



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CELEBRATING 31 YEARS 1986-2017

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY – SEPTEMBER 2017 REPORT

1. In the period between the last QDCC business meeting and Monday 4th September, the QDCC mailbox was incredibly busy – both incoming and outgoing mails – all related to the various events associated with the opening of The Queensferry Crossing. The Queensferry Crossing Experience (3rd September) facilitated by QDCC was the primary source of this activity, with ongoing dialogue between local groups, QDCC Councillors and Transport Scotland right up to a couple of hours before our allocated walk times on the day. A large number of telephone calls were also recorded in the days leading up to the Opening Ceremony, with many locals complaining to QDCC about lack of opportunities to partake in events, I'd like to place on record my thanks to all involved and especially to Elaine Barrie, Alan Leslie and Lawrence Shackman of Transport Scotland as without their help and assistance in the days running up to the event I doubt that this would not have happened. QDCC has received many mails from local groups involved thanking us for our efforts – too numerous to mention here – but very much appreciated.

I'd also like to mention the activities associated with getting a number of local groups, residents, friends and associates to the official opening ceremony on Monday 4th September. Again help and support from numerous folks much appreciated. It was indeed a pleasure to personally hand deliver a number of invitations to local residents for this day.

Last but not least my thanks to Graeme, Grant & Diane for taking on the mammoth task of collating and facilitating the Community Walks on Tuesday 5th September. Again QDCC have received many notifications both by email and on Social Media for our efforts.

Following the first and second “opening” of the Queensferry Crossing a large number of local residents have been in touch directly to complain about delays, increased journey times, impact to local businesses and lack of information from Transport Scotland and indeed The Scottish Government associated with the new crossing. It appears that the overall traffic management in and around the town has once again been brought into focus again – something that will not come as a surprise to QDCC given the concerns we raised at the time back in 2010 when the Parliamentary process to approve the Forth Replacement Crossing Bill was in progress. Given what we knew beforehand and what has happened since, it comes as no surprise, and we can only hope that once remedial work is completed on The Forth Road Bridge, road configurations either side are tied away and motorway status activated on The Queensferry Crossing, things will settle down. Having said all that, QDCC still continue to pick up a fair number of issues on a daily basis.

Other communications this month again relate to the various planning applications and developments across the Burgh – with quite a considerable amount on the Planning Application Notices (PANS) related to the new Queensferry High School, and the installation of artificial pitches, fencing and floodlights at Dundas Park.

The outcome of the deliberations on the new High School have been well documented by others, but again another good piece of work by QDCC which seems to have been well received in the Community.

As per previous months other communications relate to various ongoing parking and traffic matters, dog fouling, overflowing waste and recycling bins and the general state of roads and pavements – including the substandard pavement repairs in and around Scotsoun - in a number of locations across the town.

A separate string has developed recently on the need for a School Crossing Patrol on Rosebery Avenue.

We continue to receive a large number of mails from CEC on various topics which are circulated to Community Council members and interested parties as and where applicable.

QDCC received a large number of “Contact Us Submissions” through the website since the last meeting requesting a place on one of the events associated with the opening of the Queensferry Crossing.

Other notifications came from Rosshill Terrace residents concerned about traffic and the petition raised locally, a query from Ferry Blend asking about access to Local Directory and the petition raised relating to traffic on Bo’ness Road and the need for a pedestrian crossing.

2. No significant postal mail has been received since the last meeting.
3. Facebook continues to be a major communication tool for QDCC and we now have nearly 2400 followers.

Facebook communication and enquiries broadly match those received by e-mail but in greater volume and generally are far more vocal.

A more detailed summary has been submitted by Graeme

We continue to field many queries from local residents through our Facebook pages. Thanks to Diane, Grant, Laura and Graeme for responding to these on behalf of QDCC.

Just a reminder to all Councillors that the QDCC website is also active, requires constant administration and I would once again encourage all members to have a look and again welcome any suggestions for materials to post.

Should any Councillor like to have administrative rights to the website please let me know.

www.queensferrycommunitycouncil.org

4. On behalf of QDCC this month I have written and responded to CEC officials, CEC Councillors, our MSP and a number of local residents on various community related issues
5. I continue to distribute information to office-bearers, members and/or portfolio conveners as appropriate.

Please note the e-mail circulation list by which this report is delivered should be taken as the current version and used in any group wide communication.

Can I ask all members to ensure all details are properly transcribed as I seem to be missing on a number of internal QDCC communications.

6. Should any member have questions on the content of this report or any other aspect regarding the role of the Correspondence Secretary, please contact me directly.

Terry Airlie

Vice Chair & Correspondence Secretary – 24th September 2017