

Project Managers Report – May 2014 Report

Swedish / Norwegian Tourism BID trip.

Malcolm and I entertained 30 visitors for the afternoon at the Contact and Education Centre. They heard a presentation on the new Bridge Construction followed by a presentation on QA followed by questions and answers. We then walked them down into the High Street finishing with coffee and shortbread at the Boat House. They were all presented with a goody bag of local information, Festival pens and post-its. It was a very well received visit but disappointing that the museum was closed as we looked poor on tourism facilities.

Queensferry High School

Careers Event - The "Queensferry Working" Careers event is due to take place on the 5th of June and we have had good local business support. It is disappointing that Transport Scotland has declined to take part this year and this has been intimated to them.

Forth Bridges Forum - Tourism Group

A second meeting has now taken place. The Forum is keen to drive forward a tourism strategy and the agenda was to discuss funding streams. There was lengthy discussion that a proposal document or business plan was required first with a defined area identified as "tourism destination". It was agreed that a consultant should be hire to scope out what various groups / councils / Visit Scotland are already doing for the area. The Forum will investigate this and report back at the next meeting.

Forth Bridges Forum World Heritage Steering Group

This month the meeting was held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh as the Contact & Education Centre was unavailable. I had suggested various alternative venues in Queensferry but the City Chambers on the Royal Mile appeared a preferred option. Both QDCC & I have growing concerns regarding the Forum and the objective of WHSG. Fife Council have formed a "World Heritage Economic Benefit Working Group". In my opinion QA should be requesting CEC form a similar group for Queensferry.

Forth Bridge World Heritage Economic Benefit Working Group FIFE (FBWHEBWG)

Paul Hogarth and I were asked by Sandra Montador-Stewart, the Service Manager for Strategic Policy & Tourism Enterprise, Planning and Protective Services in Fife Council to attend a meeting of the FBWHEBWG to present the work to date on the orientation and interpretation signage strategy. It was agreed at this meeting Fife Council would award £3500 to support our proposal. It was also requested that I would attend this meeting on an as regular basis to keep good communication between North & South on the issues of WHS.

Community Market.

The anchor points have been installed into the car park area on the High Street with minimal disruption. This should be communicated to community groups who may now wish to use this as an event space. We have started a Facebook Page to keep everyone notified of activity. Please all like and share.

Forth Bridges Tourism Group

The Cruise Season is now well underway. This month has been busy with 6 liner visits. The kiosk is proving a great asset for storage, shelter and a tea stop! The Council have been fully supportive and have lain concrete to help upgrade the area. Graphics have been approved and we are just waiting for instillation. This will see a real transformation of the unit.

Although we have a good core group of volunteers more local people would be welcome as we are still dependant on Fife volunteers to help out.

A free shuttle bus to Hopetoun with return drop off at the Inchcolm Inn is being trialled. FAM trips were offered to the different tour operators but sadly the offer was declined.

I now email the liner information to the businesses prior to the arrival of each ship and this appears to be gratefully received.

Queensferry Museum

Despite regular emails to Museums & Galleries there appear to be little progress here. We have approached FETA, all three local councillors and Visit Scotland for support but there appear a lack of urgency to get the museum open again.