



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CELEBRATING 29 YEARS 1986-2015

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT – 2014/2015

The role of the Community Council Secretary is laid out through the Scheme for Community Councils and guidance notes for the various offices can be found via the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership.

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/community-councils/guidance-notes/>

The Secretary is usually the first point of contact for anyone who wishes to get in touch with the community council. However with the advent of social media there are now many ways in which local residents (and various other stakeholders) get in touch.

Since the last AGM the average volume of e-mail traffic (inward and outgoing) has gradually increased and is now somewhere in the region of about 500 transactions a month.

Very little in the way of postal communication is received, but the main contributor tends to be City of Edinburgh Council, as statutory notices still come through the post.

Facebook is by far and away the most popular means by which people reach out. We currently have almost 1670 followers (an increase of about 25% since this time last year)

I receive “Weekly Insights” via Facebook which gives an indication of activity, posts, likes and other information.

The main contributors broadly match e-mail correspondence content.

Over the past 12 months the topics raised have been quite varied, but it will come as no surprise that LDP2 and the proposals for Queensferry at Scotstoun and Builyeon Road (and Dalmeny), the Ferrymuir development proposals, the Corus site (Ferrymuirgait) development proposals and the ongoing building at Agilent (Dalmeny Park) have featured heavily.

Some, but not a great deal of activity on the Queensferry Crossing has been generated, mostly relating to the Echline Gyratory.

Bus service provision (to and from Edinburgh/to and from Livingston) is another popular topic. This is not unexpected given the number of service and timetable changes initiated in the last 12 months or so.

Another recurring theme has been ongoing issues with domestic waste uplifts. Although a meeting was held with Waste Services in the autumn – which was very useful in getting an insight to the service and the problems encountered – it seems there is still a way to go to resolve these. The introduction of the new recycling and waste collection service may help.

In no particular order of importance, traffic congestion, parking matters across various locations in the town, dog fouling, overflowing public waste bins, lack of amenities in general, proposed closure of Hawes promenade toilets and the condition of the High Street have also featured on a regular basis.

Since the website was revamped another method of communication available is the "Contact Us" feature.

In total there have been 128 submissions since this occurred in 2013.

Subject matter varies greatly, however every submission is answered – even if we have to engage with others to provide a solution.

Over the last few months a number of submissions have been received which in essence were applications for Social Housing in Queensferry.

On a number of occasions, CEC have contacted QDCC through this tool!

The administration of the QDCC website is another task dealt with by the Secretary. Each month all reports, minutes and other pertinent information is uploaded as time permits.

However, much more could be done with the website with additional hands to assist.

<http://queensferrycommunitycouncil.co.uk/>

Telephone communication to QDCC is quite sporadic. Like the "Contact Us" tool, subject matter does vary, but again a number of calls have been associated with requests for Social Housing Provision.

In the past 12 months I have fielded calls on behalf of QDCC from a range of journalists – both print and broadcast. I have provided information to STV & BBC as well as The Scotsman, Daily Mail, The Courier, The Times, Edinburgh Evening News and The Journal & Gazette.

Following the AGM last year a concerted effort was made by QDCC Executive (essentially the Office Bearers) to address some criticism over the style and content of monthly business meetings.

Since then a range of speakers have been invited, ranging from Gillian Tee (Director of Children & Families at CEC, Barry Colford, FRB Bridgmaster through to Craig Bowman and Iain Haigh from Network Rail to discuss plans for the Forth Bridge Experiences and Henry Coyle (West Neighbourhood Manager) as well as Police Scotland.

On a lighter note Murray Trail from Highland Fling Bungee spoke on plans for a Bungee on the Forth Road Bridge.

Additional meetings for the various sub committees (Planning, Education & Transport) have also been held.

Public meetings have been held on LDP2 and the Queensferry Conservation Character Appraisal

There have been a number of personnel changes in the last 12 months.

Jim Ferguson, deputy head at Queensferry High School retired at Christmas and ended a long relationship with QDCC. Jim has been working with the Community Council for a number of years and was instrumental in developing the High School pupil representation. We also said farewell to our last two pupil representatives, Mark Ruickbie and Eilidh Donaldson.

Also leaving us was Juliette Summers and just in the last week Anne Fernie.

We also welcomed a new member, Georgina Moore, representing Queensferry High School PTA.

Terry Airlie
Vice Chair & Correspondence Secretary
24th May 2015