



Queensferry & District Community Council



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South Queensferry
West Lothian
EH30 9RU

Local Planning Policy
Planning & Strategy
City Development
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8GB

8th July 2009

Attention of Naomi Sandilands Planning Officer

Dear Naomi,

Open Space Audit - South Queensferry

I have already made comment on behalf of Queensferry & District Community Council (QDCC) and would like to take this opportunity to re-iterate comments already made so that they are on record.

Public Open Amenity Space

QDCC seeks to have public open amenity space protected such that property owners cannot alter the boundary of their properties to take public open space into private ownership. Planning & Strategy should not be advising the applicant to apply retrospectively for planning permission and accordingly instruct the applicant that the land must be retained as public open amenity space. These changes should be put into effect as soon as it is practical to do so as they are often the subject of neighbour disputes and take up valuable time of planning officers.

Townscape

The town of South Queensferry is surrounded by open space but the built environment has very little open space that is readily accessible to the public. It should be noted that Queensferry is about to lose many of its connections to the surrounding countryside when the new bridge link roads are built. This only heightens the importance of the green spaces left in the town. The larger green open spaces that adults and children might enjoy are generally under the control and supervision of the local authority; the Education department for use by the schools. It is fact that two of the largest open spaces: Ferry Glen GRE 191 and Echline/Stoneyflats AM 826 is dependant on the goodwill and work of local groups for maintenance and upkeep. I would point out that AM 282 is no longer open space being occupied by some 50 homes called Lang Rigg.

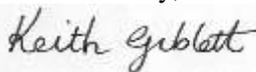
Meeting 23rd June 2009 at Kirkliston CC

At the meeting held at Kirkliston on the 23rd June the following key observations were made by those present at the meeting and it was significant that all were from Queensferry. I think the public of Queensferry deserved to have a meeting held locally and have been denied the opportunity to have their views heard. In fact I am now aware of at least five people who couldn't attend as public transport is not readily available. Those who attended were all representatives of very active groups presently operating in Queensferry being: QDCC, Greenferry, QBA, QA, Rotary and Ferry Glen. It would seem that individuals have not had much opportunity to be heard.

Observations and comments:

- Dundas Park operated by Edinburgh Leisure, the football pitches and running tracks are in poor condition as are the tennis courts. Maybe how Dundas Park is used for the wider community should be reviewed?
- There are no park facilities that can be used all year round with a pavilion or protection from inclement weather.
- Queensferry residents have to travel into Edinburgh, Fife or Lothians to enjoy said similar facilities.
- The public amenity space AM 292 is the only informal open space available to residents of the High Street and should be given a new lease of life. The centre of Queensferry is very poorly served with play parks. Toddlers and their parents are more limited in the distance they will travel regularly for use of such facilities so it becomes all the more important that all residential areas are adequately served with a close play park.
- A number of the play parks in Queensferry are of poor quality and are poorly located from a point of view of being 'self-policing'. Play parks that are not in open view of regularly occupied buildings are consistently vandalised and littered with glass which makes them completely unusable and this is certainly the case in Queensferry. The recent addition at Echline brought about through QDCC's involvement should be used as a good example of what can be achieved.
- GRE 171/2 is shown as a green corridor but this is the whole of the Port Edgar site which is presently earmarked for development. It is likely that the larger portion of the area coloured on the map will be built upon!! QDCC would seek the support through the open space audit process of securing quality public amenity park space within this overall development. There is an omission that the land on the boundary of the Telephone Exchange on Hopetoun Road immediately below the Forth Bridge is recognised to be environmentally significant as protected species of flora and fauna grow there.
- The audit makes no reference to the Ferrymuir site and I would have thought that this site should be included. An outline application for phase 2 of the development currently sits with CEC Planning & Strategy.
- Similarly in the future the very same principles should be applied and form a strategy for the regeneration of the Agilent site where a pavilion park, running track or "open space" resources should be made available to our community.
- The whole of the Binks area should be reviewed. The car park and peripheral green spaces are poorly and very inefficiently laid out and a full landscape and parking layout review should be undertaken which would facilitate more parking as well as more useable green space.
- It was the consensus of the meeting that the individual study figures should be made available for Queensferry as we suspect that these figures would paint a different picture to that of the audit.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Giblett

Vice Chair Convenor of Planning Sub Committee