

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairman's report for the 28th January 2019 Business Meeting

Almond Partnership meeting

A Partnership meeting was held on the 3rd December primarily to discuss the Edinburgh Partnership and how stakeholder groups and partners engage and be represented at the partnership review meetings. The Edinburgh Partnership is a statutory group responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Councils Local Improvement Plans and that they are being delivered to plan. It's unclear as to how QDCC will be represented.

Meeting with QCCC Board

An informal meeting was held on the 4th December with QCCC board and QDCC represented by Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and Health Committee Sub Group Convenor. We exchanged views and ideas about representation for both parties, reporting structures, and the fund raising plans going forward.

Opening account with Barclays Bank 10th December '18

The Treasurer and I attended a meeting at Barclays Bank Princes Street Edinburgh to open a business savings account for placing £85k of the community facility funds in line with the Financial Services Compensation Scheme limits. The Treasurer will provide an update on progress with opening accounts.

Meeting with Transport Scotland

On 12th December a meeting was held with Transport Scotland Officers, AMEY, Peter Strong Dave Sinclair and QDCC with Graeme and I representing the Community Council. The purpose was to discuss the ongoing traffic issues being experienced in Queensferry since the opening of the Queensferry Crossing. The meeting was helpful by sharing information. QDCC were given assurances that our views would be sought when TS carry out the 12 month review of the Queensferry Crossing operation.

Opening account with Santander Bank 7th January '19

The Treasurer and I attended a meeting at Santander Bank Fredrick Street Edinburgh to open a business savings account for placing £85k of the community facility funds in line with the Financial Services Compensation Scheme limits. We learnt that Santander do not operate a two from three signature arrangement with their accounts so we decided not to open an account with them.

Edinburgh Partnership Forum 9th January '19

This forum was organised following on from the Partnership meeting held on 3rd December. It was well attended. Attendees were placed in break out groups and the groups discussed set questions about the role of the Edinburgh Partnership. The conclusion from the groups was that the present arrangement had worked well with Partnerships, such as the Almond Partnership and why change to anything else! I will circulate the outcomes from the meeting when I receive them.

Safety Forum 16th January '19

Along with the Education & Recreation Convenor I attended the Safety Forum where reports were given about community policing, local improvement plans (LIPS), Environmental Wardens activity and Housing. I asked about the progress with Walker Drive LIP and was advised that a timeline and work plan could not be provided nor could the officer provide an indicative time when they would be able to provide this information. I learnt that all the LIPS work activity for all four localities is being consolidated into one work plan and then contractors will be invited to quote for the work.

Other Communications

Bank Accounts

I along with Diane and Terry have spent considerable hours talking to bank representatives, filling in forms, replying to emails for opening savings bank accounts for the Community Facility Funding.

Community Facility

I received a request from QCCC seeking a change to the minute of agreement with Forth Bridges Business Park Developments Ltd (Evans). The transfer of the land takes place upon completion of the build. This presents a problem with potential funding organisations who look for ownership at the point of providing the funds. I have progressed this request by speaking with FBBPD James Pitt and both parties solicitors (Marjorie Townsend of Nelsons is representing QDCC) who have been instructed to work on an amendment to the minute of agreement.

Queensferry Harbour - QBC

A sum of £5k was allocated from the NEP for repairs to Queensferry Harbour. Last year representation was made to QDCC by the QBC Commodore and Vice Commodore seeking essential repairs to the Harbour. I facilitated a meeting with Dave Sinclair Transport & Environmental Manager and QBC. The expectation was that repairs could be affected in the summer of 2018 as funds were available. Potential additional funding could come from the Common Good Fund. It transpires that the Harbour is held on this account. A Brian Paton Property Surveyor is charged with responsibility for the Harbour and the account. There has been numerous emails sent to Mr Paton to no avail and in the intervening time the Harbour fabric has deteriorated such that it requires immediate remedial work carried out. Several weeks ago I reached out to Councillors Work and Hutchison in their capacity as Convenor/Vice Convenor of The Hawes Pier User Group to see if they could elicit a reply. The following was provided to Councillor Work last week from Brian Paton;

“I have sent tender documents out to four engineers on the Scotland Excel framework asking for quotes for a report on the harbour. The scope of work is attached. I have asked for the quotes to be returned no later than [30th January](#) and will be in touch as soon as I have the prices back. Meantime please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect.”

BT Repair Works - Foot of the Loan

Pleased to see these works were completed in early January '19 satisfactorily after they were abandoned in May'18. Thanks to Patrick Coogan for all his efforts and help in having the work completed.

Keith Giblett
Chairman QDCC
27th January 2019