

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairman's report for the 27th February 2017 business meeting

I carried out the following business on behalf of QDCC in the previous month:

- On the 24th January I met with Sunil Varu the QA Manger to learn about QA Business plan 2017-2022 for the pending ballot and the proposed project activities. They have published their plans. QA are presently consulting with the businesses about the content.
- In the evening along with other members I attended the FRC update. It was confirmed that subject to weather that the plan is to open the Queensferry Crossing in late May 2017.
- On the 25th January along with Diane I met the planning officer Kenneth Bowes to discuss the Taylor Wimpey planning application for the South Scotstoun site.
- In the evening I attended the ANP Business meeting. The meeting focused on the LDP2 plans for West Edinburgh and questioned The City of Edinburgh Councils infrastructure strategy for roads and education. The three Community Councils: QDCC, KCC and CBCC remain concerned that new developments are considered by CEC planning in isolation and that development funding gain monies collectively should deliver roads and transport improvements. John Inman Senior Planner CEC attended the meeting and addressed the meeting by providing information about the development sites; however few were convinced that the proposals are satisfactory.
- On the 26th January I attended an FRC Celebration meeting to be advised that the plan is to open the Queensferry Crossing in late May '17. TS are working on plans for a walking experience across the new bridge. The public will have to apply and register over a prescribed period and their names drawn from a ballot. There will be an opening ceremony and the logistics of holding an event is still being worked up.
- The Christmas in Queensferry agm was held on the 8th February '17 chaired by Councillor Work. Attendance at the agm was reasonably good and a new committee was elected. I remain the Chairman of Ch I Q for another year.
- I attended a Forth Bridge World Heritage meeting on 14th February held at the CEC. There is little to report but I will circulate the minute when I receive a draft copy likely with the March '17 QDCC report.
- I met with Colin Butcher Sea Cadets Commander to discuss the Sea Cadets aspirations for a new build at Port Edgar. We had received conformation from CEC Planning Officer that the documents provided for the development is acceptable in principle subject to access, car parking, drainage etc and subject to a formal application being lodged. The next steps are to secure a meeting with CEC Property Services to secure an extended lease. This request has been passed to Councillor Work who is engaging with Council Officers.
- Along with Diane and Grant I met with representatives of Queensferry Heritage Trust to discuss two items of business; to hold a conference "Sense of Place" and twinning with another town.

- On 22nd February along with Grant I attended the quarterly FRC Forum meeting. There isn't a lot to report other than QDCC asked that we are given information about the two bridges boundaries of responsibility for maintenance so that we know who is responsible for grounds and roads maintenance for specific locations: whether it be FCBC who will still have a on site presence for five years of warranty works, AMEY or The City of Edinburgh Council.

Keith Giblett Chair 26th February 2017