

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Transport Report for June 2017

- 1. Forth Replacement Crossing** – On Tuesday 31 May, I attended the FRC Community Forum meeting. We were told that arrangements for any opening celebration events would not be revealed until the opening date was clear. Since the meeting, an announcement was made giving a date that the bridge would be available for traffic as Wednesday 30 August with a ballot being drawn to give up to 50,000 people the opportunity to walk on the new bridge over the following days. Guide booklets are being prepared to cover allowed use of the two bridges by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. These will be distributed to the public around the end of July. The Forth Road Bridge will be closed to vehicles for several weeks after the new bridge opens to complete tie-ins on the north side. We've asked about implications for the X55 bus service over this period. Preparation for building the path joining Springfield/Clufflat and the service road leading up to Echline Corner is nearly complete. However around 10 metres of the path will traverse factored land which Clufflat residents contribute towards maintaining. Keith has drafted a statement summarising the position.
- 2. Burnshot Bridge** – A more robust diversion route for cyclists and pedestrians has now been put in place following complete closure of the bridge last month. It wasn't possible to allow access through Craigiehall, so a section of northbound off-slip road has been reserved for cyclists and pedestrians. Balfour Beatty have been engaged in discussions to progress replacement of the bridge, together with AECOM (who wrote the Structural Assessment). A working group has been established to encompass wider-ranging aspects such as utility re-routing and network planning. CEC hope that the centre span of the bridge can be demolished before winter.
- 3. Ferry Muir Road** – As highlighted by Graeme last month, recent changes to the B800 have made it more difficult for pedestrians to use the service road access to Tesco due to the removal of a central reservation and an island. These features were previously used as refuges by pedestrians. Tesco are willing to allow an easier pedestrian route to the store if an easier crossing can be made on the road and we're attempting to arrange a meeting and site visit with Kevin to find out what CEC or Transport Scotland might be able to offer.
- 4. Burgess Road** – David has been keeping us updated with dialogue amongst Queensferry Primary School Parent Council regarding some of the road safety and traffic issues occurring at bell times around Burgess Road. There are various ideas being pursued, and we'd like to meet with someone from the parent council to hear their thoughts.
- 5. Public Transport** – Lothian Country have been running a fully commercial 43/X43 bus route between Queensferry and the city centre since Monday 5 June. It was introduced after Stagecoach withdrew the 40/A/B route. Although there have been a few minor hitches with route knowledge, stop flags, app data and breakdowns, reception by the public seems quite favourable. Hopefully we'll be able to meet with Lothian in a month or two to discuss their perception of the launch period. We should also start enquiring on the future of the 63 bus, which is subsidised by CEC until mid-2018. Although the subsidy per passenger is low, the overall contribution from CEC is around 20% of their total budget for supported bus services.

Grant Sangster
Transport Sub-Committee Convenor
24 June 2017