

Chairman's report for QDCC July Business Meeting

Community Facility

It is now necessary to appoint Solicitors to represent QDCC with legal matters pertaining to preparing a minute of agreement with QCCC that determines joint ownership of the site and operational responsibilities and liabilities when QCCC have satisfied the terms outlined in the minute of agreement between Forth Bridges Business Park Developments Ltd and QDCC just prior to build. Neilsons, Ms Marjorie Townsend cannot offer the range of legal services necessary. I have been in discussions with Solicitors, Davidson Chalmers Stewart LLP and along with Anne met with them on Tuesday of last week. I hope to be in a position to share more information at tonight's meeting.

Plastic Free Queensferry

I attended a meeting of local interest groups facilitated by Neil; QHT, CleanFerry and Queensferry Parish Church who are interested in setting up a working group that would work towards reducing plastic waste in Queensferry and aspire to reaching ECO Gold award level. Queensferry Parish Church are the "driver" behind this having been advised that they have reached bronze award level.

An action for QDCC to be carried forward to after the Community Council Elections is to engage with the group and consider providing support by engaging with Council Officers, Elected Members, publicising the work of the group and maybe taking the lead in organising quarterly/six monthly forum meetings to share information. The group has registered with "Plastic Free Communities". pdf attached.

Network committees

There have been numerous email circulated about the Forming of Network Committees. The City of Edinburgh Council are overly keen to see a more diverse representation on Network Committees than attendees at the former Partnership Committees. The process has been poorly presented and managed by officers such that many of the North West Community Councils have disengaged themselves from the process. It would seem that the process to get to the point of appointing committee representatives has been designed on the hoof. I decided early on that I was not getting involved in this charade as like the localities committees they are likely to fail. As you are aware later this year there will be Community Council Elections and CEC had the opportunity in forming a new committee structure to strengthen Community Councils but have in my view deliberately chosen to weaken them.

Below is a statement from one of the papers circulated describing the role of the committee.

Neighbourhood networks

How will the neighbourhood networks build on the work of the Neighbourhood Partnerships?

The neighbourhood networks will continue to have a key role in community planning processes, and through their new remit and membership, provide a way of increasing community influence and involvement across the city.

The remit of the neighbourhood networks includes having a role in deciding on the allocation of budgets devolved by public bodies. The Council has agreed to continue the previous arrangement under the neighbourhood partnerships for the neighbourhood networks to be involved in the allocation of the Community Grants Fund. It will be for the neighbourhood networks to determine how they do this. Any process needs to open, transparent and properly managed so the

neighbourhood networks might decide to establish a sub group, funding panel or participatory budgeting steering group. It will be for them to decide locally.

The neighbourhood partnerships previously had a role in the allocation of the neighbourhood environment programme funds. With the introduction of the neighbourhood networks, the Council will be looking to review these funds to consider where influence could be strengthened and capital investment prioritised.

Correspondence

In my role as Chairman I continue to receive numerous email on many topics and circulate them to Convenors and community councillors as appropriate. Generally matters arising are covered in the reports circulated.

Keith Giblett
Chair QDCC