



# Queensferry & District Community Council



QDCC  
Newsletter  
2015

## About Community Councils

Community councils are groups of people who care about their community and want to make their area a better place in which to live. Their chief role is representative: they consult local communities and put these views forward to the local authority and other organisations, including NHS Lothian and Police Scotland. Community councils have the right to be consulted on planning applications affecting their areas and are also kept informed about licensing applications.

## Queensferry & District Community Council

In Queensferry, our community council operates under a scheme defined by City of Edinburgh Council, which lays out the number and type of positions available to represent the area. There are nine elected representatives and six places for local interest groups. Four of the group places are currently filled by members of Queensferry Boat Club, Queensferry Churches Care in the Community, Port Edgar Yacht Club and South Queensferry Rotary Club.

## Vacancies

Presently there are vacancies for two elected councillors. Being a community councillor is wholly voluntary and can be a hugely valuable and rewarding experience. It's a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and help organise events that make a real difference to life in Queensferry, so if you'd like to join us please get in touch.



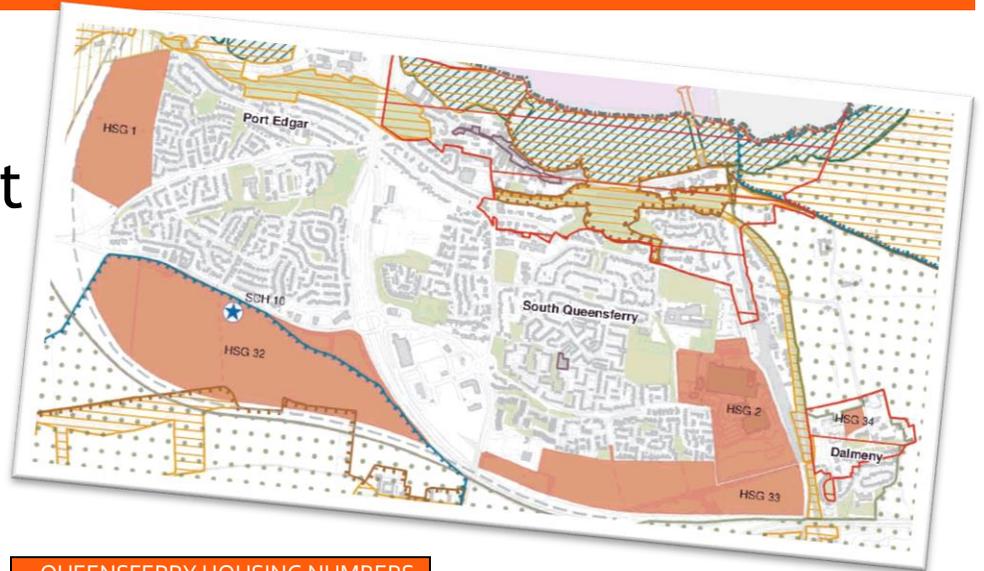
## Where We Cover

QDCC's catchment area comprises Craigiehall, Dalmeny, Dundas, Port Edgar and the former Royal Burgh of Queensferry. With the diversity of town, countryside, sea and land, a wide range of local topics arise. These typically involve housing, planning consent, health, transport, tourism, environment and community safety. Small sub-committees regularly meet local stakeholders and officials to discuss issues on behalf of the community in addition to attending monthly business meetings of the full community council.

## Engagement

At our regular monthly meetings we often invite someone along to speak about a particularly relevant subject. Recent examples include the Recycling Team informing us about plans for roll-out of new domestic waste collection arrangements and a talk on proposals for local school building upgrades from the Director of Children & Families. Perhaps the largest meeting we held was at Queensferry High School in September, when several hundred people came along to hear the Director of Planning speak about the LDP2 process. We also collected opinions from people at other consultation events such as those for housing proposals at Agilent (Dalmeny Park) and Ferrymuir (Lochinvar Gardens). Possibilities of a care home and community facility at Ferrymuir certainly caught the imagination of the public, with a number of inspiring ideas being proposed. QDCC are in regular contact with the developer regarding these plans.

# Local Development Plan Moves On



QDCC has spent considerable time throughout 2014-15 responding to the City of Edinburgh Council's Second Proposed Local Development Plan. This plan sets out permitted land use across Edinburgh for the next 20 years in line with guidance from the Scottish Government. While Queensferry was largely unaffected by the initial plan, an increase in the housing target led to a second plan being proposed which identified significant housing potential on sites at Dalmeny, South Scotstoun and Builyeon Road, removing them from Edinburgh's Green Belt. The proposals have proved rather controversial, perhaps because the number of houses permitted under the new plan together with existing residential sites approaching development could place an intolerable burden on the town's facilities. A number of issues raised by

**QUEENSFERRY HOUSING NUMBERS IN LDP2**

*The proposed plan permits 12-18 houses at Dalmeny, 365-510 houses at South Scotstoun and 700-980 houses at Builyeon Road.*

*Existing plans for sites at Springfield and Agilent are expected to deliver 150 and 450 houses respectively.*

the public were reflected in representations submitted by QDCC such as rising school rolls, road/rail congestion, health facility shortages and lack of local employment opportunities. We continued to lobby City of Edinburgh Councillors during the run-up to their Planning Committee meeting in May

2015 to ensure these opinions were known. While the plan was passed unchanged onto the Scottish Government, the committee acknowledged particular merit in our concerns regarding South Scotstoun and Builyeon Road. This was reflected in their own submission to Scottish Ministers. Following a six month examination by the Reporter, a final outcome is expected early in 2016.

In the event that the population of Queensferry is set to sharply increase over the next few years, QDCC will work to ensure the town's infrastructure is sufficiently strengthened through investment and developer contributions.

# Queensferry Conservation Area Enlarged

Planning issues are commonly brought up with QDCC, with around half a dozen applications raised in our area each month. These might range from tree pruning to construction of housing estates and where appropriate we can register comments or facilitate negotiations between affected parties.

Three regions in our catchment are set aside as conservation areas, where enhanced levels of control apply to development proposals so that each area's unique character is preserved. These are Cramond Brig, Dalmeny Village and the historic old town of Queensferry, extending to Station Road and Hawes Brae. The latter district was recently enlarged to include Rosshill Terrace and Forth Terrace following consultation with local residents.



## Roads & Bridges

Consultants have carried out various studies regarding traffic in the town centre from the perspective of different road users over the past few years. Conclusions from each survey are usually quite similar: additional car parking is necessary to accommodate demand at peak times; the pedestrian experience is poor, especially on The Loan and Hopetoun Road; and the High Street surface is failing. Through our membership of the Queensferry Infrastructure Improvement Group, ODCC can report that a budget is available for re-laying the High Street surface in the 2016-17 financial year. While the starting assumption is a like-for-like cobble replacement, use of more resilient materials can be expected as a minimum.

It is hoped that the project scope might be widened to include improvements at The Loan and Edinburgh Road areas, along with facilities for diverting heavy or long vehicles. Further consultation on the detailed design is predicted later in 2015. There is little progress with increased off-street car parking but it is anticipated that completion of the Queensferry Crossing and inscription of the Forth Bridge as a World Heritage site will focus attention.

Meanwhile, construction associated with the Queensferry Crossing continues, with its opening target of 2016. ODCC attends quarterly forum meetings with Transport Scotland and the contractor's representatives, FCBC. This is an opportunity to raise any concerns about the work in progress and learn what work is being planned. Subjects discussed recently include traffic management around Echline Corner, Builyeon Road resurfacing and pedestrian diversions during the B800 widening project.



## Environment

Some of the more common reasons for people to contact the community council are for dog fouling, littering or overflowing bins. Recently, we've also been approached regarding flyposting and Green Dog Walker initiatives.

We maintain good contacts with the Almond Ward councillors and the Environmental Warden Service but it's worth noting you can report issues like these directly by calling **0131 529 3030** or using the City of Edinburgh Council's website reporting facility.

Identifying suitable locations for litter bins can often be difficult because of the need for convenient service access. However a straightforward success was achieved when we campaigned for a litter bin to be placed in the layby and bus stop on Kirkliston Road, near the end of Lovers Lane.

The photographs show how littering had become commonplace at this location and this ceased once the bin was installed.



# Who We Are

## How to Keep in Touch

The most popular method for staying up to date with QDCC business continues to be through Facebook. QDCC's page can be used for informal debate on local issues and exchanging useful information too. If you wish to discuss matters affecting Queensferry, you can drop us a letter, fill in the form on our website, find us on Facebook, or come along to one of our meetings.

We meet on the fourth Monday of every month from January to November at 7.30pm in the basement of the museum building on the High Street. Reports and minutes from these meetings are available on our website.

## Finances

While the role of community councillors is entirely voluntary and unpaid, QDCC receives an annual grant which covers insurance, administration and running costs. Additionally we regularly buy plants for Echline Community Woodland, sponsor Ferry Fair floats and purchase a wreath for Remembrance Sunday. In 2014-15, the grant was £597.12, we were nominated for two FCBC monitor donations, each of £500, and we used £150 from the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership for LDP2 publicity.

## QDCC Membership



Back row (l to r): David Flint, Norman Work, Keith Giblett, June Jansen, Grant Sangster, Ross Martin, Lindsay Paterson, Walter Millar, Alastair Shields.

Front row: Fiona Duncan, Diane Job, Laura Sexton.

Inset: Terry Airlie and Eileen Case

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## Contact Us

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