

QDCC Communications Report – Mar 2018

Media

QDCC Website – no significant changes this month other than updates. Aiming to modernize the website when time and access permitting. Any ideas or feedback welcome.

<http://queensferrycommunitycouncil.co.uk/>

Facebook remains the most popular communication link with the community. Please note this is accessible to view by all public who are online, even without a Facebook profile; account only required if you wish to make or view comments, post information or message us. <https://www.facebook.com/queensferry/>

Visit Queensferry Website - In relation to QDCC work on Queensferry's tourism and local business engagement, the Visit Queensferry website previously maintained by Queensferry Ambition has been lying dormant. Developers Sanctus Media Ltd (Boness) have been hosting it (albeit not up to date) at their own cost until a suitable agent could be found to adopt it but are now looking to cease this hosting by end of March as no such agent has come forward.

Some local businesses have agreed on the value of this website to Queensferry and have given us an indication in principle to contribute to the £150 + VAT p.a. required to continue hosting with QDCC updating the website in the interim. We have put a couple of propositions forward to Sanctus Media but are yet to hear back. This would be a disappointing loss for Queensferry if we don't get a solution in time.

Community feedback

➤ Planning

South Scotstoun - reaction to the development being passed was varied but widely negative. Still an element of nimbyism from some, others calling for 'infrastructure improvements' but with misinformation such as lack of school capacity, outdated views on public transport, etc. Some exaggerated views on the comparative size of Queensferry with expectations of more supermarkets, 24hr gym etc.

The true issues such as traffic management, parking, safe crossings/pavements, dilapidated play parks and now, it seems, nursery places, etc. are rightly identified by some others as issues to address with these developments.

What is highlighted is the remaining element of misinterpretation or unawareness of facts relating to the current status of Queensferry, previous planning gain contributions, the planning process and the true drivers of housing developments. We will look towards writing up some sort of communication that gives the facts on where we are as a town, what in our view needs addressed and how we can influence that as a community.

The High St refurbishment announcement was met with some negativity in relation to the allocation of the £1m. Some misconception that it could be used to fix other roads, etc. and some belief that it is merely about cobbles/no cobbles. Until such time as we see what can realistically be delivered within the budget then we have kept it generic.

Community Enterprise opportunity Ferrymuir site - well received and good to see the community grasped the "looking for a team" concept from the start with very little calls for "we want a...". The drop-in produced some good quality ideas and serious potential contenders for the facility.

➤ Transport

Traffic flow – Issue remains with parking at the Hopetoun crossroads under the FRB up Bo’ness Rd. Parked close to the junction and on both sides of the road causing traffic to face oncoming. Eastbound buses regularly cannot sweep in to the bus bay due to the level of parking. **Police request.**

SGN communications on gas pipe works have been very poor with all info having to be chased by ward councillors and QDCC. The emergency work on the High St was not communicated at all until it was chased and answered almost 24 hours after on site.

Road Condition – still many increasing issues with road condition throughout the area.

Gritting – appears to have been a far better response on the second wave of bad weather with grit lorries covering many of our back roads and pavements being done in key areas such as the High St. Some great community teamwork took place to facilitate schools reopening and a number of local champions who led this or helped the community consistently during the difficult weather.

➤ Crime

Some reports of thefts of bicycles from garages and huts in Queensferry on 18th/19th March

Fly tipping at Linn Mill towards Hopetoun House (builders’ material) discovered 23rd March.



G.McKinley 25th Mar 2018