

## **QA report – January 2015**

### **Christmas Market:**

The Christmas Market went well despite a wet and windy two days. Saturday saw higher footfall than Sunday but the weather was much worse on Sunday. Some of the stalls had to dismantle early on the Sunday due to the wind gusts. Unfortunately this generated some negative comments on Facebook but on the whole feedback from those who attended was generally positive. All the free entertainment was very well received and Santa's Grotto proved popular with 200 selection boxes being distributed. The Road Closure caused a debate on the local "Ask the Ferry Folk" facebook – over 80 posts. There did appear to be an over population of traffic cones throughout Queensferry but this was at the request of the Council.

### **Markets for 2015**

The agreed outcome of meeting held between CEC, QA & QDCC as follows:

- The variation to the current licence is to be able to host three full markets (up to 48 stalls) in the year with a full road closure in place. These markets will compliment other activities/ events and will be similar to the Forth Bridge Festival Market.
- To allow a maximum of nine further monthly markets of 24 stalls. This would require a full road closure
- Should the market only host 12 stalls only a suspension of parking bays is required and the High Street will remain open to traffic as normal.

Following this meeting I was asked to attend the Licencing Committee to explain the agreement reached. The variation licence was granted subject to a timetable of markets is given by the end of January and the agreement reached at the EPOG is adhered to.

Hand Up Media and I have met to discuss the potential dates for 2015. This is to be considered by the QA Board as full road closure costs and security does not financially stack up.

**Business Awards 2015** are being held this week at Orocco Pier

### **Forth Bridges Tourism Group – Strategic Group Meeting**

A paper has been submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council to consider funding towards the project next year.

A pre-season businesses engagement event is being planned for April.

### **JET Programme & 16+**

Neil McKinley and I have held one interview technique session this term. A mock interview session is scheduled for February and if anyone would like to volunteer to assist with this the help would be greatly appreciated.

### **Queensferry Primary School – World of Work week.**

Following the success of last year's event, Queensferry Primary School have been in touch once again looking for local businesses to help out. This year's date is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 9:30 – 12pm. Please let me know if this is something you would be interested in taking part in.

### **Orientation & Interpretation Signage Strategy**

Paul Hogarth has made soft start on the Strategy reviewing past information and making initial contact with those that will have a vested interest in the Strategy. A draft programme based on the tasks outlined in the proposal will be circulated shortly which will give a better understanding of how it will dovetail with the FB WHS project, the FB Experience, North Queensferry and expansion of the SQ system. It is possible that there may be outstanding issues in relation to Parking for areas north and south of the Forth as this is fraught with ongoing concerns on Parking in the local communities

April is the realistic prospect for conclusion of the Strategy.

**125 Celebrations** – several meetings have now taken place with Network Rail and we are looking at 3 potential weekends of activity in March, July and September. I will circulate more information once we have better detail.

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Katie Quinn – Potential closure of public toilets. Notes from the meeting are as follows:

Note	Action
<b>PUBLIC CONVENIENCES</b>	
There is a toilet located within the South Queensferry Registry Office/ Museum, but access to this is restricted at the moment	KQ to investigate this
There are also toilets in South Queensferry Library and local community centre	KQ to check whether these can be promoted
There is no ramp/ disabled access to the Registry Office	KQ to investigate this
Queensferry Ambition have concerns about the condition of the public toilets at Hawes Pier. If it were the case that toilets in the area face closure, they would prefer that these be closed rather than the ones on the High Street. The water tap at the High Street toilets is also used for watering plants, etc. The BID are also concerned that if any of the toilets were to be closed, that the buildings would then be left to decline and become an eyesore in the area.	
Queensferry Ambition may be open to having a dialogue about the management of the toilets, if there was the potential for closure.	
Better signage is needed to point footfall towards the better toilets.	
World Heritage Status for the Forth Bridge is to be confirmed this summer.	
RNLI/ Coastguard building has toilets, but there is no public access to this. The building is owned by the Council.	KQ to investigate this
Queensferry Ambition are interested in getting costs for Automatic Public Toilets, as there is the potential for the BID to contribute towards the installation of these in South Queensferry.	I have contacted the Council's Corporate Property Team about this, and they advised that any Automatic Public Toilets would need to be supplied via the new Street Furniture contract with JCDecaux. At this moment in time there are no plans to include toilets as part of this contract, but this may be an option in the future.
Queensferry Ambition print a local map on an annual basis, and are happy to add additional toilet locations to this.	KQ and DB to discuss once locations of additional toilets are confirmed

There is potential for future discussion around a Community Toilet Scheme for the South Queensferry area, once more information is available around the Public Conveniences budget.	KQ, KR and DB to discuss further following political decision about Public Conveniences service.
Queensferry Ambition had not submitted any comments in writing about the Public Conveniences budget proposal, but indicated there had been verbal discussion around this with the Council.	
We advised that political discussions are ongoing about all the budget proposals, and that the role of our team was to gather information around the different options for the future service.	
<b>TRADE WASTE</b>	
There are very few (if any) trade waste facilities on the High Street	
Some businesses are using residents' bins to dispose of their trade waste, or state that they don't have any trade waste	
The Open Space Strategy Team are rolling out the Clean Up Edinburgh/ Street Scene project in the city centre over summer 2015, which addresses the timings for presentation of trade waste. The locations for Phase 2 of this project are being planned at the moment.	
<b>LITTER PLAN</b>	
We advised that the Open Space Strategy Team will be producing a litter plan for Edinburgh in 2015.	
Queensferry Ambition are happy with the service provided by Task Force staff, and indicated it was very unusual to see a build up of litter in the area.	
The only potential problem is the recycling bins at the Scotmid supermarket, which have peak times during the year when a lot of waste is deposited there.	