

QDCC Communications Report – Apr 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 – We have managed to save this website with the help of some local businesses who have agreed to fund the hosting. Gerardine Renwick (The Little Parlour) is coordinating collection and payment to Sanctus Media. This will be a valuable asset for the promotion of Queensferry. Currently arranging the transfer of the Intellectual Property rights from QA to QDCC via CEC. We have requested admin access to update this site as it will inevitably be viewed around now by future visitors and is currently lacking in updated content. <https://www.visitqueensferry.com/>

Community feedback

➤ Planning

The High St refurbishment Drop in consultation appears to have been well attended and notification of the event was well cast through much Facebook onward sharing as well as our website and ward councillors' channels.

As expected opinions and views are diverse but a basic straw poll on the main local Facebook group by a member regarding cobbles or tarmac produced a preference of more than two to one for cobbles from 395 responses (276 for cobbles/ 119 for tarmac. Other comments relate to pedestrianisation, one way system, access only no through road with bollards in the middle, etc.

However there is not much evidence of a holistic view within most suggestions. The knock on effect on Station Rd and other routes, service vehicle access, resulting parking reduction, effect on local business, etc. has not really been considered in most suggestions.

This possibly highlights a need for QDCC to publish the pros and cons of the suggested options which I suggest we look to do. There is a similar study document from 2010 which possibly just needs updating.

Community Enterprise opportunity Ferrymuir site - Four candidates so far, we have held encouraging preliminary discussions with one, another scheduled for next week. Clear that a second floor will be necessary and thus the fundraising to match the £400k will be required which QDCC will assist the successful candidate in seeking, as required.

➤ Transport

Traffic flow – Complaints on the parking at the Hopetoun crossroads under the FRB up Bo'ness Rd continue.

Road Condition – Burgess Rd resurfacing and parking alterations appear to have been well received. Various pothole repairs made throughout the area although the quality of repair very much under question by local residents.

➤ Environment

Outdoor Play Resource held the first of three events for children at The Vat Run. This area has great potential but requires some support and fresh energy with new members on its committee, including a chair as Iwan Thomas has limited time available since his change of job role last year. Plenty of voluntary resource to help with the work activity but some direction, guidance, new ideas and energy required.

Business Community Engagement

Keith and I have been working with a few key local business owners with a view to drawing together a formal association for local business to have a recognized and cohesive representation. Early stages yet but with some inroads and many issues on the table to address. Some significant ideas we have to take this forward, will update as it progresses.

Youth Engagement

In conjunction with CEC's Lifelong Learning Manager Scott Donkin's team we had planned to hold a significant feedback session with the young community within QCHS prior to the summer break. However, a change of circumstance with our planned complementary street liaison group has pushed this to the other side of the summer holidays. The YE group will meet again prior to the summer holidays.

The "nothing to do in Queensferry" comments (mainly from adults) are vastly decreasing since we collated the list of clubs, groups, organisations and facilities in the area, which are considerable and I would contest extremely varied and high per capita for a town of our size. Viewable on the What's on In South Queensferry page [here](#).

Cruise Liner Visits

An excellent result by Peter Wilson, founder of [Cruise Forth](#) in negotiating the special service (x99) with Lothian Buses during liner visit days. This provides a more professional, integrated, reliable, less costly service which addresses a much complained over issue of unprofessional conflict between a bus service provider and taxis. This may well also alleviate some of the pressure on the train station during liner visits.

First liner visit to Queensferry will be the Royal Princess on Thursday 10th May arriving 7am leaving 7pm with 3600 passenger capacity.

Disappointment at the lack of apparent progress from CEC on the proposals we discussed to alleviate some of the issues with liner visits. Keith and I will continue to pursue this and will be attending the initial liner visits to observe the current operation first hand.

G.McKinley 22nd April 2018