



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



2013 NEWSLETTER

About Community Councils

Community councils are groups of people who care about their community and want to make their area a better place to live. Their chief role is representative; they consult local communities and put these views forward to the local authority and other organisations, including NHS Lothian and Police Scotland. Community councils have the right to be consulted on planning applications affecting their areas and are also kept informed about licensing applications.

Community Council Elections

If you would like to represent the views of your community on the issues affecting your area, now is your chance.



Elections for community councils in the City of Edinburgh area will be held on Thursday 24 October. Nominations for community council members can be made until Monday 23 September. Anyone aged 16 or over can apply for membership of the community council operating where they live.

Being a community councillor can be a valuable and rewarding experience. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and help organise events that make a real difference to where you live. Everyone has something to offer regardless of experience, interests and backgrounds. Community councils are also represented on neighbourhood partnerships which agree the priorities for developing and delivering local community plans.

The hard work and dedication of community councils has had a really positive effect on neighbourhoods. Why not get involved?

Queensferry & District Community Council

QDCC's catchment area comprises Craigiehall, Dalmeny, Dundas, and Queensferry. A wide range of local topics arise, often involving housing, planning consent, health, transport, tourism, environment, community safety and Queensferry Crossing construction. Small sub-committees regularly meet local stakeholders and officials to discuss issues on behalf of the community in addition to attending monthly business meetings of the full community council.

Both individuals and groups can join. QDCC is permitted nine elected members and six representatives from local interest groups.

If you are interested in the community of Queensferry and matters that affect you, your family, friends or neighbours, you might be interested in standing for QDCC. You can

register interest through QDCC's website or Facebook page. Alternatively you may contact the City of Edinburgh Council directly.

Planning

Community councils have a statutory right to be consulted by their local authority on planning matters. Presently there are three development sites in South Queensferry: the former Agilent site, the Ferrymuir site and the former Corus Motel site east of the Forth Road Bridge. Late last year the Agilent site was granted planning permission to build 450 homes. Twenty-five per cent, 112 of these homes will be affordable homes. QDCC met with Agilent throughout the demolition process and discussed detailed plans with Agilent's chosen developer, a consortium of CALA and David Wilson Homes. An application has now been lodged with the City of Edinburgh Council. In line with local opinions, the issues that QDCC have been discussing are provision of industrial and retail units, road and cycle links, car parking at Dalmeny Station and use of open space.



Development of the Ferrymuir site has been delayed due to the Queensferry Crossing works. It will be necessary for the developers to review their outline plan which has to be renewed later this year.

Queensferry Crossing

QDCC representatives attend quarterly forum meetings with Transport Scotland and the contractor's representatives, FCBC. This is an opportunity to raise any concerns about the work in progress and learn what work is planned ahead.



Subjects discussed recently include widening of Society Road, construction of the new roundabout at Echline Corner, the new pedestrian crossing at Hopetoun Crossroads and effects of construction traffic on Builyeon Road.

Forth Bridge Developments

In 2012, the UK Government announced that the Forth Bridge would be nominated as a candidate for Scotland's sixth World Heritage Site. The process usually takes several years and is not always successful. However if it can be shown that the structure meets a set of criteria, such as demonstrating outstanding universal value and is protected by a suitable management plan, acceptance by UNESCO for World Heritage status might follow in 2015. The listing has potential to raise the profile of Queensferry as a place to live, work and invest. The Forth Bridges Forum, on which QDCC has a presence, is supporting preparations for the bid.

Independent of this aim, Network Rail recently unveiled a proposal for guided public walks to the top of the south cantilever from a base behind Ashburnham Loan in addition to establishing a visitor centre in North Queensferry. While generally receptive to such plans, QDCC recognises each is likely to bring incrementally more footfall to the town and place further demands on our infrastructure.

High Street

Following protracted discussions with City of Edinburgh Council officials, a study is underway to investigate the function of the High Street and nearby areas. The study is looking at traffic management, pedestrian movements, liner visits and parking. The present condition of the High Street surface will be considered and ideas proposed on how it might be made more resilient or be better protected in future.



This is an extensive study which should be made public in early September 2013.

Transport

Transport issues frequently prompt people to contact QDCC. By maintaining a dialogue with Transport Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council, Network Rail and major public transport providers, QDCC can often help voice concerns from the Queensferry community with the appropriate body.

The subject of road safety is often raised by residents and the community council aims to ensure that proposed solutions are practical, appropriate to the area and consistent with national standards. Patience is usually necessary while the merits of various ideas are considered by everyone affected and some time can elapse before implementation of a solution. Appeals for introduction of parking restrictions or speed limits are sometimes made by local residents and when these are being planned QDCC endeavours to obtain both high safety standards and convenience for people using nearby facilities.

Public transport remains important to the economic wellbeing of Queensferry, bringing tourists to the area and enabling residents to access employment elsewhere. Responsibilities for defining service patterns and providing publicity are complex and QDCC strives to reflect the wishes and needs of the community at the appropriate level.



QDCC also receives notification of temporary road closures and diversions related to events or maintenance. Inconvenience can be minimised by identifying clashes with local interests. These are normally posted on QDCC's Facebook page, which can be a helpful source of information for people planning their journeys.

Community Council Finances

QDCC receives an annual grant from CEC which is used for the running costs of the community council. For the year 2012-2013, a grant of £612.64 was received. One third of the grant is required to pay for insurance and accountancy fees. The remainder pays for management and administration fees, which includes cleaning materials and sundries for the QDCC office and a poppy wreath for the Armistice Day Parade. QDCC sponsors floats for the Ferry Fair. Expenses incurred by volunteers who take care of the Echline Community Woodland for small repairs, petrol etc are also covered. Over the past two years QDCC has secured neighbourhood partnership grants totalling £1800. The sum was partly used to set up a website and purchase a laptop computer. It also funded essential repairs and decoration of the QDCC offices beneath the museum on the High Street, along with improvements to the toilet

and hallway. This year a donation of £100 was received from the Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors to be used towards publicity costs.

How to Contact Us

Queensferry & District Community Council meets on the fourth Monday of every month from January to November at 7:30 pm in the basement of the museum building on the High Street. Members of the public are welcome to attend although it is usually best to identify topics in advance using the methods below. Reports and minutes from these meetings are available on our website.

Items can also be brought to QDCC's notice by using the email address

info@queensferrycommunitycouncil.org

through our website

www.queensferrycommunitycouncil.org

or by post to

QDCC
c/o City of Edinburgh Council
Queensferry District Office
53 High Street
South Queensferry
EH30 9HP

The most popular method for keeping up to date with QDCC business continues to be through Facebook. QDCC's page can be used for informal debate on local issues and exchanging useful information. Posts are monitored regularly by four administrators. The page can be found at

www.facebook.com/queensferry