



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CELEBRATING 26 YEARS 1986-2012

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2012

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICE, BURGH CHAMBERS, SOUTH
QUEENSFERRY**

ATTENDEES

Keith Giblett (Chair); Martin Gallagher (Vice Chair); Terry Airlie (Secretary); June Janson; Willie Hardie; Grant Sangster; Jamie Burke; Jim Ferguson; George Young; Laura Sexton; Diane Brown; Councillor Kate MacKenzie; Alastair Shields; Doug Ross; Councillor Norman Work.

APOLOGIES

Diane Job (Treasurer); PC Aidan Douds; PC Richard Craig; David Flint; Danny Gordon; Steve Thomason; Councillor George Grubb

1. Chairman's Welcome

Keith Giblett (Chair) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Queensferry and District Community Council (QDCC) in 2012. He said that the schedule of events in 2012 will have an impact on everyone who lives, works within the community of Queensferry and the surrounding area including:

- Local Government Elections in **May 2012**: two of the three Almond Ward Councillors (George Grubb and Kate MacKenzie) intend to step down and new Councillors will be duly elected to represent the area.
- Community Council AGM: **May 2012**
- Queensferry BID (Business Improvement Districts) Ballot: voting begins in May for 6 week period and outcome announced **22 June 2012**
- Community Council Elections – **October 2012**. Existing QDCC members to step down at end of September 2012.

Christmas Cards

Keith Giblett (Chair) reported that Christmas Cards had been gratefully received by QDCC from:

- Head Teacher Queensferry High School
- Lord Provost of Edinburgh
- Councillor Kate MacKenzie
- Mike Crockart MP
- Forth Road Bridge Staff (electronic card)

Overview of Activity since 28 November 2011 Meeting

QDCC members had continued to deal with business matters at a steady pace during the last 9 weeks. Business activity had been much quieter in December/January this year in comparison to the same period last year due to the inclement weather last year.

2. Police Report

The Police Report had been delayed due to staff absence. Once the report had been received it would be circulated to QDCC members.

QDCC congratulated PC Aidan Douds and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter and wished Aidan and his family health and happiness for the future.

3. Minute of Meeting on 28 November 2011

Keith Giblett (Chair) said that the draft minute of the meeting of 28 November 2011 had omitted to include an apology in advance of the meeting from Councillor Norman Work. Subject to that revision, QDCC subsequently agreed that the minute was a true record of the meeting (proposed by Martin Gallagher and seconded by Doug Ross).

4. Matters Arising from meeting on 28 November 2011

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

VAT Run: QDCC had dispersed the full amount of £18,093.94 to Greenferry Trust. The City of Edinburgh Council are now responsible, through a contract with one of their existing suppliers, for monitoring the expenditure to ensure that it complies with the terms and conditions of grant.

Agilent Site Next meeting due to be held mid February. The site is now on the market.

QHS Terry Airlie (Secretary) has written a letter of support to Queensferry High School and is awaiting a response

Springfield View Site investigation revealed an exposed power cable. City of Edinburgh Council has informed QDCC that they do not intend to take any

action pending the resolution of a legal issue with Manor Estates about land ownership of the site.

5. Chairs Report

The Chair's report had been circulated to QDCC members. In particular Keith Giblett highlighted that:

- QDCC welcomed CEC Planning Committee's decision to uphold our objection to a planning application which would have reduced Open Space and contravened QDCC's policy to protect Open Space.
- Christmas in Queensferry: The Chairman paid tribute to the Christmas in Queensferry Group and their tremendous work during the past year resulting in the successful Christmas in Queensferry event and Christmas decorations. He thanked Queensferry High School and Queensferry businesses for the support they had given the Group over the past year.

The Vice Chair's Report hadn't been circulated to QDCC members. Martin gave a brief verbal report.

6. Councillors Reports

Councillor Kate MacKenzie reported that she had recently visited Craigie Farm to give support to an environment project that is trying to get off the ground aimed at teaching children to take an interest in Food matters.

Councillor Norman Work reported that he had circulated the report. He highlighted 2 issues:

Transport: Bus Stops

Councillor Work had emailed CEC transport officials recently requesting additional bus stops for Queensferry and District residents as follows:

- 747: additional bus stop requested at Ferrymuir for Ferrymuir to Kirkliston route.
- 43: additional bus stop requested between West End and St Andrews Square

Grant Sangster (Transport Convener) agreed to examine the proposals in more detail with a view to offering QDCC support in due course: **Action Grant Sangster**

Street Lighting

Streetlights had not been working recently in:

- Almond Grove
- Stewart Clark Avenue
- William Black Place

The problem had now been reversed and the streetlights were now on 24 hours per day. Councillor Work said that he intended to hold a meeting soon with Scottish Power to discuss the matter. QDCC view is that the City of Edinburgh Council should take responsibility for resolving this issue because street lighting is a council service and CEC are accountable to council tax payers for service provision.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurers report had been circulated earlier.

8. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report had been circulated earlier. Terry Airlie highlighted one issue:

- The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have written to QDCC notifying QDCC of their intention to take over the new RNLi building and seeking support for their planning application to for demolition of the existing RNLi building on Hawes Pier. Queensferry Ambition (Queensferry BID), however, had already indicated their intention to use the existing space to promote Queensferry businesses to liner passengers. It was also pointed out that RNLi may have a view on this proposal. The impact on car parking at the Hawes and the Esplanade would also have to be taken into consideration. **Action Point: QDCC to await a response from Queensferry Ambition (Queensferry BID) and discuss the matter further at next meeting on 27th February 2012.**

9. Sub Committee Reports

9.1 Queensferry High School (QHS)

QHS representatives reported that:

- Prelims: S4 prelims have now been completed and departments are now focussing on those pupils who underachieved. S5/6 prelims are due to begin in early February.
- Ceilidhs: 2 Christmas ceilidhs were held just before the Christmas break, and these were very successful with over 100 pupils taking part in each event.
- Burns Supper: Annual Burns Supper held recently
- Christmas Box Appeal: Over 200 boxes donated
- Charity Fund Raising: QHS has raised and donated over £2000 since August 2011
- International Recognition: 4 senior girls selected for the Scottish volleyball squad, and one of them, Gemma Ramsey, has been appointed captain. They have just returned from Malta, where they qualified for the 2012 European Championships to be held in Cyprus during the Easter holidays.
- Reductions in Staffing: City of Edinburgh Council has decided that as a result of the restructuring exercise, Queensferry High School will lose 1

Deputy Head post and 3 Guidance posts during the next financial year (2012-13 onwards).

- Edinburgh Leisure: No further news to report on that matter.

9.2 Transport

The transport report had already been circulated. Grant Sangster (Transport Convener) said that he wished to highlight 2 particular issues:

- Preparation for Winter: QDCC had contributed to the City of Edinburgh Council wide review of Grit Bins provision and Priority Routes for winter maintenance. The majority of QDCC's recommendations had been taken on board.
- Burgess Road/Loan car parking – Response received from outgoing Director of City Development, City of Edinburgh Council (Dave Anderson) indicates an intention to review the parking arrangements in the medium/long term.
- Network Rail: QDCC has had a couple of meetings recently with Network Rail on the proposed new railway loop at Dalmeny about the issues raised by the 6 residential properties affected by the new loop. No further representations have been made to QDCC by the residents affected.
- Bus Publicity: QDCC intend to arrange a meeting with City of Edinburgh Council officials shortly to discuss bus stop publicity matters and the bus service on New Year's Day. **Action Point: Grant Sangster to arrange a meeting with CEC transport officials.**

9.3 Queensferry Ambition (Queensferry Business Improvement District)

Diane Brown reported that the development of the Queensferry BID was progressing well. She highlighted that:

- Queensferry Ambition business plan to be submitted to City of Edinburgh Council Economic Development Department
- Question Time for Queensferry businesses to hear more about BIDs and the benefits for individual businesses to be held on Thursday 26 January 2012 between 6.30 and 8.30pm at Dakota Hotel, South Queensferry.
- Queensferry businesses to be balloted to decide whether they wish to become a BID during May/June with result due to be formally announced on 22 June 2012.
- City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) have increased their official support to Queensferry Ambition in recent weeks and a dedicated support team from

CEC's economic development department will be assigned to provide assistance during the 6 week period of the ballot.

- CEC require a draft business plan from Queensferry Ambition to be submitted by 29 February 2012.

QDCC members re-affirmed their unanimous support for Queensferry Ambition and the benefits that the BID will bring for the community as a whole.

9.4 Health

Willie Hardie (Health Convenor) reported that the City of Edinburgh Council consultation on Day Services for Older People in Edinburgh was ongoing and the consultation period had been extended until the end of February 2012. The online version was now live and could be accessed at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/dayserviceconsultation. Hard copies of the questionnaire are available and these can be sent out to individuals and organisations that prefer to use this method. These can be obtained by phoning 0131 529 2485.

In addition there are 3 city-wide consultation forums to be held. These are for older people, service users or carers. Places will need to be booked by phoning 0131 529 2485.

9.5 Environment

June Jansen (Environment Convenor) highlighted the following issues:

- Lack of accessibility along cycle/walkway adjacent to Dalmeny Caravan Park (Dalmeny bridge junction) due to overgrown trees.
- She also made a plea for the City of Edinburgh Council to remove offensive graffiti on the bridge.

Action: Norman Work to make enquiries and report back to next meeting.

9.6 Port Edgar Yacht Club

Doug Ross reported that Terry Kirchin, Commodore, Port Edgar Yacht Club had been invited to a meeting with Christine Tonks, Estates Manager at City of Edinburgh Council on Friday 27th January 2012 to discuss the position regarding Port Edgar Yacht racing.

9.7 Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC)

Doug Ross reported BRIGS had received representations about the commencement of work by contractors at Springfield prior to the agreed start time of 0800 hours. He also highlighted a concern in relation to the complaints procedure. Once a complaint has been lodged, the complainant should receive a reference number so that the complaint can be tracked and recorded on the system. Martin Gallagher explained that the onus is on the individual, however, to specify whether they were making an information request or lodging a complaint. The next version of the Code of Construction Practice will be amended to clarify the important distinction and the

different procedure to be followed for both. QDCC meets monthly with the FRC Community Liaison Officer and as at last month the majority of correspondence has focused on concerns about the speed restrictions and there have been no major issues of concern raised by Queensferry residents.

Traffic Scotland HQ

Martin Gallagher also reported that excellent progress is being made on the new Traffic Scotland traffic control centre/FRC Education Centre at the Forth Road Bridge with the added benefit of the creation of 70 new jobs in Queensferry.

10. AOB

10.1 Community Facility: Ferrymuir

Keith Giblett (Chair) reported that an agreement had been signed between Evans and QDCC for a contribution amounting to £350,000 in respect of a community facility on the Ferrymuir site subject to completion of the first 50 homes on the site.

10.2 Election Hustings

QDCC discussed and agreed to organise a local government elections hustings event to hear the candidate's plans for Queensferry and District prior to the local government elections on 3 May 2012. **Action: Keith Giblett/Terry Airlie**

10.3 Queensferry High Street

Laura Sexton raised a concern about the dilapidated condition of some of the properties on Queensferry High Street within the context of a conservation area. **Action Point: Councillor Work to seek advice from CEC officials on powers for compliance and report back at next meeting.**

10.4 Floodlighting of Forth Rail Bridge

The flood lighting of the Forth Rail Bridge was raised and discussed.

Action Point: June Jansen agreed to make enquires with Network Rail about the short/medium term plans on floodlighting of Forth Rail Bridge.

10.5 Drumrae Library Hub

Alastair Shields reported that new Drumrae Library Hub opens its doors to the public at 10am on Tuesday 31 January. The Hub brings together lots of services under one roof: a new library for the area, access to Council services and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, a cafe area, community meetings rooms and a day care centre. More details of the facility can be accessed at

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory_record/5758/drumrae_library_and_community_hub

10.6 Queensferry Job Club

Queensferry Job Club meets on Wednesday afternoons in the Rosebery Hall between 12.30pm and 2.30pm to assist anyone who is seeking employment/training opportunities.

11. Questions from the Floor

None.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 27 February at 19.30 hours in QDCC offices, Burgh Chambers, South Queensferry.

LAURA SEXTON

Deputy Minute Secretary

Queensferry and District Community Council

1 February 2012

.....Signed **Chairman**

.....Date