

QA Report – November 2014 Report

Christmas Programme – This has been distributed throughout Queensferry, Kirkliston and Dalmeny ahead of the Christmas Lights.

Christmas Market & Activity.

Plans are underway for a Festive Market with family activities on the 20th & 21st December. We are hopeful to have a full road closure to accommodate 25 – 30 stalls, children's entertainment, music and puppetry from Caterpillar music and the Ferry Fair have kindly given permission to use the Ferry Fair Book shop to convert into a Santa's Grotto for the two days. A temporary market traders licence and Public Entertainment licence have been applied for and awaiting approval.

Cruise Forth – The Forth Bridges Tourism Group have won the regional final at the Visit Scotland Thistle Awards. They will now be finalists at the national awards in February. The fourth Cruise Summit was held on Thursday 13th November at the Queensferry Hotel. The event is seen as an annual health check, independently chaired, to which strategic stakeholders and partners are invited. Peter presented a general report on what has happened and what is planned looking forward. This was followed by discussion on the impact of the project, what is not being done and how we might improve going forward. Attendees included Councillors from both sides of the river, national tourism bodies, Forth Ports, Excursion Companies etc.

Licensing Committee – Variation to Market Operators Licence.

Tania (Hand Up Media) and I both attended the Licensing Committee on the 14th November. We had submitted a variation to the current licence to remove the conditions of restriction to 12 stalls and the restriction of only one a month.

Despite there being no objections to the variation, the Convenor was unable to grant the variation to the licence as comments had been received from the QDCC and local councillors that there had not been consultation.

A report had been circulated by QA to all members of the QDCC and the local councillors on 24th August ahead of the August QDCC meeting. There was also discussion at the QDCC meeting regarding the variation to the licence and the Convenor was made aware of this. It was agreed an EPOG would be arranged to which the QDCC and local councillors will be invited to discuss the variation request.

Priory Church – I met with Terry Harkin with regards to the proposed plans for the Priory. They are looking for support from QA to help fill a calendar of events in 2015 to build a strong business case for the development. A post is being created to manage the events at the Priory. Terry is to forward a proposal for QA to consider any financial assistance to help fund the management post in an interim period.