



QUEENSFERRY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS 1986-2019

Minutes of Business Meeting - Monday, 25th March 2019

Present: Kirsten Heggie (Queensferry Businesses), Diane Job (Treasurer and Planning Convenor), Grant Sangster (Transport Convenor), David Flint (Education Convenor), Graeme McKinley (Social Media Site Administrator), Anne Mitchell (Health Convenor), Councillor Norman Work, Laura Sexton (Advisor), Cllr Kevin Lang, June Jansen (Environment Convenor), Councillor Graham Hutchison, PC Martin Crow (Police Scotland), Muir Kay (QBC), Jenni Smith (Queensferry High School). 1x member of the public

1. Chairman's Welcome

Keith had submitted apologies, asking Graeme to chair the March meeting. He welcomed members making special mention of the present High Street closure due to underground excavation to service sewage pipes, various road resurfacing projects, and progress of larger scale planning applications, particularly at South Scotstoun.

He introduced Fiona Chandler from Greenferry who had come to give a presentation about developments at the Hawthornbank garden area, near the Vennel cemetery.

2. Apologies

Keith Giblett (Chair), Gillian Smith (QCCC), Maggie Quayle (PEYC), Terry Airlie (Vice Chair/Secretary), Neil McKinlay (Rotary Club), Councillor Louise Young,

3. Police Report (for February 2019)

Very little crime had been reported in the period under review. Four notable incidents were vandalism to a car in Echline, a break-in, shoplifting from Scotmid and a possible single incidence of bank card cloning (highlighted by the bank rather than the card owner).

High School Report

Attainment – QHS doesn't regard absolute attainment as an especially relevant metric, but is presently performing satisfactorily for attainment amongst 80% of the school's population. The remaining 20% are a concern and improvement measures are being identified. The school prefers to use a virtual comparator model, which factors an appropriate level of social deprivation into comparisons. This shows QHS doing very well, with positive destinations at around 97% and a good understanding of reasons for 3% recording as non-positive in the statistics.

Equalities – No major culture shift has been necessary but the school is proud of its LGBT bronze award. A pilot Wellbeing Hotline has been introduced and its effectiveness is being assessed at present.

Knife Crime – The school has developed a clear policy in relation to people suspected of, or confirmed as, carrying knives, and works closely with the police where appropriate. Some concerns were raised recently regarding non-malicious incidents.

Inclusion Events – These will be hosted by the school later in the year, as reported at last month's QDCC meeting.

New Building – Presently considering how this can be used to best effect

Under 18 Mental Health – Self referral by this group is notoriously problematic and the school recognises this void. Drop-in sessions to alleviate exam pressures are being trialled, and resources supplied by Edinburgh's Health In Mind charity (which officially excludes young people) may be able to help.

Greenferry Presentation

Mosaic – Ceramic parts of the mosaic have been sealed, and are expected to be pieced together and mounted to the wall in May. This will require some manual labour to hold each section in place until the adhesive cures.

Planting – Many items previously planted have survived to date and beginning to grow

Step Area – The paving towards the centre of the garden needs to be repointed. Members have attended a course on mixing sand and lime, which should prove highly beneficial when carrying out this maintenance.

Fruit Trees – Greenferry wish to cultivate an edible hedge along the front of the area.

Sensory Trees – Octopus Energy donated 12 examples of trees which would grow to produce a high degree of sense stimulation to visitors. This is considered too many for the small space and only a few are planned for the area, however publicity for the initiative is being sought.

Ferry Fair – There is a hope to hold an event during Ferry Fair but this has not yet been confirmed

Carols – The singing event went well last year, with impressive videos being distributed across social media. This illustrated the usefulness of the garden as a performance space.

Signage – The group wish to mount a sign on a building at the foot of the Vennel steps to identify a route towards the garden. This would be visible to people on the High Street. Initial enquiries with tenants were unsuccessful.

ACTION: Norman to establish ownership of Ferry Tap building and enquire with them on prospects of fixing a Greenferry sign to its eastern wall

4. [Minutes from Last Meeting](#)

The February 2019 minutes had been distributed to members in draft form, with re-wording suggested by Anne made and re-circulated in advance of the March meeting. Anne confirmed she was content with the revised version and the 'Draft 2' minutes were accepted as being an accurate reflection of February's meeting without any need for formal proposal.

5. Matters Arising

OPEN ACTIONS BEING CARRIED FORWARD FROM FEBRUARY 2019 MEETING

- **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. Action continues.** Not aware of further HMO applications made recently in Queensferry

- **Norman to continue reporting on knuckle progress until repairs are complete. Action continues.** Some concerns that the survey stage has not yet been reached and £5k is required to facilitate a tender process. CEC have conceded that the repair is urgent
- **Norman to find date for publication of Locality Review papers and supply a copy of the report being submitted to the Corporate Policy Committee. Action Continues.** No date or papers available yet

CLOSED ACTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 2019 MEETING

- Rejection of Pharmacy Application - Keith, Anne & Terry to liaise on feedback based on report. Closed. Anne sent round a list of her reservations about the process shortly after the February meeting.
- 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. Closed. Letter written, with some changes now being made to the liner coach arrangements allowing parking spaces to be freed for the 2019 season. PFSO responsibility transferred to Events Management rather than Flood Prevention.
- Anne to investigate prospect of using Thrive contacts to replace some link worker activities. Closed. This is no longer relevant due to extension of link worker funding
- Norman to establish responsibility for Old Post Office Close. Closed. The street was confirmed as not being CEC's responsibility. QBC should be able to cope with repairs themselves

6. **Chairman's Report - circulated**

Extensive dialogue about the High Street resurfacing project ensued, referencing proposals for a one-way system, displaced traffic, parking facilities/restrictions across Queensferry, extent of the project, need for project, fairground show events simultaneous with the Ferry Fair, disruption during build, timescales, provision of cyclist traffic signals, sources of funding, turning points in the Hawes area and potential dates for the next consultation session. No actions arose from the discussion.

7. **Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Lang – circulated

The building in the High Street previously used by Clydesdale Bank is generating concern and speculation now that the Tweed & Tartan sign has been removed. View that the owners, thought to be a pension fund, have a corporate social responsibility to maintain the aesthetic appeal to a high standard whilst lying apparently unused.

ACTION: Norman and Kirsten to make enquiries about former bank building, and if possible establish long term plans for the site

Cllr Hutchison – 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

Local premises identified at last month's meeting which had failed to submit a renewal application to the Licensing Board by the required date had now done so. The business missed two weeks of alcohol sales due to the oversight in applying for a renewal.

Parking charges in Queensferry were thought to be increasing.

ACTION: Norman to enquire if charges for parking meters in Queensferry are rising from the present 50p cost

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

Charity Bank is being approached to hold some of the community facility money in their Ethical 100 Day Notice Account. Funds are partitioned to ensure compensation limits in the event of a bank folding are not exceeded. Ideally all will be resolved before year end 31st March.

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

10. QDCC Sub-Committees

Transport - [circulated](#)

A brief update was given about the recent Forth Bridges Forum public meeting, supplementing material in the written report

Education/Recreation – [circulated](#)

Preparation of the Inclusion for All programme continues, along the same lines as reported last month. Concern had been expressed at the most recent QHS Parent Council meeting surrounding school roll numbers at the new school. Some projections suggested the school would exceed its design capacity of 1200 by 2024. This scenario made assumptions about housing developments and catchment areas, which may change over the next 5 years. A sign for the school's community woodland had been noticed near the existing overflow car park.

ACTION: David and Graham to speak with QHS about the 'Community Woodland' area behind the existing top car park, including intentions during and after demolition of the existing school building. The sign might require replacement at some point

Planning – [circulated](#)

Disappointment was expressed regarding the lack of funding completion for upgrades to the equipment at Dundas Playpark. More housing has been proposed within the South Scotstoun LDP site following release of land from Transport Scotland to Rosebery Estates. Some confusion exists about the two recent Ferrymuir Gait applications, and whether any time limit applies for submission of more detailed plans.

ACTION: Diane to clarify position on requirement for detailed Ferrymuir Gait plans

Health – [circulated](#)

There is now an expectation that the GP link post will be retained, and that the outgoing Health in Mind worker will be replaced. In the latter case however there may be a gap between the incumbent leaving and a new person starting. There seems some interest around Queensferry for provision of CPR and defibrillator training.

ACTION: Anne to take forward the CPR and defibrillator training, with support of QDCC

Queensferry Businesses

A verbal report outlined attempts to widen membership, presently standing at around 17 businesses. Extending beyond the High Street could be considered. Excavation issues of the High Street for utilities has been challenging, but communication is now quite good. Some attempts are being made to print another town centre map, with a number of designs under consideration. This will probably focus on

a relatively small area, rather than trying to cater for too wide an audience. A Cruise Forth meeting takes place on 24 April, and the Queensferry businesses expect to send a representative.

Port Edgar Yacht Club

No report

Environment – circulated

Some dialogue with CEC has taken place with regard to collection of grass which was cut in summer 2018, and leaves which fell in autumn 2018 in the vicinity of Dalmeny Nursery. Although not considered a priority, some hope remains that this will be dealt with shortly. No reply from Sustrans representatives yet, in response to the recent walkabout session in Dalmeny, where a number of obstacles to active travel were evident, such as damaged bollards and important routes to school. An invitation was extended to everyone to view the video screened at the Botanic Garden as part of the Edinburgh Shoreline Event. June can provide details on request.

Queensferry Boat Club

A verbal report mentioned further incidents of water ingress to the clubhouse being experienced, with the suspected source an adjacent property that tenants rent from CEC. The Boat Club are becoming increasingly frustrated at the slow rate of dialogue between CEC's repairs and housing departments.

ACTION: Norman to try to accelerate the dialogue between CEC Repairs and Housing departments, to try and limit damage to QBC property

Heritage Trust

A verbal report stated that the season's final talk, on Placemaking, was cancelled due to absence of the speaker. Therefore the season has now closed and the 5th anniversary AGM is due on 10 April, which includes a social event. Proposals to increase external collaboration have been made, which would build upon successes established with Greenferry. In general the trust wishes to move into larger projects, for example supporting a theatrical venue at Hawthornbank, or developing a base at Port Edgar telling the area's naval history.

Queensferry Churches Care in the Community (QCCC)

No report

Communications – [circulated](#).

11. Any Other Business

June asked about availability of walking maps – Anne is updating an old version to help liner visitors. The *Walk The Ferry* booklet was mentioned as being quite useful for both locals and non-liner visitors, and sales from some outlets had proved buoyant.

Graeme highlighted that the post of QDCC minute secretary remained unfilled, with no hint of interest. The possibility of using a rota was floated, but some members felt this was too onerous. Furthermore it was not a responsibility outlined in the brief for community councillors or an expectation from the code of conduct. The upcoming volunteer day might hold potential, although few councillors were able to attend this.

David issued a plea from the Rosebery Hall committee for more support from CEC in relation to facility management.

ACTION: Kevin to provide support to Rosebery Hall committee in future negotiation with CEC

12. Questions from the Floor

The member of the public had no remaining questions at this point

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 22nd April 2019 (Easter Monday) in basement of 53 High Street at 7.30pm