

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Transport Report for November 2016

- 1. Forth Replacement Crossing** – The next community forum meeting will take place on Wednesday evening. Community issues being raised are protracted restrictions on Ferry Muir Road and the possibility of opening the new bus lane connecting the northbound A90 to the B800 at Dundas Home Farm prior to completion of the full scheme.
- 2. New Developments** – There have been discussions within the community regarding road layouts and access for new housing estates at South Scotstoun and Builyeon Road. For example at South Scotstoun, a general through route is not intended between the B800 entrance in the Arup area and Provost Milne Grove. Should a route exist, it will be restricted to buses only (but this does not guarantee that a bus route will always run through the site). In the Builyeon Road proposals there is some concern that the main road will be re-routed through the development, in the rough vicinity of the site of a new school. It isn't clear whether the concerns are founded on road safety or the impediment to convenience. In the context of traffic congestion at Queensferry Primary School, at a meeting to discuss school rolls and future capacity, CEC made clear that they would not wish to see resources being taken from education to ease local traffic issues.
- 3. High Street Resurfacing** – On 14 November, along with Keith and a rep from QHT, we attended a meeting with CEC's North West locality roads team to discuss prospects for advancing the High Street resurfacing project. The overall design is likely to be defined over the next few months with a fairly narrow range of options offered for consultation to the whole community. More detailed discussions with affected businesses and residents on the High Street will take place to try and resolve specific issues that might arise. There is an opportunity to influence operation of the High Street by means such as encouraging or discouraging certain users. The present thinking is to implement resurfacing from September 2017, with a duration of 6-9 months.
- 4. Public Transport – Buses.** A meeting was held with Lothian Buses on 9 November. Passenger increase on the 63 witnessed in the first year hasn't continued, with demand now quite flat. Lothian don't intend to make changes to the route or times in the near future. In general they find west Edinburgh is a particularly difficult area to serve due to traffic congestion and lack of bus priority. Some traffic light detection systems are under development, which could help at complex junctions like Craigleith. Lothian are keen to be involved at early stages with designs of new housing estates and also with pump-priming of routes, such as would be available at Builyeon Road and South Scotstoun. However their enthusiasm is in proportion to the likely return that they'd see in the longer term. Lothian's commercial interest in developing Queensferry routes is quite low. While Stagecoach operate in Queensferry via Barnton, they don't see room for another operator. However in the event that Stagecoach withdrew from local routes in Queensferry there might be an opportunity. The N43 Hogmanay service following the street party (which CEC decided would not qualify for subsidy this year) has been brought into Lothian's NightBus network. This operates using sponsorship from Diageo without involvement from CEC. **Trains.** Norman alerted us of an intention to site a bike shed at Dalmeny Station, which would sacrifice two marked parking bays. However the displacement effect would be greater because five or six vehicles typically cram into the two spaces. ScotRail's performance continues to draw political attention, although most services from Dalmeny operate within the punctuality requirement. Station usage figures are due next month which will give an indication of passenger demand trends. A new timetable is effective from 11 December, when the new Edinburgh Gateway station is due to open.

Grant Sangster
Transport Sub-Committee Convenor
25 November 2016