered locally in a consistent and co-ordinated manner, with a clear focus on public and firefighter safety."

Superintendent Alan Cunningham, Head of Prevention and Interventions at Police Scotland, said: "We want people to listen to safety advice and attend organised events so families can keep safe and enjoy the Bonfire celebrations. The best way of keeping safe is to attend official bonfire events which will also help reduce the number of unnecessary call outs for Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service."

Minister for Community Safety, Roseanna Cunningham said: “I wholeheartedly endorse the SFRS campaign and recognise the very valuable work of our firefighters at this busy time of year. We can all support them and make our communities safer by attending organised events. This guarantees we enjoy the spectacle in safety and have a fifth of November to remember – for all the right reasons.”

‘Join Scotland’s fight against fire’ gives more information about how to be safe on 5 November, with a range of additional information to raise public awareness of fire safety at home and in the workplace.

The campaign lets the public know how to refer family, friends and neighbours – who may be specifically at-risk – for a free Home Fire Safety Visit, or other services that focus on protecting older people from fire.

For a free Home Fire Safety Visit, all you have to do is call the Home fire Safety Hotline on [0800 0731 999](tel:08000731999). You can also get in touch by calling your local community fire station and more information is available [here](#).

Anyone who decides to hold their own events should always follow SFRS vital bonfire and firework safety advice – available by [clicking here](#).

Edinburgh Capitals are holding a Testimonial Dinner for Martin Cingel in the Riversdale Suite of the Ice Rink prior to the game on Saturday 26th October, and 20 spaces have become available which we are now opening up to our fanbase to come and join us celebrate Martin Cingel’s testimonial year.

Martin Cingel began his career as a Capital in 2002, and since then has made a huge contribution to the club, playing in over 450 matches and registering almost 450 points. He has been club captain since 2006.

You will enjoy a two-course dinner and complimentary wine, followed by entertainment from our guest speaker Bruce Fumme, before taking your seat for the game.

Season Ticket Holder Prices are £30 per head, all others £50 per head.

To book your place/s, please email enquiries@edinburgh-capitals.com by Friday 25th Oct @11.30am, as places are limited, this will be on a first come basis. Payment will be collected on the day. Once you have been allocated a place, cancellation charges of full amount will apply.