

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairman's report for 28th May 2018 Business meeting

In my capacity as Chairman I have carried out the following business on behalf of QDCC.

Queensferry High School New Build

I facilitated and chaired a meeting with QDCC Councillors and Morrisons construction a Jarram Watson on the evening of 24th April '18. QDCC learnt about Morrison's plans for the build, were provided with a layout plan for the initial start-up works and were given the opportunity to raise their concerns and discuss them in detail. The information provided was posted on our media. Subsequently there have been issues with HGV's not using the designated route to the site and travelling along Rosebery Avenue.

Queensferry Heritage Trust AGM and Place Forum

On the evening of the Thursday 4th May along with Graeme and Councillors Hutchison and Work I attended the Place Forum held by QHT. An introduction given by Mike McDowall Vice Chairman QHT about the history of Queensferry introduced the audience to presentations given by Will Garrett CEC Planning about the Placemaking events previously promoted by QDCC, the Queensferry signage strategy by Paul Hogarth and Will Tunnell spoke to the "West End Charrette". Questions were encouraged and an interest shown in the High St Improvements with an expectation that the work would deliver improvements beyond the High Street,

Forth Bridge World Heritage Management Committee Meeting

I attended the planned meeting of the FBWHMC meeting held on the 8th May '18 in the Contact & Education Centre.

I raised my concerns with the committee about the lack of consultation with the community of Queensferry about a plan that is being worked up by AMEY on behalf of Transport Scotland to reconfigure the FRB Viewing Platform area. I understand a presentation about the proposal was given to Scottish Government cabinet ministers Fiona Hyslop and Humza Yousaf with the First Minister calling off. Attached is the previous meetings minutes that were approved. The holding of consultation event/s was alluded too.

High Street Improvement Works

Along with Grant and Ward Councillors Work and Lang I attended the second meeting of the High Street working group held on 9th May '18. Feedback was provided about the consultation events and noting the feedback discussions were facilitated about the extent and likely scoping of the works, design and layout. The intention is to bring forward three proposals to the next round of consultation events towards the end of June. Please refer to the High St papers circulated.

Liner Visit Caribbean Princess

I visited the Hawes Pier to view the first Liner Visit on 10th May'18. Graeme was in attendance and spent considerable time there and has provided a report of the mornings events.

Liner Visits Improvement Development Plan

Along with Graeme I attended a pre-meeting on the morning of 14th May '18 with Peter Strong Localities Manager with the key objective of setting up a working group to develop a development improvement plan for the purpose of seeking funding for the necessary improvements by CEC. Peter gave a commitment to setting up the group of key stakeholders, ward councillors & QDCC and advised that the resources are available in-house to take forward this proposal. Previously QDCC had learnt at the first meeting to discuss the 2018 programme of liner visits that to secure funding that a development plan was necessary. We learnt on Monday that the officer who advised QDCC and took on the commitment was no longer working for CEC.

QDCC Meeting Room repair works

CEC Property Services started the repair works on Thursday 17th May '18 by carrying out an asbestos survey. The surveyor attended last Thursday and is concerned about the cracking on the wall of the rear office adjacent to the toilet. My understanding is that the false lining has to come off the wall for inspection of the wall head etc. and then a decision will be taken about the extent of the repair works. The filing cabinets and other furnishings will need to be moved into the centre of the room.

The floor damaged by the c/h leak at the entrance to the rear office is to be lifted and replaced! The toilet will be decorated as will the rear room but to what extent I don't yet know.

Due to the nature of the works then there could be a point when we cannot use the office and also the toilet could be out of use, timing and the final determining of the works will decide. However I'm sure we can find alternative premises for a meeting if necessary.

Forth Bridge World Heritage Tourism Meeting

I attended the planned meeting of the FBWH Tourism meeting on the 16th May '18 held in the Contact & Education Centre. The business focused on the completion of the Tourism strategy which will now be promoted by Fiona Hyslop Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs. See my comments under the World Heritage Management Committee meeting.

Hopteoun X Roads congestion

I met on site with Patrick Cougan Roads Engineer North West Locality on the morning of Wed 23rd May to discuss the congestion caused by indiscriminate parking in and around the x roads junction and the two bus stops. By laying in a minimal amount of double yellow lines to stop parking at the junction would solve the problem. Patrick intends to produce and issue a plan of the proposal soonest.

North West Locality – Locality Improvement Plan 2017 – 2022 Draft Action Plan Walker Drive

On the afternoon of the 23rd May along with Councillor Work I attended a local forum for residents to discuss the proposed action plan for Walker Drive. The plan outlined in the Locality Improvement plan was generally well received by attendees. Interestingly the above topic of parking at Hopteoun X Roads was specifically raised. I can provide a copy of the plans should anybody want a copy.

North West Locality – Locality Improvement Plan 2017 – 2022 Place Draft Action Plan

I attended the forum as did Graeme held in the Rosebery Hall on the afternoon of the 24th May in the Rosebery Hall to discuss the "Place" document. Two tables of approximately eight people consisting of community councillors, CEC councillors, Council officers and stakeholders discussed the five topics under place: 1) Large scale developments are better managed 2) Communities are better

linked and have appropriate transport links 3) Our existing roads, pavements, cycle paths and public green spaces and parks are well maintained.....4) Housing needs are met by providing more affordable and social rented homes 5) Take action to improve air quality and reduce pollution.

Officers noted a number of substantive amendments and changes to the documents content during the debate and considerable discussion over the two and half hours forum. The document will be edited and re-issued for final approval by the Localities Committee.

Correspondence

LDP2 South Scotstoun Plan – approval of plan by CEC Planning and Development Sub Committee

I contacted David Leslie CEC Planning Quality Improvement Officer previously lead officer for the Platemaking events to express QDCC's concerns and dissatisfaction about the recent approval of the South Scotstoun plan. I subsequently had a discussion with Mr Leslie and he is working on calling a meeting with QDCC and Ward Councillors with Council Planning and Transport officers to give an explanation and justification for the decision and how the shortfalls in planning development gain funds will be filled.

Queensferry Businesses – forming a business association

Graeme and I have continued to work with local businesses by providing support and encouraging them to form a business association. A meeting was called and held on the evening of Wed 16th May by local businesses and the forming of a representative business association is underway.

Keith Giblett Chair QDCC 25th May 2018.