



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CELEBRATING 26 YEARS 1986-2012

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MONDAY 25 JUNE 2012 COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICE, BURGH CHAMBERS, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

ATTENDEES

Keith Giblett (Chair), Diane Job (Treasurer); Grant Sangster; David Flint; Doug Ross; June Jansen; Laura Sexton; Councillor Norman Work; Councillor Lindsay Paterson; Councillor Alastair Shields.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Keith Giblett (Chair) welcomed everyone to the June business meeting of Queensferry and District Community Council (QDCC). The Chair reported that it had been a busy month dealing with Community Council business matters. The QDCC Facebook site had received a high volume of posts about the route for the Olympic Torch and the decision by the organisers to restrict public access to the torch relay event held at Hopetoun House on 13 June 2012.

This had also been a significant month for the business community in South Queensferry. Businesses in Queensferry have given their resolute backing to ensure Queensferry reaches its full potential by delivering a "YES" vote to set up a Business Improvement District (BID) for Queensferry. Voting started on 10 May with the ballot closing on Friday 22 June. A total of 63% of eligible businesses voted- the highest ever turnout for a BID in Scotland- with 73.7% of businesses voting in favour of the BID thereby ensuring that the BID had a resounding mandate for its business plan. The Chair said that this decision endorsed the QDCC view that the BID has the potential to benefit the lives of people who live, work and visit South Queensferry. Further information on the BIDs project is discussed at item 10:4.

The Chair also referred to the resignation by Martin Gallagher (Vice Chair) to step down as a great loss to QDCC. Keith thanked Martin for all his hard work on behalf of the community, and, in particular, commended Martin for shaping and informing QDCC's response to the Forth Replacement Crossing Bill for the betterment of the community as a whole. QDCC members unanimously endorsed this view and conveyed their best wishes to Martin for success in his Open University course.

2. Apologies

Terry Airlie (Secretary), Steve Thomason (Queensferry Churches Care in the Community), Danny Gordon (Minute Secretary), Jim Ferguson (Queensferry High School), Diane Brown (Queensferry Ambition), PC Kelly (Lothian and Borders Police).

3. Police Report

The Police Report had been circulated. The report stated that 43 crimes had been reported in the Queensferry area during the previous month. A brief discussion ensued on the summary of the report.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Proposer: June Jansen Seconder: David Flint

5. Matters arising from Previous Meeting

QDCC noted that the action taken on matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting was:

- RNLI site at Hawes Pier. QDCC awaiting views of Queensferry Ambition (Business Improvement District) about the response to CEC. .

Action: Queensferry Ambition to report back to QDCC on how they intend to respond to the CEC consultation process on RNLI site.

- Totley Well development. Terry Airlie (Secretary) had been contacted by some residents from Totley Wells who had shared their concerns on this proposed development. As agreed at the last meeting, Terry Airlie had subsequently contacted the residents to set up a meeting to discuss their objections and had communicated their views to the CEC planning committee.
- Community Safety Forum. David Flint reported that the June meeting had been postponed until July and would attend if he was available that day.

6. Chair Report

Chair report had been circulated.

7. Councillor's Reports

Councillor **Lindsay Paterson** provided the following update:

- Port Edgar- all councillors had been briefed on progress with the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for Port Edgar Marina. The ITT had now been published.

Doug Ross (Port Edgar Yacht Club representative) said that there had already been some expressions of interest.

- Recent Meetings: As a newly elected Councillor, Lindsay had met Inspector John Cooper to discuss police matters; and had also attended her first meeting as a member of the Forth Estuary Transport Authority (FETA) board.
- Constituent Representations: Representations had been received from local constituents in relation to planning matters; parking at Station Road; and public transport services.

Councillor **Norman Work** provided the following update:

- Attended the RNLI open day
- Attended the Jim Liddle memorial dinner
- Attended the Civic Reception in his newly appointed role as a Baillie
- The renewed planning application seeking approval by the residents of 90 Station Road, South Queensferry to take part of the High School Playing Fields into private ownership had been brought to Councillor Work's attention through a post on the QDCC Facebook site. Given that QDCC's policy is to firmly protect all open space throughout Queensferry and Dalmeny for the benefit of the whole community, Councillor Work will be working with the QDCC to ensure that appropriate representations can be made to the CEC Planning Committee about this application.

Action: Councillor Ian Perry, Planning Convenor CEC to be invited to next QDCC meeting to discuss planning matters.

- Street Traders Licence application for Hot Take Away van on Edinburgh Road had been refused by the Licensing Committee on the basis that it is a conservation area. There was some discussion about planning matters at the Hawes Esplanade. It was agreed to seek the views of Queensferry Ambition (the new Queensferry BID) before reaching a conclusion on this matter.

Action: QDCC to seek views of Queensferry Ambition on possible response to any future planning applications for Hawes Esplanade.

Councillor **Alastair Shields** reported that:

- This was his first QDCC meeting as an elected councillor (he had been unable to attend the May meeting due to the fuel spillage on the Forth Bridge).
- Representations from constituents received to date indicated that Queensferry and Dalmeny area needs a lot of attention.
- The decision by the business community in Queensferry to vote YES to the formation of a Business Improvement District (BID) was a fantastic opportunity for businesses in the Queensferry area and for the community as a whole to benefit from this decision.
- Visited local residents about a FETA related matter

- Had representations about public transport links

8. Treasurer's Report

Report Circulated.

Diane Job highlighted that:

- £100 had been received from FRC contractors as a contribution towards the printing costs of the QDCC annual report.
- CEC grant funding to QDCC amounting to £612 in 2012/13 expected in August 2012.

9. Secretary's Report

Circulated.

QDCC noted that the Facebook site now has 730 followers. In the past month, the items for discussion have focussed on the route for the Olympic Torch; the article in The Scotsman on Cruise Liners; and priority items for discussion at the next Community Safety Forum.

10. QDCC Sub Committees Reports

10.1 Transport

Transport Report circulated.

Grant Sangster highlighted that:

- Meeting to be held on 26th June 2012 to discuss the transport access arrangements for the Hopetoun Horse trials which are to take place on 28th and 29th July 2012.
- New road to be built at Westmuir Farm Road as a consequence of Forth Replacement Crossing.
- Parking in Gote Lane- Queensferry Boat Club (QBC) has indicated a concern about parking in Gote Lane. QBC to provide further clarification to QDCC about this issue in due course.
- CEC have drawn up draft plans for double yellow lines adjacent to Burgess Park and have provided QDCC with a copy of these plans.
- Queensferry High Street will have to be closed within the next few months to allow essential utilities work to take place. CEC wish to ensure that the necessary work can be co-ordinated and completed at the same time rather than a multi- phased approach which would result in the High Street being closed for a couple of days at a time over a longer period. The exact date for the closure is still to be determined and QDCC will work with CEC in preparation to ensure that disruption is minimised.

- 474 Bus Service. Tenders have been invited by West Lothian Council for this service and a decision about future funding is expected to be made in September 2012.
- B924 Speed Limit Reduction to 40MPH: CEC did not consult QDCC prior to their decision to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on this road which runs from the Hawes Brae to the A90 at Dalmeny. QDCC expressed disappointment that the community council had not had the opportunity to contribute their views prior to this decision being taken. A similar incident had occurred in 2011 when CEC had failed to consult QDCC before the decision was taken to widen the cycle path on the B924.

Action: QDCC to write to Sue Bruce, Chief Executive CEC expressing concern about the lack of consultation by CEC City Development Department.

10.2 Queensferry Churches Care in the Community

Report circulated.

10.3 Community Safety Forum

David Flint highlighted that:

- 43 responses on QDCC Facebook site to request for possible items for discussion at next meeting of the Community Safety Forum
- The main topics raised by Facebook users were: Dog Fouling; Street Lighting; Youths congregating; Speeding Vehicles; Builyeon Road exit at Echline Corner; Pedestrian Crossing for the Loan; Signage about restricted access for High Street for HGVs and tour buses.
- Action: Following discussion, QDCC agreed that the priorities to be taken to the Community Safety Forum for discussion by partners should be **Dog Fouling and Street Lighting**. Other matters to be referred as follows
 - Speeding Vehicles – to be referred to Lothian and Borders Police and CEC
 - Youths Congregating- to be referred to Lothian and Borders Police
 - Exit from Builyeon Road (possible box junction) – CEC/FRC team
 - Signage about speed restrictions on B924 obstructed by foliage – to be referred to West Lothian Council

10.4 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

Report by Queensferry Ambition had already been circulated.

The Chair said the decision by Queensferry Businesses to vote in favour of the BID was an exciting opportunity and proved that the QDCC had made the correct decision to assist and support the BID. He invited Laura Sexton to outline the background and development of the Queensferry BID.

Laura Sexton said that the development of a Business Improvement District (BID) for Queensferry began initially in January 2008 when she had given a presentation to the Queensferry Business Association on the potential benefits that a BID could bring for individual businesses, Queensferry business community, and the whole community of Queensferry. The concept was then taken forward under the Queensferry Ambition project and developed as a partnership between QBA, QDCC City of Edinburgh Council and BIDs Scotland funded by a £20,000 start up grant from Scottish Government and additional resources provided by City of Edinburgh Council. Both Keith Giblett (Chair, QDCC) and Laura Sexton had provided facilitation support and advice to the BIDs project throughout the 4 year period and the QDCC support had been a key factor to achieving a successful outcome of a strong mandate for establishing a BID for Queensferry.

The Chair thanked Laura Sexton for providing leadership, advice and support that to the BIDs project over the last 4 years. Without the help and support of the QDCC, the outcome could have been very different and may even have resulted in the project being abandoned at several stages. The BID will have a seat on the QDCC in recognition of the important impact that business development has for the whole community and QDCC members agreed that they were looking forward to working in partnership with Queensferry Ambition over the next 5 years. Laura Sexton added that she had offered to provide advice and support to Queensferry Ambition in the short/medium future.

10.5 Forth Replacement Crossing

Doug Ross reported that the Forth Replacement Crossing project would appear to be behind schedule. The next meeting of the FRC Community Liaison Group is due to be held in early July and Doug Ross indicated his intention to report the discussions that the Group to the QDCC meeting in July.

Action: Doug Ross to report back to QDCC on discussion at FRC meeting in July 2012.

10.6 Port Edgar Yacht Club

Doug Ross highlighted that:

- Port Edgar Development Group (PEDG) – a group of interested parties (including PEYC) based at Port Edgar Marina who are committed to keep the Marina open have received the Invitation to Tender (ITT) documents from City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) recently. PEDG have positioned themselves as a “backstop” in case no other commercial parties bid to take over the operation of the Marina.
- Initial comments revolve around 2 issues:

- At present, there is no VAT charged on Pontoon rentals since Edinburgh Leisure is a registered charity. If a private company assumes operational control of the Marina, however, it appears that VAT of 20% would be payable with the result that rental charges may rise to rates that would be unattractive.
- There is large area in the current Marina- the entire West Bay- which is not part of the ITT. This area is used extensively at present for yacht, dingy, and trailer storage. PEDG assume that CEC want to retain this area for housing once the economy recovers. CEC have stated that this area may be available on a short term lease. PEDG's view is that the unavailability of this area could deter potential tenderers. The matter will be discussed in more detail at the next PEYC meeting on 12 July 2012.

10.7 Environmental Report

June Jansen highlighted that:

- Successful Greenferry planting day held on 3 June mainly financed by over £1000 from the Ferry Attractive Newsletter. This indicates that support for the High Street flowers is as strong as ever.
- Damaged steel barrier at Ferry Muir Roundabout – CEC have confirmed that it is to be repaired/replaced but no timescale for that work to be carried out.
- Power Cuts- 10 minutes on 10 May 2012 at 10am including traffic lights at Ferrymuir; 20:30 –22:30 hours on 6 June 2012

Action: Chair to write to Scottish Power raising concerns about potential impact that power cuts have on local community.

10.8 QDCC website

Fiona Christie has been commissioned to build a new website for QDCC. Test website link to be circulated to QDCC members for consideration and comment. QDCC members to submit suitable pictures for the website.

Action: QDCC members to consider/comment on draft website and provide suitable pictures for inclusion on website.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Community Empowerment Consultation

The QDCC discussed and agreed to set up a small working group to formulate a response on behalf of QDCC to the Scottish Government's consultation paper on Community Empowerment. The role of the Working Group would be to examine the consultation document and provide a draft response for consideration and agreement by QDCC in due course. It was noted that Laura Sexton declared a conflict of interest in relation to her Scottish Government role and would not participate in any of the discussions or decisions on this matter.

Action: Chair to email QDCC members seeking volunteers to join Community Empowerment Working Group. The purpose of the Group is to examine the details of the Community Empowerment Consultation Paper and report back to QDCC in due course. Scottish Government deadline for response to consultation has been extended to 26 September 2012.

11.2 Edinburgh Leisure

Diane Job highlighted that the public access to the QHS swimming pool would appear to be restricted over the summer holiday period due to Summer Holiday Activator Camps. QDCC endorsed the view that the opening hours should be maintained wherever possible and any changes need to be communicated in advance to avoid any potential confusion. .

Action: Diane Job to write to Edinburgh Leisure seeking clarification on pool hours. Edinburgh Leisure to be invited to QDDC meeting on 23 July 2012.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 23 July 2012 at 19:30 hours.