

QDCC

Chairman's report for October 2016 Business Meeting

Representing QDCC I have attended meetings and made representations to and replied to the following council officers and interested parties;

- Supported by Neil I facilitated the voluntary work undertaken by AMEY and Network Rail at the Jacobs Ladder location cutting back overgrown vegetation and tidying up the footpath and compound on 28th Sept, 4th & 5th October. We both attended two meetings to discuss the work content and help with the planning of the work. Friends of Ferry Glen attended to assist on all of the days. QDCC is grateful to all that helped with the project. Sometime, further works will be undertaken to improve the footpath by laying recycled road "plane-ings" which are being sourced by AMEY.
- I met with Colin Butcher Sea Cadets Commander to discuss the plans for a new build facility. The Sea Cadets have lodged an outline plan with CEC Planning Authority but have not received an acknowledgement or receipt of the application.
- On the 11th October I facilitated a meeting of the Queensferry representatives of the FB World Heritage Management Group to discuss the proposed location for the UNESCO Inscription Plaque. Our thoughts about a suitable location at the Hawes are at odds with the proposal from HES.
- I met with the Chairman of Cramond & Barnton CC and Kirkliston CC to discuss The City of Edinburgh Councils Transformation Programme and how the changes are impacting upon the voluntary work of the community councils. There is a distinct lack of information and disconnect with council officers and the west community councils. A paper was presented to Councillor Work in his capacity as Convenor requesting that the public ANP meeting to be held in November should be a private meeting devoted to discuss the CC's concerns and seeking a commitment to find a solution.
- As agreed I lodged QDCC's comments about the Bulyeon Road Development with Alan Farningham, Farningham Planning. I have not received an acknowledgement.
- I have been in email correspondence with Ms Tania Pramschufer Hands up Events following notification from the Forth Bridges Forum that they are in agreement with the proposal to trial

community markets at the viewing platform location of the Forth Road Bridge.

- I have received two email enquiries from Echline Woodland who are holding a 25yr celebration on the 24th June 2017. Huw Thomas has also received a request from Rachel Tromans. "I am an Early years officer at Queensferry early years centre, a local authority nursery in the South Queensferry area. I was wondering who is best to speak to with regards to seeking to use Echline Woodland on a weekly basis for forest kindergarten sessions with a small group of our children who are under 3 years old and possibly their parents?
We hope to use the space each week for the children to spend time exploring a local green space, learning through the natural environment, viewing and experiencing weather and seasonal changes, monitoring wildlife and generally learning to respect and care for their local environment and community - this would include litter picking while risk assessing the area each visit and litter picking on route to the woodland."
- I have contacted Dave Sinclair Environmental & Highways Officer North West CEC and Convenor of the Queensferry Infrastructure Group (QIG) seeking to hold a meeting specifically to progress the High St improvements. I am disappointed to report that I have not received a reply or acknowledgement to my email(s) request. You will recall that John Bury Highways and Planning attended QDCC May '16 business meeting and gave QDCC absolute assurance about the works and that a contractor would be appointed under a framework agreement. I ask QDCC to note the lack of progress in the last six months despite Mr Bury's assurances which appear to be worthless.
- I have written to Peter Strong Localities Manager North West to pick up on the work that Henry Coyle was progressing on our behalf looking to secure a long term lease for the Sea Cadets property which would give them tenure for a new build? Following a request from PEYC of a similar vain I have asked the question of Mr Strong.
- Along with Diane & Grant I attended a meeting of the PSC to learn about the proposal to build five terraced properties on the footprint site of the former British Legion building at Stoneycroft Road.

Keith Giblett
23 Oct 2016