



QUEENSFERRY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS 1986-2019

Minutes of Business Meeting - Monday, 25th February 2019

Present: Keith Giblett (Chair), Kirsten Heggie (Queensferry Businesses), Gillian Smith (QCCC), Diane Job (Treasurer and Planning Convenor), Grant Sangster (Transport Convenor), David Flint (Education Convenor), Graeme McKinley (Social Media Site Administrator), Anne Mitchell (Health Convenor), Maggie Quayle (PEYC), Councillor Norman Work, Councillor Louise Young, June Jansen (Environment Convenor), Councillor Graham Hutchison, PC Martin Crow (Police Scotland), Muir Kay (QBC). 2x members of the public

1. Chairman's Welcome

Keith welcomed members to the February meeting. Special mention was made of the probable demise of neighbourhood partnerships, which he felt had been particularly valuable in the Almond ward. He mentioned that Eleanor Sneddon and Jennifer Garner had resigned from the community council. A new Heritage Trust representative was likely to come forward shortly, however QDCC would require a new minute secretary. The chair expressed gratitude to both Eleanor and Jennifer for their hard work over the years.

He introduced David Delargy and David Stevenson from CEC who had come to give a presentation about the Local Improvement Plan project in Walker Drive.

2. Apologies

Laura Sexton (Advisor), Terry Airlie (Vice Chair/Secretary), Neil McKinlay (Rotary Club), Cllr Kevin Lang

3. Police Report (for January 2019)

5 frauds (via phone, requesting residents to submit control of their computer to the caller)

1 shed broken into

1 theft from a van

2 serious assaults (known to each other)

1 vandalism

A small number of youth congregation and anti-social behaviour issues, often exacerbated by consumption of alcohol, had been observed over the month. Presently being addressed through education, in conjunction with Scotmid.

Guest Speakers – David Delargy & David Stevenson

The condition of garages in Walker Drive had been highlighted some years ago as being particularly poor. Very few garages remained in active or positive use and the seemingly derelict buildings detracted from quality of life in the area. With the ground being Housing Department land, an enhancement project here qualified for NEP funding. Initially falling within the remit of CEC's Housing Department, a project to demolish the garages was commenced, then passed to the Localilty Improvement Team for design and tender. However engagement with residents or stakeholders remains the responsibility of CEC rather than the consultants. In the case of Walker Drive, engagement was made more complex by the presence of Scottish Power equipment. The project currently resides with Building Control and completion is expected by the end of June 2019. Each garage will be replaced by a parking space, with hardstanding to support 19 to 21 off-street bays for vehicles.

4. HMO Notifications

The owner of a property in Stewart Terrace had recently made a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) request, and the owner of a neighbouring property attempted to lodge an objection to the request. Although the objection was noted as part of the process, it was submitted late because the statutory notification method comprising a sign tied to a nearby lamp post is easily missed. Unlike planning applications, neighbours, community councils and ward councillors are not automatically notified of HMO requests.

Action: Terry to write to Cllr Cath Fullerton (CEC Regulatory Committee Convenor) asking for clarification and reasoning for the existing HMO notification process, stating that QDCC deem this unsatisfactory and wish it changed.

5. Queensferry Harbour Update

Norman assured everyone that contracts for rebuilding the highly vulnerable knuckle part of the harbour wall were in hand, but require final approval before building can actually start. The steps are considered particularly important on safety grounds, but boat owners should be able to deal with related finances themselves.

Action: Norman to continue reporting on knuckle progress until repairs are complete

6. Locality Committees & Neighbourhood Partnerships

Ward councillors said that details of Neighbourhood Networks are still to be released, but a commitment to better local engagement had been made. It was recognised that each of the four localities in Edinburgh were not universally working well, but a matter of opinion whether these should be dissolved prior to an alternative model being available. A governance issue within CEC may have arisen with the previous neighbourhood partnership approach, because they had not required formal appointment.

Keith highlighted concerns that Neighbourhood Networks would accept input from a wide variety of sources, leading to contributions from community councils having less impact than under the previous neighbourhood partnerships. However this approach could not be confirmed because a relevant report from CEC had not yet been published.

Norman stated that the Corporate Policy Committee would consider and approve the report if thought acceptable. Representation would be possible at this committee. Subsequently, the full City of Edinburgh Council would authorise the report, but there may not be an opportunity for representation at these later stages.

ACTION: Norman to find date for publication of Locality Review papers and supply a copy of the report being submitted to the Corporate Policy Committee

7. Minutes of last meeting

The January 2019 minutes had been circulated in draft form. One update was requested at this meeting (February 2019) to correct the name of attendee PC Kenny to PC Kelly.

Proposed – David Flint

Seconded – Maggie Quayle

8. Matters Arising

OPEN ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM JANUARY 2019 MEETING

- **Rejection of Pharmacy Application - Keith, Anne & Terry to liaise on feedback based on report. Open.** Anne will circulate a list of her concerns surrounding the process within the next few days

CLOSED ACTIONS FROM JANUARY 2019

- Housing Officer to attend February Meeting of QDCC (KG/TA) **Closed** – see minute item 3 (guest speakers)
- KL to follow up on progress and update on Dundas play area. **Closed.** Expected in March 2019
- KG to approach other Community Councils/Residents Group to agree process. DJ to contact CEC re Planning Concordant, and review previous Consultation mindful that site is not listed in LDP. **Closed** – see Chair report
- Heritage Trust - Eleanor to submit list of forthcoming events for inclusion on QDCC webpage. **Closed.** Although this hadn't been done formally, very few events remain this year.

9. Chairman's Report - [circulated](#)

With regard to the joint community council Craighall housing development application meeting, the fact that planning officers had provided full answers to a range of questions was considered quite impressive. Edinburgh Airport remain an important consultee, and an environmental report from the applicant is still awaited which is expected to address the concerns about locating residential development below an established flightpath. Despite the application consuming green belt land and being outwith the approved LDP, it was pointed out that CEC have a legal obligation to accept the proposal and run it through the standard consideration process. Therefore the Development Management sub-committee will discuss the matter and put forward a recommendation to the full council.

10. Councillors' Reports

Councillor Young – no written report this month

- Scotstoun avenue traffic calming anticipated as being imminent
- Dalmeny Station train service considered as an improving situation, but remains a concern
- Ramp from Morison Gardens to Scotmid – confirmed that land is Scotmid's responsibility but they are not willing to build or maintain a ramp on it. However a review of their land ownership is expected soon, which may provide some hope for future prospects

Cllr Hutcheson – [report](#) circulated

Pleased to report Port Edgar lease now progressing for Sea Cadets, after 3 years of effort. They now have sufficient commitment to set up legal agreements and move plans forward with architects

Councillor Work – [report](#) circulated

A local establishment had failed to submit its licence renewal application to the Licensing Board by the required date, therefore it could no longer sell alcohol from its premises. While a resolution was likely to be found through time, the incident highlights a need for vigilance to be maintained by shop owners.

11. Treasurer's Report – [circulated](#).

Continued obstacles were still being experienced with distributing Community Facility money amongst different institutions to mitigate the risk of each bank collapsing and becoming eligible for limited FSCS compensation. The account processes involved were still proving difficult to navigate for the banks themselves, and very time-consuming for QDCC to support. Barclays appears a promising and cooperative candidate at present. Ideally all will be resolved before year end 31st March.

12. Secretary's Report – [circulated](#)

15. Questions from the Floor

A representative from Dalmeny Station Residents Association spoke of their concerns surrounding traffic volume and speed on Rosshill Terrace. This had become intolerable for residents. Residents had conducted their own traffic survey which cast doubt on CEC's results from the previous year. CEC had agreed to install a speed table at the junction with Bankhead Grove and Forth Terrace. However despite a meeting at the location on 22 November 2018, nothing had been laid down to date and no further communication received over the intervening three months. The residents association had also highlighted issues with the proposed High Street refurbishment programme and how it would adversely affect Rosshill Terrace, but no update had been received.

Ward and QDCC councillors provided reassurance that views of residents in Rosshill Terrace were not being ignored completely, although there was no guarantee that these could necessarily be accommodated in full. The High Street refurbishment session anticipated in February 2019 had been delayed. The survey by Arup in June 2018 was still being digested, but its data remains valuable in looking at traffic flows around Queensferry and Kirkliston.

13. QDCC Sub-Committees

Communications – [circulated](#).

A major disappointment was reported in relation to liner visits and the possibility of freeing up some of the Hawes car park at an earlier time than traditionally occurs. A plan was drawn up to address the 30-50% loss in trade that nearby business owners claim is suffered during liner visits. Despite QDCC's suggestions, the decision was taken to retain the existing arrangements. It was felt that the proposal had not been adequately considered and the staff involved in making decisions were inappropriate

ACTION: Keith and Graeme to prepare letter to CEC's Chief Executive recording dissatisfaction and also requesting changes in responsibilities for TTROs and liner events at the Hawes Pier.

Transport - [circulated](#).

Queensferry Businesses

Verbal report outlined attempts to widen membership. Meetings with CEC's Economic Development department representatives have re-started. Some attempts are being made to print another town centre map, with a number of designs under consideration

Planning – [circulated](#)

The section 75 conditions for South Scotstoun and Builyeon Road housing sites had not become any clearer recently, and have been outstanding for nearly a year. The Ferrymuir Gait application had returned, but resolution on access road(s) does not appear any closer.

Health – circulated

The funding supporting the GP link worker has not been extended thus losing a valuable worker within the community. At present it is not clear where the clients using this service will receive future support from, but the assumption is that this responsibility will return to the GP practice. Thrive is a group in development at present who may in the future provide a similar support.

ACTION: Anne to investigate prospect of using Thrive contacts to replace some link worker activities

Education/Recreation – circulated

Unfortunately Jenny couldn't attend this evening's meeting, but a brief summary of the 'Inclusion for All' 2019 event was submitted. This explored ways that the community could support and collaborate with young people to encourage collective learning, with a focus on mental wellbeing. Workshops promoting understanding of ASD and LGBTI issues were held, in addition to post-school pathway discussions.

Port Edgar Yacht Club

At the recent AGM, a change in the committee membership saw Terry Kirchen standing down after 8 years. No agreement on the club house lease had been reached yet but some movement was anticipated at last. Many CEC leases should now be negotiable in a similar manner to the Sea Cadet experience, with discussions now possible surrounding the exact use of facilities.

Environment – circulated

June highlighted that she had attended a cycle event and met with Sustrans representatives, who she invited to a walkabout session in Dalmeny, where a number of obstacles to active travel were evident, such as damaged bollards and important routes to school. A reply is awaited, and Dave Sinclair from CEC will be copied in the correspondence.

Heritage Trust

Membership increases continue, with the Masonic Hall seating facilities beginning to look inadequate. The season end is approaching and an AGM will shortly fall due. Proposals to increase external collaboration have been made, which would build upon successes established with Greenferry.

Queensferry Churches Care in the Community (QCCC)

There was recent recurrence of a flooding issue on a nearby road, but this now appears to have been satisfactorily resolved. An increase in funding has gone towards enabling a higher frequency of supper clubs. The previous rate of 2 per month will become 4 per month

Queensferry Boat Club

Concerns were raised about the condition of Old Post Office Close, which is used as an access to the clubhouse, as the surface was thought to be in a poor state. Minor repairs have been done, but ownership is uncertain.

ACTION: Norman to establish responsibility for Old Post Office Close

14. Any Other Business

A resident of East Terrace attending the meeting identified an insecure metal plate on East Terrace which had already injured a member of the public. The plate gave the appearance of covering a drainage hole, but had potential to swallow an entire foot. Responsibility for maintaining the plate lay communally with the nearby residents, and further injuries could be reported to them.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 25th March 2019 in basement of 53 High Street at 7.30pm