

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Transport Report
for Council Meeting on Monday 30 June 2014

Highlights from the Transport Sub-Committee over the past month are listed below

1. **Event-Related Road Closures and Parking Restrictions** – A number of comments have been received regarding inconsiderate parking during events in Queensferry over the past few weeks. Although we might receive increased attention from parking attendants during evenings and weekends, inconvenience and delays can be expected to be experienced throughout the summer if thoughtless parking continues.
2. **CEC Enquiries** – Nothing has been heard back on the three enquiries raised last month with the Area Roads Manager. These related to preparations for the Forth Road Bridge 50th Anniversary Celebrations, plans for the Forth Replacement Crossing path & road network around the south end and Queen Margaret Drive one-way system.
3. **Buses** – A meeting with Stagecoach representatives took place on Tuesday 27 May. We were told that the 40/A service level introduced in March was covering its costs and they hoped to start turning a profit once the promotional fares period ended. Service levels are the minimum we can expect for the next couple of years, with the aim of introducing an increased frequency if passenger numbers increase. Problems associated with route complexity were discussed. A special leaflet will be produced for tourists and liner passengers. Stagecoach felt there was insufficient demand to justify a service via Tesco on Sundays but agreed to consider additional resource to address punctuality issues which could allow the diversion into Tesco. From Sunday 27 July, Edinburgh Council's supported 63 service will be operated by Lothian Buses rather than Horsburgh. The proposal accepted from Lothian was for a linear route within Queensferry, starting from Sommerville Gardens. Journeys extend from Bankhead Avenue to Riccarton via Hermiston Park & Ride. CEC could not afford to fund an increase in frequency but Sunday journeys will be introduced.
4. **Trains** – A meeting with a ScotRail representative was held on Monday 9 June. Written replies to some frequently asked questions are available for anyone interested. Generally, most complaints from Dalmeny passengers arise from matters controlled by the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, like route specification and non-leisure fare prices, or by CEC (car and cycle parking). However the Service Quality Incentive Regime demands certain standards both on-train and at stations, which are ScotRail's responsibility. In addition to expressing gratitude to volunteers who tend the grounds and planters, he stressed that opportunities are available to decorate Dalmeny Station with artworks created by the community, possibly with a local promotional theme. When the Borders Railway opens in September 2015 it is likely that Fife Circle trains will no longer terminate at Newcraighall, but a small number may run to/from Tweedbank. Edinburgh Gateway Station should be complete by December 2016 however trains may still call both here and at South Gyle even though it is less than a mile away. A pedestrian tunnel under the A8 will be built between the new station and Morrisons. The loco-hauled "Hogwarts Express" will probably not survive much beyond the franchise change/re-award in April 2015. Therefore the 18:58 from Dalmeny to Edinburgh should no longer need to wait in the siding. All replacement rolling stock for the Fife Circle will be cascaded from newly-electrified lines elsewhere in Scotland. Electrification of the Fife line (which offers more rapid acceleration) is not likely within the next few years.

Grant Sangster
Transport Sub-Committee Convenor
28 June 2014