

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Transport Report for September 2016

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

- 1. Traffic Calming** – Laura identified that the speed cushions on Burgess Road required identification by white paint and this has been raised with the West Team. Some marking has taken place but this seems to be temporary rather than the more traditional white paint
- 2. FRC South Community Forum** – On Wednesday 31 August I attended the latest community forum. The subject QDCC raised regarding traffic congestion around the south side of the bridge was dealt with via a separate note detailing present and future traffic management controls (ITS and ramp metering). In the project update, the possibility of opening one lane of the new northbound section of A90 between Dundas Home Farm and the Queensferry Junction next month was mentioned. This would bypass Builyeon Road for traffic heading towards Newton, and also traffic for Bo'ness Road. At first glance there seems little downside to the idea because the road is complete, although the advantages are probably quite small. Diane and I also attended a site visit on Saturday 17 September. Public briefings have been tentatively scheduled for 12-13 October at 3pm and 7pm
- 3. Builyeon Road Development** – As reported elsewhere, I attended the meeting regarding proposed masterplan modifications for the housing development at Builyeon Road, which is a site in LDP2. The original layout was criticised as it contained insufficient detail and arguably deviated from some principles set by LDP2. There were particular concerns regarding perimeter movement of pedestrians and vehicles, and the revision saw some effort to address these shortcomings
- 4. Public Transport – Buses.** On Thursday 22 September we met Stagecoach East Scotland's managing director. In general Queensferry services haven't shown the growth Stagecoach would have liked and in the near future it seems unlikely that significant additional resource will be committed towards the services without externally-led interventions such as a successful bus improvement partnership. Various issues with routes, punctuality, crowding, publicity, fares and vehicles were discussed. Evening 40B journeys which only provide one way journeys through Queensferry will be reconsidered. Following completion of the new bridge, there is potential for double deck vehicle deployment and more significant revision of routes or times (for example the 747 will probably use Builyeon Road). Timekeeping will continue to be closely monitored but varies widely from day to day mainly because there is little effective bus priority along the route. A recently-launched mobile app provides real-time data more conveniently and Stagecoach are about to adopt more responsibility for data appearing on CEC's Bustracker displays. Last month, councillors agreed to withdraw financial support (£11k) for Christmas & New Year buses previously operating to Queensferry as no sponsorship had been forthcoming. Stagecoach may consider operating some services commercially, but this is not yet clear. **Trains.** A new timetable has been drawn up for Fife Circle services in anticipation of Edinburgh Gateway station at Gogar opening, expected in December. Timetables are determined by ScotRail with direction from Transport Scotland on requirements and guidance from Network Rail on train paths. There is no formal public or council consultation required

Grant Sangster
Transport Sub-Committee Convenor
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