

QDCC - April report – Cllr Lindsay Paterson

Some of the issues, events and meetings since the last QDCC meeting include:

Public toilets at the Hawes Pier

As mentioned in my February report, in the council's budget debate this year, I spoke about the importance of these toilets in terms of tourism and cruise liners, and for availability to residents, many of them elderly or with young children. The Conservative alternative budget rejected all cuts to public toilet provision and chose instead to invest in and modernise the stock.

However the decision on public toilet provision which now puts the future of the Hawes Pier toilets in doubt was taken four years ago. The council website confirms that the decision to remove £300,000 from the service budget within the 2015/2016 financial year was taken in 2011 by the previous council administration, leading to the forthcoming closure of around 10 public toilets. I would encourage everyone locally to make their views known in the [public consultation](#) on the future of the Hawes Pier toilets- it is vital as many people as possible contribute to this consultation to show local opinion.

FETA

The last [board meeting of FETA](#) took place on Friday 24th April. Dissolution of the Authority is programmed to be on 31st May 2015, when the new Forth Bridges Operating Company (Amey) will take over. I have enjoyed my time on the FETA board and pay tribute to the FETA staff, who have been truly dedicated to the bridge, and fellow board members. A number of issues were discussed, including clarification on the future arrangements for traffic on the Forth Road Bridge, once the new Queensferry Crossing is opened and a temporary 40 mph speed limit in the vicinity of the realignment and tie- in works for the approach ramps and off ramps for the new bridge.

Another topic was the acoustic monitoring system on the main cables detecting more wire breaks than normal. Wire breaks have been detected at a fairly uniform level over the years. At the end of 2014, a total of 93 wire breaks had been detected which were relatively evenly split between the two cables. However, since towards the end of January 2015, there have been 24 wire breaks recorded near the top of the south east tower leg on the east cable. This is a sizeable increase in the rate of wire breaks over time. A temporary access platform will therefore be put in place to inspect the wires.

Crime Prevention event

Police Scotland are holding a crime prevention event for Queensferry and the surrounding areas on Thursday 14th May from 8pm at the Rosebery Halls- please spread the word.

Ferrymuir site

The signs have now gone up at Ferrymuir advertising the development site for a care home or elderly living development. I am keen to offer my support to Cllr Work who has been asked to progress these issues with the council, for example by being a co-signatory to requests etc.