

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairman's report for August '17 business meeting

Please accept my apologies for my absence at Monday night's meeting 28th Aug '17.

I have carried out the following business for QDCC during the last month;

I have spent considerable time this month working on the ticket allocation for the Queensferry Crossing Bridge-walk, Opening Event and the Tuesday pm visit. I like to place on record my thanks to Terry for his commitment and the time he has given to working on compiling the lists which has been exceptional and beyond the call of duty. Also to all the community councillors who attended the meeting called at short notice on Tuesday 22nd August to discuss how we went about finalising the allocation of tickets for the bridge-walk and then the opening event. Last but not least my thanks to Graeme for his support and all his efforts in securing 29 Bridge Champion Leaders for the Tuesday evening visits – it was no mean feat. Well done all and thank you.

- I attended a Forth Bridges WH Tourism meeting on 26th July '17. Feedback was given by the consultants commissioned to provide a tourism strategy. I am disappointed to advise you that until the final document is presented to the Forth Bridges Forum and approved then no information is to be released. We were asked to return the paperwork. There is little in the proposals that warrants any great secrecy and the strategy forms stakeholder groups working together. A key element is the signage proposal that has been redeveloped to include North Queensferry that was being worked on by QA. They will need to re-think how they are going to apply for funding.
- On 1st August I attended the meeting called to discuss the new QHS build. The meeting was well attended. Reports will be provided separately and by Diane and Graeme.
- On the evening of 8th August along with other councillors I attended the Forth Bridges Forum meeting. Three presentations were given: an update on progress with the Queensferry Crossing, an update by Amey FBOC about the Forth Road Bridge, and an update on the work of the Forth Bridge World Heritage Management committee. The business that was of interest to the audience was Bridge Walk ticket allocation and a number of local residents present expressed their disappointment at not being allocated tickets.
- On 15th August I attended a FBWH management meeting. I will circulate the minutes of the meeting when they come available.
- On the evening of the 16th August along with Terry and Laura I attended a meeting to discuss the Place-making outcomes. Present were David Leslie CEC Head of Planning Policy, Will Garret Planning Officer and Peter Strong North West Localities Manager. In summary they agreed that; There had been a complete breakdown in communications with QDCC about Place-making outcomes and planning process. They advised that the LDP 2 action list and the Placemaking outcomes would be the basis to work up development planning gain funding, that the outcomes would be reflected in the North West localities improvement plan, that Planning Officers and North West Localities officers had had one meeting to discuss the outcomes, that David Leslie would speak with planning officers about QDCC receiving regular updates on the LDP2 outstanding applications (updates received and passed to Diane).

- On Friday 18th I was invited at short notice to attend the launch of the New Bridges Website and the unveiling of the Unesco Plaque for inscription of the Forth Bridge World Heritage. The Transport Minister Humza Yousaf had been invited to launch the website and unveil a plaque which is to be placed at the Forth Road Bridge viewing platform.
- On the evening of Tuesday 23rd August I attended the ANP meeting held in the Rosebery Hall. The meeting primarily was called to discuss the North West Localities improvement plan. I think it was a very poor meeting and I find it unacceptable to be issued with a draft plan on the 18th August to be discussed on 23rd August seeking approval. The plan was not approved. I sought changes to "Place" as I think that where communities have held Place-making consultations then the improvement plan should reference the document.

Keith Giblett

26th August 2017