

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Transport Report for January 2017

- 1. Forth Replacement Crossing** – Along with Keith I attended the FRC Community Forum meeting on 30 November. The project was reported as remaining within budget and on schedule for opening to traffic in May 2017. Plans for opening celebrations are likely to become clear over the next few weeks, but are expected to allow pedestrians an opportunity to walk across the unopened motorway. This would probably be on a weekend, with some kind of access control and nominal charge being necessary. Restrictions on Ferry Muir Road were discussed and the contractors apologised for the over-run which was mainly due to the road condition being much worse than expected. There were also difficulties in sourcing specialist staff and establishing land ownership around Burger King. The resurfacing project is now expected to be complete by the end of March (about 6 months late). The next community forum meeting will be on 22 February, however there are project updates being given on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week in the Contact & Education Centre.
- 2. New Housing Developments** – Planning applications have come forward over the past couple of months for a few housing developments. These are accompanied by transport statement documents showing how access is proposed for the development and in some cases the modelled effect of traffic generated by the site on surrounding roads and junctions. I'd encourage people to read these because the information contained can either help answer questions or provide a basis for an objection if the assumptions are dubious.
- 3. ANP Transport Forum** – On 8 December I attended the forum where CEC's Development Plan Manager outlined some of the transport challenges associated with LDP2 across the ward. Some developer input could be expected to fund interventions, and contribution zones had been defined (for example the Queensferry Zone takes both South Scotstoun & Builyeon Road together). He stressed that recently-announced City Deal funding should be considered as a loan which would be repaid through increased economic activity. An updated Action Programme associated with LDP2 was published in December and again I'd encourage people to read it and compare the interventions that CEC believe are necessary to support development in Queensferry with their own opinions or Placemaking outcomes.
- 4. Public Transport – Buses.** As anticipated, all Queensferry's Christmas & New Year buses were operated commercially this year. Notable exceptions to previous year services being no buses on 25 December, the evenings of 26 December or 1-2 January. The Hogmanay route was run by Lothian Buses under the old N43 brand using sponsorship from Diageo. With opening of the new bridge anticipated shortly and management changes at Stagecoach, we'll seek a meeting with them to establish how they wish to proceed with the 40/A/B route. Looking further ahead, CEC's contract for the 63 bus will expire in 2018, so it may be worth exploring some possibilities with them later this year. **Dalmeny Station.** In December Norman alerted us of an intention to site a bike shed at the station, which would sacrifice two marked parking bays. This has been modified slightly such that the two spaces at Stationmaster's House would become disabled bays and one of the disabled bays along with the dropoff bay would be taken to build the shed. An offer of a site meeting remains open, but I doubt I could attend in weekday daylight hours. Transport for Edinburgh recently published their strategy for 2017-2021, stating an objective to look at making best advantage of the new Queensferry Crossing. There is some faint encouragement for Queensferry in both the TfE document and the Lothian Buses business plan.
- 5. Gritting Routes** – Following up on a resident's query regarding icy surfaces on Stewart Terrace, clarification on the road's priority status was sought from the North West Office in early December and the request was passed to the Winter Maintenance Team. A reply is awaited.