QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL Transport Report for February 2015

Highlights from the QDCC Transport Sub-Committee over the past month are listed below

- 1. Forth Replacement Crossing The old junction at Echline Corner re-opened in February with some changes in traffic management involving the new roundabout. Work associated with the new B800 bridge over the A90 has also introduced various changes to the road between Ferrymuir and the golf club entrance. The next South Community Forum meets on 25 February
- 2. **Meetings with CEC –** The Queensferry Infrastructure Group meets on 27 February and the ANP Transport Forum meets on 4 March. Contributions to the agendas can be raised in advance
- 3. Public Transport As Norman reported last month, CEC have accepted a proposal by Lothian Buses to change the 63 bus route away from South Gyle Crescent and alter the timetable to become hourly at peak times and every 40 minutes off-peak Mon-Fri. There is still no definitive answer from ScotRail on any timetable changes to Fife Circle trains resulting from Winchburgh Tunnel closure in the summer. However they expect Network Rail's signalling improvements to help accommodate additional load. Maybe as a result of these enquiries, Network Rail contacted QDCC asking about installing a welfare cabin in Dalmeny Station car park during signal modification work on the weekend immediately prior to tunnel closure. The car park is maintained by CEC, but QDCC have been quite vocal about car park occupancy so perhaps the question is understandable. Figures for station usage were released by ORR recently, indicating another year of unusually high growth in passenger numbers at Dalmeny. The year to April 2014 saw the second successive annual increase exceeding 10%
- 4. Forth Bridge Experience On 9 February Network Rail made a presentation to QDCC outlining progress with their plans for visitor experiences on the Forth Bridge and the 125th Anniversary of construction completion. Access to the visitor centres would probably be on a 'ticket-only' basis in the early days but there are still concerns about the incremental impact of visitors on towns which can already be quite busy. I have requested a meeting with SEStran relating to transport choices supporting local tourist attractions in North and South Queensferry, but not yet received a response
- 5. Cycle Path Closure NCN Route 1 next to the A90 (Barnbougle to Burnshot Wood) has been closed to allow upgrade work. All pedestrian and cycle traffic will be diverted through Dalmeny Estate until April
- 6. LDP2 Quite a lot of time has been spent supporting the Planning, Education and Publicity Sub-Committees in matters relating to CEC's LDP2 proposal. There appeared a strong feeling amongst Queensferry residents that transport implications of the plan had not been adequately considered. The proposal was conditionally approved by CEC in June 2014. Public representations were lodged in the period up to October 2014. The outcome of representations had been due for consideration by CEC's Planning Committee in February 2015 but this has apparently been postponed