



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CELEBRATING 26 YEARS 1986-2012

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MONDAY 26 March 2012

COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICE, BURGH CHAMBERS, SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

ATTENDEES

Martin Gallagher (Vice Chair); June Jansen; Laura Sexton; Doug Ross; Lindsay Paterson; George Young; Diane Brown; Councillor Kate MacKenzie; Councillor Norman Work; Grant Sangster; PC Aidan Douds (Lothian and Borders Police); Diane Job (Treasurer); Derek Chambers (Guest); Ewen Macdonell (Guest)

1. Chairman's Welcome

Martin Gallagher (Acting Chair) welcomed everyone to the March meeting of Queensferry and District Community Council (QDCC). Once again a busy month for QDCC members which included a few highlights in the fields of Transport, Planning and the Forth Replacement Crossing. He then introduced our two guests this evening, Derek Chambers and Ewen Macdonell from Morrison Construction, part of the Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC) consortium.

2. Apologies

Keith Giblett (Chair); Jim Ferguson; Jamie Burke; David Flint; Danny Gordon; Terry Airlie (Secretary); Steve Thomason; Councillor George Grubb

3. Police Report

The Police Report has been circulated.

PC Aidan Douds provided some detail behind some items on the report and mentioned that after the recent quiet spell, crimes had increased over the past month although there was no single reason for this. A few housebreakings and minor vehicle collisions were listed but no trends could be identified, a sexual offence was committed by a non-local in the Ferrymuir area, a significant amount of cannabis was

discovered in a Dalmeny property and several counterfeit £20 notes had been successfully passed to local businesses.

4. Community Engagement Presentation from Ewen Macdonell and Derek Chambers of Morrison Construction (part of FCBC Consortium)

Ewen provided a summary of the Community Engagement responsibilities which the FCBC had committed to undertake as part of the Forth Replacement Crossing contract. Managing community interests has been part of such contracts since the mid-1980s and is actively enforced to the extent that fines are imposed for compliance failures.

Engagement is monitored with reference to over 100 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), generally measured annually, some of which were described in more detail

- Provide 45 vocational places
- Provide 21 training places
- Donate £10k towards education
- Support 2 PhD students
- Support 30 adult work experience places
- Employ 46 long-term unemployed people
- Give 8 talks
- Score at least 32 points in the Considerate Constructor Scheme (CCS)
- Maintain an accident frequency ratio below 0.25 per 10⁵ working hours each year (construction is planned to use 1.5 million working hours)
- Close 80% of complaints within 2 weeks
- Ensure greater than 85% compliance on noise & vibration restrictions

During the early stages of the project, much of the engagement activity has focussed on community events. Some examples cited of engagement in the year to date were

- Meet the Contractor
- Meet the Buyer
- Meet the Press
- 13 talks given at community events
- 20 school visits made
- 13 university visits made

Some initiatives which were not related to KPIs were also outlined, including

- Donation of £40k from monitor hosts towards nominated good causes
- Offering site office visits to interested parties from around the world
- Acting as Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) ambassadors
- Participating in Employment Forums, actively supported by Fife and West Lothian Councils
- Contributing to educational experience through the 23 different employee nationalities who are on-site

The chair thanked Ewen and Derek and opened up to the floor for any questions.

Question: Are some KPI figures averaged over the 4 year project life?

Answer: Yes

Question: Are complaints submitted to Transport Scotland or FCBC? When does an observation or enquiry become a 'complaint'?

Answer: All questions should be made by phoning the Contact and Education Centre between 09:00 and 17:30 and will subsequently be passed to Transport Scotland or FCBC, however the ultimate responsibility for responding rests with FCBC. Both complaints and enquiries are treated in the same way and aim to be answered within 2 weeks. A complaint number must be given to any enquiry made during working hours and can therefore be tracked through to resolution. Outside working hours, calls will probably be diverted to various mobile phones so it may not receive a complaint number due to the risk of simultaneous enquiries being made.

Question: Is the same complaint reference number retained throughout the life of the question?

Answer: Yes

Question: 50% of enquiries relate to employment opportunities. Are lists of vacancies available or is there a recognised process for applying for particular posts? Has the Queensferry "Get On" Work Club been identified as a potential labour source?

Answer: The HR department already holds CVs from about 4000 candidates. Enquiries can be made through the helpline but most opportunities go through Employment Forums, one of which was recently held at Waverley Court with Edinburgh, Fife and West Lothian Councils in attendance. Vacancies are then advertised in Job Centres or suitable recruits identified through existing training courses. Queensferry's Work Club had not been used to date but may be considered in future.

Question: Is recruitment from the local area, such as from Queensferry High School, given serious consideration?

Answer: While some aspects of the building work will demand specialised skills and experience requiring a global recruitment effort, there can also be efficiency advantages in using local staff for many tasks. Opportunities can arise through sub-contracts, which are sometimes awarded to local businesses but even those which aren't may choose to employ locally to maximise efficiency. The same KPI requirements apply to sub-contracted business.

Question: How can part of the £5k Community Education allocation be claimed?

Answer: Application can be made directly through Ewen

Question: Which police force will be responsible for the new bridge?

Answer: This has not yet been resolved. Regardless of travel direction, the section of Forth Road Bridge north of the old Toll Plaza falls within the Fife Police area.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

One correction was necessary. In section 11.6, Fairy Glen should read Ferry Glen

Proposed: June Jansen

Seconded: Diane Job

6. Matters Arising from previous meeting

The matters arising from the minute of the last meeting were:

- RNLI site at Hawes Pier: An application has been lodged to request removal of the condition requiring demolition of the old building from the original planning consent. Terry has collected comments through Norman regarding the idea of using it as a facility for the Maritime & Coastguard Agency. The intention is to discuss these with Keith and submit a response from QDCC to the MCA before 13 April.
- Floodlighting of Forth Rail Bridge: The Forth Bridge became floodlit again on its 122 anniversary but there was very little prior publicity from Network Rail

7. Chair and Vice Chair Reports

There was nothing to report regarding either Chair or Vice Chair duties

8. Councillors Reports

Councillor Norman Work had circulated a report. Some highlights were

- Collection of comments from Hawes Pier users in connection with the future use of the old RNLI building
- Sale of school grounds to 90 Station Road had not been approved by CEC because it is viewed as 'open space' which is nearly always preserved. Several objections had been received but also notes of support for the sale, mostly from the Parent Council
- Queensferry Rugby Club's offer to take over operation of the Recreation Centre had been accepted. While they hope to establish a bar within the facility this has not been considered by the Licensing Board yet
- Along with Councillor Kate Mackenzie, a meeting was held with the Managing Director of First Scotland East in Larbert to discuss bus services in the Almond Ward. Many challenges are experienced in operating Queensferry's 43 service and these are reflected in recently-announced cuts, effective from 2 April. The hourly evening service change was particularly disappointing but keeping departure times from Edinburgh at xx:25 made sense for people whose appointments or shifts finished at xx:00. CEC's Head of Transport would write to First requesting that they reconsider the evening frequency

9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report had been circulated. Diane reported that there was no movement in the balance. As ASCC no longer arrange insurance cover for Community Councils, Diane sought quotes herself and found that the previous insurer (Zurich) could maintain the insurance but at £10 more than the previous year.

10. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report had been circulated. Some highlights were

- McDonald's application for a '24hr' sign had not been accompanied by an application for 24hr/day opening
- Community Council elections scheduled for May 2012 but postponed to October 2012 due to CEC elections had been further postponed to October 2013 due to a requirement that they must be held outside a Local Government election year.

Action: Terry to write to the Community Council Liaison and Development Officer expressing disappointment and requesting clarification for the reason that they are being delayed longer than necessary

11. Sub Committee Reports

11.1 Forth replacement Crossing

M9 contraflows and weekend restrictions had been posted on QDCC's Facebook page and Twitter feed. Installation of overhead gantries meant the M9 spur had been closed for a few nights recently and four out of twelve are now in place.

11.2 Transport Report

The report had been circulated. A meeting is planned for 13 April regarding QDCC's additional submission to the Local Plan requesting conversion of the FRC Environmental Pond access road into a through route. This will involve CEC and local groups who had expressed an interest but probably not FCBC.

11.3 Queensferry High School (QHS)

George reported that the previous two weeks had been particularly busy at the school, with a World War II Jewish genocide holocaust survivor, Eva Clarke, speaking to 5th and 6th year pupils. A poster exhibition detailing the story of Anne Frank had been set up in the school and specially trained pupils led guided tours around it for interested members of the public. The girls' volleyball team had won the Scottish Cup and will now go forward to represent Scotland at a higher level. A fashion show which was held on 21 March raised £1100 towards charity work which Patricia Shaw and Marian Montanhana will undertake in their gap year

11.4 Planning:

The planning report had already been circulated. In addition to applications and decisions previously mentioned in Cllr Work's report and the Secretary's report, permission for the renovation of food takeaway premises at 12 Edinburgh Road had been granted.

11.5 Care in the Community:

No report

11.6 Health

No report

11.7 Environment

June reported that Greenferry and Friends of Ferry Glen had held their AGM on 20 March and a leaflet had been produced which could be put in various premises around Queensferry. A new Environmental Warden had been assigned (Paul Thomson) and he could be contacted on 469 5245 with queries on littering, dog fouling etc. The Hawes Pier area, where Liner passengers might disembark, was recently identified as being particularly badly affected by dog fouling. June continued to pursue A90 littering and Ferrymuir Roundabout railings with CEC.

The question of littering around Queensferry Recreation Centre was raised and George suggested that the recent withdrawal of prefect patrols might have led to increased littering by pupils from the adjacent Queensferry high School. These patrols would recommence with a new intake of prefects after the summer break.

11.8 Dalmeny

The news that the next Kilomathon race would not be held in the Queensferry area was welcomed by Dalmeny residents who had been adversely affected by previous events.

11.9 Queensferry Ambition

Diane reported that dialogue on the Queensferry BID with CEC had continued over the past month, with even more positive results than in the past. Local businesses could expect to see an overall Business Plan by the end of April in advance of the BID ballot, which closes on 21 June.

12. AOB

No other business was raised

11. Questions from the Floor

No questions were asked from the floor

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 23rd April at 19.30 hours in QDCC offices, Burgh Chambers, South Queensferry.

Grant Sangster

8 April 2012