

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Transport Report for November 2015

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

- 1. Forth Replacement Crossing** – The next South Community Forum will be held on Wednesday 25 November. The meeting generally provides updates from the Employer's Delivery Team and FCBC on construction progress. A section has been included in the next meeting to give more information on the Forth Road Bridge Operating Company (Amey) and the Forth Bridges Forum (comprising a range of partners).
- 2. Place Standard Outcome Review** – Along with Keith, on Thursday 19 November I attended a group meeting with representatives from City of Edinburgh Council and Queensferry Ambition. We heard results from the recent Placemaking exercises and started to consider how these could be included in future plans for the town in a very general way. Most CEC departments sent staff along, which demonstrated good commitment to the process. A few missing departments were: Education, but we know they are already engaged quite heavily already; Economic Development, where QA may have closer ongoing contact; and Transport, which is complicated locally by the Forth Bridges Forum and Transport Scotland issues. The meeting was quite positive, with the group recognising the advantages of working together to maximise efficiencies. We also discussed how the emerging LDP2 could present opportunities to build upon the Place Standard outcomes.
- 3. Public Transport** – Along with Diane and Eileen, on Monday 16 November I attended a meeting with representatives from Lothian Buses to discuss various aspects of their services. They are quite content with the 63 service and are willing to continue running it, subject to the CEC subsidy remaining. However they would probably not be able to sustain this route commercially. Similarly they expressed little interest in operating other Queensferry routes on a commercial basis at present. This is mainly due to low population density and alternative travel methods being available. Extending existing routes into Queensferry (such as their 41) seemed unattractive. Nevertheless Lothian remained happy to bid for CEC contracts should they arise. Ongoing difficulties with integration were discussed and we were referred to the Scottish Government for initiatives on multi-operator 'smart' tickets. Meanwhile, Lothian felt CEC were in a position to address the refusal of Edinburgh Trams to accept One-Ticket. A few changes to Stagecoach buses take effect next week, with the 55 becoming entirely X55/X56 (but now stopping at each end of the bridge) and the X51 starting to call at Tesco.
- 4. High Street Resurfacing** – We received a reply from CEC's Environment Manager saying that WSP are starting to get their act together on the High Street project and QDCC would be kept informed of outcomes from imminent meetings. A further QIG meeting is due in the near future, and the date will be confirmed once the corresponding WSP meetings become clearer.
- 5. Pedal for Scotland** – The ANP Transport Sub-Group met on 5th of November to discuss how adverse impacts from the Pedal for Scotland event could be reduced in future. Changes to arrangements in the Queensferry part of the route are unlikely as this seemed to operate fairly well. However improvements to community engagement and notification processes can be expected in 2016.

Grant Sangster
Transport Sub-Committee Convenor
21 November 2015