

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairman's report for the Community Council Business meeting held on 26th August 2019

Community Facility

Our solicitors Davidson Chalmers Stewart LLP, are presently preparing a draft agreement for consideration. The one question for serious consideration is of minimising the risk with QDCC's investment and when the land title is shared with Queensferry Churches Care in the Community.

Primary School's development

I chaired a meeting attended by QDCC Councillors with Mr Crawford McGee to learn about the development plans for primary schools and Early Years. We voiced our concerns about:

1) Queensferry Primary school extension build and whether completion date would be met? QDCC was advised that whilst it is always desirable to meet completion dates the Head Teacher had a fall back plan.

2) The proposal for increased early year's provision at Echline Primary School was no longer planned. The proposal remains in the plan! The cost of Early Years build across the City exceeded the budget so the build plan had to be prioritised and there are other areas of greater priority than Queensferry, Echline. It transpires that Queensferry School Nursery and Early Years are now one which increases capacity and falls under the Head Teacher's control.

A primary School and early year's provision is still planned for the Builyeon Rd development. Local catchment areas are under review and we were assured that QDCC will be consulted.

West Edinburgh Infrastructure Provision for Housing Meeting 1st Aug '19

I was invited to a meeting by CBCC Chair Andrew Mather facilitated by John Inman CEC to be given a presentation about the plan and proposals being brought forward for 2030 and Edinburgh's Action programme.

World Heritage Management Committee Meeting

A quarterly meeting was held on the afternoon of the 13th August, Graeme and I attended. Points discussed at the meeting that could be of interest to QDCC members were the Corus Site proposal. A response from Transport Scotland was received after the meeting; "that it's not in their remit nor do they have any budget or funding available".

Other Points of Interest taken from draft minute:

- 2.3. Action 11 3.2 – Plaques. MW explained the plaque unveiled by Humza Yousaf is currently with Amey and he is arranging for this to be erected at the viewpoint, whilst also exploring the possibility of an explanatory plaque for the World Heritage Site and UNESCO alongside.

KG raised the previously discussed proposed relocation of the plaque at Boathouse steps in South Queensferry. The property owner should be consulted. The desired relocation is the Hawes promenade. May be incorporated into the High Street in its new form. KG can send info on High Street to members after 22nd August. KG also commented that cruise ships passengers currently arrive at Hawes promenade approx 80,000 per year, with nothing recognising Forth Bridge as World Heritage Site.

- 6.3. A tourism meeting consisting of a management group of CEO's is planned for September. Project Manager advertisement is live with interviews planned for 10th September 2019. Post holder should be in place by Christmas. The Project Manager will meet with every local business. Signage is a key area for Project Manager to be tasked with, and it will be important that they build on the work already done by the Paul Hogarth Company.
- 6.4. KG and LC asked that the Tourism Strategy sub group contains Community Councils. KG added that QDCC have met with Paul Lawrence and wants all involved to align.
- 6.5. MD explained that there will be more clarity following the meeting in September.

7. Update from Network Rail – Update by IH

- 7.1. Forth Bridge Experience - Public consultations for SQ development held 18th June and 11th July at Orroco pier, very well attended and well supported. Approx. 10 strands of questions answered within planning application which will be submitted next week. Specific meetings will be held with residents

MW added that the consultation dates were not on the Forth Bridges Website. SA updated the group that she is looking at social media platforms and a likely stand alone Forth Bridge website to identify with the iconic World Heritage Site. This would lead onto the Forth Bridge Experience when this is up and running. KG asked SA to take QDCC on board to help reach the audience close to site to address noise and traffic concerns.

130th Anniversary of the Forth Bridge – A sub group will be created, JA happy to coordinate.

JA advised he has booked the exhibition area at CEC for the week of 2nd March 2020. Potential to run year-long events (as done with centenary in 1990) commencing on 4th March 2020.

MO said we need to make the most of World Heritage Status.

LC asked if there would be souvenirs to reflect 130th anniversary. MD advised only 130th anniversary calendar had been produced so far because of calendar production timetables, but more 130th anniversary souvenir products may follow.

JL suggested a new Forth Bridge song, if endorsed by this group, BBC might be interested. There is an existing song from 1990. JL also suggested a quiz.

KG asked about the commercial aspect opportunity for 130th anniversary. IH said that it is difficult as there is few avenues to gather money.

High Street Improvements Meeting

Along with Grant and Graeme I attended a High Street Improvement meeting on 22nd August. A revised plan for two way traffic was proposed. Whilst generally not dissimilar to the present layout the subtle changes provide additional paved area.

I continue to field questions from email and telephone enquiries from residents, businesses and others who have an interest in Queensferry matters.

Keith Giblett Chair QDCC.