

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairman's report for the QDCC Business meeting being held on the 25th February 2019.

Cruise Forth Forum held on 30th January 2019 in the Tree Tops Hilton Hotel North Queensferry

Along with Graeme I attended the Cruise Forth Forum. Attendance by CEC officers was disappointing with Edinburgh being represented by the Flood Prevention team. Fife, West Lothian, Falkirk were well represented by officers from their Tourism Economic Development teams as well as Dunfermline and St Andrews being represented by their own business representatives. Queensferry was represented by QDCC!

Community Facility 5th February 2019 & Marjorie Townsend 14th Feb '19

A meeting was held with QDCC to discuss if changes could be made to the minute of agreement that QDCC holds with Ferrymuir Business Park Development (FBPD) and if the transfer of the land ownership could take place before the build is completed. Ideally it would be at the point of approval of planning permission. Following on from this meeting I met with Marjorie Townsend who is presently working on this by seeking an amendment to the agreement and is in contact with FBPD Solicitor.

Meeting with CEC Planning - Craigiehall Proposed Development 6th February East Market St Edinburgh

With Diane's assistance a meeting with the Planning Officer was held in CEC Offices East Market Street to discuss this proposed development. Present were MSP Alex Cole Hamilton, representatives for KCC, BCCC and DMSRA. The Officer gave a good account of the proposal and answered all of the questions put to him. He advised that CEC Planning were legally obligated to consider the plan. Whilst he understood our objections it was incumbent upon QDCC to follow due process and formally object to the application. Planning were awaiting an environmental report from the applicant about the impact of building under a flight path and that Edinburgh Airport are a consultee.

Meeting with Queensferry Businesses evening of 6th Feb '19

Along with Graeme I attended a meeting with the Queensferry Businesses attended by Peter Wilson Cruse Forth primarily to listen to the views of the businesses and take on board any comments about the liner visits. I took on an action to speak with CEC Museums & Galleries Officers about the Museum being open for all the Liner Visits and whether the Museum could be made more welcoming for the visitor. I have reached out to Councillor Work seeking support.

Visit to New QHS Build afternoon of 8th Feb '19

Along with the Ward Councillors and David I was privileged to be invited and attend a visit to the new QHS Build. It was a very interesting visit and it's only when you are in the building you can appreciate the height and size of the build.

Forth Bridges World Heritage Management Committee Meeting 13th Feb '19

Graeme and I attended the quarterly meeting of the FBWHMG at the CEC and facilitated a presentation from Gordon Muir about the Burryman Sculpture proposal which was well received. The Tourism Strategy for the Forth Estuary is to be launched by Fiona Hyslop Cabinet Minister for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs on 24th April in North Queensferry.

I take this opportunity to bring to your attention that feedback was sought from the Forth Bridges Forums (this has taken six months) about the former Corus site and the plans for 120m homes to be built and whether this has an impact on the Tourism Strategy yet to be launched.

Please see this extract from draft minute;

- 2.7. Action 12 14.1, 13 2.6 & 13 14.2 – Land adjacent to Contact & Education Centre, SL updated the group. This was discussed at the Forum meeting on 16 January and concerns were noted. The Forum would find it very difficult to influence future use of this land, but SL has opened dialogue with City of Edinburgh Council. MO suggested KG put together a paragraph or two summarising his vision of what the land could be used for and the benefits it might bring. This could then be used to propose an alternative use for the site, and to support the Tourism Strategy. **ACTION: KG forward plan for land use to SL & MD**

Meeting with Lesley McInnis Convenor for Environment & Planning

The Chair of Cramond & Barton CC Andrew Mather had made representation on behalf of CBCC, QDCC, KCC and DMSRA to the Convenor for a meeting to raise our joint concerns about the impacts on the transport infrastructure from housing development in West Edinburgh, Fife and West Lothian. Present at the meeting were the Convenor, Councillor Work, Ewen Kennedy Transport Officer, John Inman LDP Planning Officer, Dave Sinclair Localities Transport, representatives from the three Community Councils and DMSRA. Reference was made to the SEStran Regional Strategy plan and that some of outcomes from the studies being carried out should be available in the next few months. The Convenor had recently met with representatives from the neighbouring authorities and discussed some of the points we raised. Presently there are plans to extend the Park & Ride at Gogar Park & Ride and solutions might be to build more Park & Ride facilities on the West side of Edinburgh. The Convenor advised that she thought it had been a very useful meeting and offered up a second meeting prior to the summer recess which we accepted.

Queensferry Liners meeting 20th Feb '19

Following attendance at the Cruise Forth Forum meeting I made arrangements to hold a meeting to with the officers responsible for the liner visits being Dave Sinclair Localities Transport, Chris Spence and Gordon McOmish Flood Prevention Officers who are responsible for the running of the Hawes Pier. From QDCC's perspective there is a reluctance by Flood Prevention officers for change but through persistence then they have had to concede that they reduce the car parking used for liners after the coaches' return at around 1pm.

Meeting with Sea Cadets 21st Feb '19

Along with Neil representing Queensferry Rotary I was invited to attend a meeting with Colin Butcher Sea Cadets to be updated about the plans for their new build facilities' at Port Edgar. The lease is being finalised by the legal representatives of both parties with an expectation of being concluded in the next couple of months. They are seeking estimates for the initial cost of taking the proposal to the build stage for their architects and planning costs.

Other Matters

Bank Accounts

I continue to work with Diane and Terry securing a fifth interest deposit account for holding the Community Facility funds.

Harbour repairs

I continue to have regular conversations about the repairs to the harbour with QBC Commodore Scott McConachie. In the last week QBC have been given approval to repair the steps at their own cost, Council Surveyors await quotes for the major repairs with an expectation that work can commence as soon as possible before any further damage is caused by poor weather. Councillor Work has been in discussions with the Property Surveyors.

Keith Giblett Chair QDCC