



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CELEBRATING 26 YEARS 1986-2012

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MONDAY 27 February 2012

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

ATTENDEES

Martin Gallagher (Vice Chair); Terry Airlie (Secretary); June Jansen; Willie Hardie; Grant Sangster; Jamie Burke; Jim Ferguson; George Young; Diane Brown; Councillor Kate MacKenzie; Councillor Norman Work. David Flint; Danny Gordon; PC Aidan Douds (Lothian and Borders Police); Steve Thomason; Diane Job (Treasurer); Natalie Hoy (Guest); Eleanor Gaw (Guest);

APOLOGIES

Keith Giblett (Chair); Councillor George Grubb; Laura Sexton; Doug Ross; Lindsay Paterson, Billy Fitzpatrick; Alastair Shields; Bill Fleming;

1. Chairman's Welcome

Martin Gallagher (Standing in for the Chair) welcomed everyone to the February meeting of Queensferry and District Community Council (QDCC). Once again a busy month for QDCC members which included a few highlights such as the work undertaken on building the Forth Replacement Crossing Contact & Education Centre and a few concerns which include the Forth Replacement Crossing. He then introduced our two guests this evening Natalie Hoy, West neighbourhood and Local Community Planning Manager, and Eleanor Gaw, Partnership and Information Manager, and both part of the Almond Partnership.

2. Apologies

As noted at start.

3. Police Report

The Police Report has been circulated.

PC Aidan Douds provided a briefed QDCC on the report and highlighted that crimes were very low and that there had been a theft from a clothing bank at St Margaret's primary school. It appears that clothing bank thefts are on the rise across the country.

Questions from the floor:

A comment made to QDCC facebook raised concerns again on the damage to cars in Brewery Close. PC Douds advised there was no correlation to times and dates, however these are serious crimes which the police are taking extremely seriously and that they are putting plans in place to combat these crimes.

Action point: Diane Job will respond back to via facebook to the enquirer.

PC Doud's was asked whether the police held a record of the number of road traffic violations from the average speed camera introduction on the M9 Spur. It was explained that these are not recorded by the police and not enforced by the police. They may be managed centrally on behalf of the Forth Replacement Crossing Health and Safety.

4. Presentation from Natalie Hoy and Eleanor Gaw of the Almond Partnership.

Natalie provided an overview of the Neighbourhood Management West roles and responsibilities and delivered handouts detailing the management structure and the actual roles of the Neighbourhood Management Team.

A draft document released by Natalie showed that the departments of Transport, Housing and Regeneration, Planning, Community Safety, Corporate Property, and Environment will fall under the Services for Communities division headed by Mark Turley. The West Neighbourhood and Local Community planning team which is headed up by Natalie Hoy is based in the newly completed Drum Brae Library Hub, with approximately 100 staff reporting in to Natalie.

The Almond partnership is headed up by a Board, which includes elected council officials and community people; the board provides direction to Natalie's team which is originally fed into the board via Community Councils and West Neighbourhood residents.

Eleanor provided a powerpoint presentation in hand out format, and proceeded to give an insight as to what services are provided to communities and how they are provided as well as highlighting the key personnel within the department. The team supports the community in a variety of areas, and provides expertise and advice on a number of local issues / concerns.

Natalie and Eleanor highlighted the following:

- Community Grant Funds and Funding
- Community Safety Forums
- Board buy in to local community priorities
- Partnership with local communities

Eleanor continued with specific priorities linked to South Queensferry and District. Items included:

- Affordable Housing Development
- BIDS process
- Parking

- Road Maintenance
- Public Transport
- Bus and Tourism Development
- Services for Young People – Inclusive of Leisure Facilities

Natalie rounded off the presentation from them both by informing all present that the council are facing financial challenges and with services voted to be retained within the council then these services such as refuse collection, cleaning and environment will face challenges to meet the customer needs and will involve effective change management, restructure of services for communities, and continuing to look at the alternative business models internally.

The chair thanked Natalie and Eleanor and opened up to the floor for any questions.

Floor: The A90 road is in a bit of a mess with regards to litter being strewn on the road. When this was reported the person was advised that an Inspector would have to be called out to assess the situation, why?

Natalie advised that she did not possess the definitive reason however she advised that the A90 is a major route into/out of Edinburgh and any closures of lanes or actual cone re routes cost approximately £10,000 each time the road requires work to be undertaken, this would probably be the reason why the litter situation would have to be assessed.

Floor: Can the sub groups within the neighbourhood partnership achieve any success on issues?

Natalie provided a few items where the sub groups have achieved significant success, such as:

- Community safety initiatives implemented with Lothian Borders Police have resulted in creating best practices.
- 16% reduction in anti social behaviour

Floor: Do the partners within the neighbourhood partnership have any influence on devolved budgets?

Natalie advised that the partners have a great deal of influence on such items as the road development devolved budget of approx £85,000 and the partners deliver their requests, comments to the Partnership Board who will then provide the direction to Natalie and her team in respect of delivering the actual requests from partners / board.

Floor: Queensferry Ambition BIDS project is being asked to invest £90,000 into the project, what can the council do to help?

Eleanor and Natalie provided the following information:

- Expert advice on the project
- Baseline Services
- Work with the BIDS team on a joint statement of intent
- Due to financial challenges there may be no funding available to help any BIDS project.
- City Development will still be there however it now comes under the banner of Services in Communities.

- Council Votes on 11th May 2012

Floor: Is there a formula used by the council to in providing grants to community councils?

There is a formula used by the council to determine the grant towards councils such as QDCC and also other grants available from the neighbourhood partnership, such as the grant to QDCC for purchase of a new laptop and web design.

Going forward the partnership will know more about the direction for South Queensferry /CEC after the council elections in May.

5. Minute of Meeting on 23rd January 2012

Proposer: Danny Gordon

Secunder: June Jansen

6. Matters Arising from meeting on 23rd January 2012

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. QDCC secretary asked the Trust to keep it informed as to how funds were being spent and updates on the project. Current focus is on the pump track.

Agilent Site: Meeting was held on 7/2/12.

Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA): Wish to take over the new RNLI site at Hawes Pier and they have started a dialogue with stakeholders such as QDCC seeking support for their planning application, QDCC secretary will send a response on behalf of QDCC.

Election Hustings: Action on going.

Queensferry High Street: Councillor Work advised that there is no statutory obligation from the council to enforce shops / houses on remedial paintwork etc; they can bring this into force if it constitutes a threat to public safety. Diane advised that the chip shop will be receiving a Build wrap on its front. Property next to the dog runners is now scraped ready for painting.

Floodlight of Forth Rail Bridge: This will be reinstated and we should see the bridge being lit up gain in springtime (April?)

7. Chairs Report

The Chair's report had been circulated to QDCC members.

The Vice Chair's Report had been circulated to QDCC members

8. Councillors Reports

Councillor Kate MacKenzie reported that she and Councillor Work had met with First Buses. Attended Queensferry Churches Care in Community meeting.

Councillor Norman Work reported that he had circulated the report.

9. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurers report had been circulated earlier.

10. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report had been circulated earlier.

11. **Sub Committee Reports**

11.1 **Transport Report**

The report has already been circulated. One additional item was advised:

- Proposal for a pedestrian crossing on Hopetoun Road

11.2 **Queensferry High School (QHS)**

QHS representatives reported that:

- Scottish Call ups: Rheannan Brown and Mike McRoberts have been called up to represent Scotland at Kickboxing.
- Kenya: 12 pupils and 3 staff recently travelled to Kenya to meet with pupils and staff at QCHS sister cluster schools. There will be a reciprocal visit from Kenya in May.
- Prelims: Now finished and pupils are gearing up towards the exams in May.
- Fashion Show and Concert: 21st March at QCHS. In aid of Patricia Shaw and Marian Montanhana charity work abroad in their Gap Year.
- Spring Fling: Will be held at QCHS on 27th March 2012
- Senior Show: The houses are starting early this year to once again put on a spectacular show for the school and community. Rehearsals have already begun.

- Art Showcase: A display of Art work from pupils is on display at Ferryburn Dental Care.
- Holocaust Event: The school is undertaking a two week event regarding the Holocaust. This will include an emotional visit from a surviving member of the holocaust Eva Clarke on the 16th March, Only S5/6 pupils and invited guests will be invited to attend. There will be an Anne Frank exhibition within the school from the 22nd March.
- Speak Up Speak Out: This will be the school theme during 2012-2013
- Jass / Duke of Edinburgh: The school offers pupils the chance to move through the Jass programme initiated within the primaries and onto the Duke of Edinburgh programme. The school now operates the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award.
- Diane Brown: Invited to speak to pupils at the school with regards to work experience.

Natalie Hoy also offered to provide support to pupils regarding work experience if at all possible.

- Police Officer: Under a new initiative from the Council, the school will have a dedicated police officer attached to the school for a period for periods during the school week.
- Natalie Hoy advised Jim Ferguson and QDCC members that the school was recognised in their achievement of having 100% success in their pupils recently left school finding employment, further education, further skills work.

11.3 Planning:

- Applications: 3 applications submitted including McDonalds new sign, also they have applied for 24 hour opening. QDCC openly oppose both items.
- 90 Station Road: Application to buy a small strip of land currently on QCHS school grounds. This is opposed by QDCC.
- Chip Shop in High Street: Plans for renovation.

11.4 Care in the Community:

Steve Thomason reported that they are now fully staffed.

11.5 Health

Willie Hardie (Health Convenor) advised there was a partnership meeting held on 9th February. Roseberry avenue and Roseberry court are looking to be improved. Discharge planning- from hospital to home- issues were discussed.

11.6 Environment

June Jansen (Environment Convenor) Litter picking clean up has begun. There are concerns over the amount of litter cumulating under the Rail Bridge. GreenFerry AGM is on 20th March 2012 at 7pm in the Priory church SQ. 7.20pm is the Friends of Fairy Glen.

12. AOB

12.1 Community Memorial Plaques: QDCC were advised that plaques representing the building of the rail bridge and the lives that were lost during the build will be represented in commissioned plaques. Network rail have put up the majority of the funding however they are also looking for the community to provide some funding for the completion of the plaques. On Friday 13th April 2012 there will be a talk on the bridges by the Briggers and then a concert by Bwani Junction, Held at the High School – Tickets on sale soon.

12.2 Annual Report: Contributions would be gratefully received from all conveners and stake holders in QDCC and partners.

11. Questions from the Floor

None.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday 26th March at 19.30 hours in QDCC offices, Burgh Chambers, South Queensferry.

Danny Gordon

27 February 2012