



QDCC Communications and Community Engagement Report

24 NOVEMBER 2017

Communications

QDCC Website – added MP and MSP contact details to the ward councillors' page. Will be reviewing the whole website page layout in the new year. <http://queensferrycommunitycouncil.co.uk/>

Facebook remains the most popular communication link with the community. Please note this is accessible to view by all public who are online, even without a Facebook profile; account only required if you wish to comment, post or message. <https://www.facebook.com/queensferry/>

Local Directory Live – continued community council content in the December edition which should hit the doors late November. Six month trial now ended, will update after discussion with LDL, QDCC members and community. <https://www.localdirectorylive.co.uk/publications/>

CEC communication links – At the meeting with the CEC CEO, council leader and Director of Place we suggested a regular newsletter from CEC to CC's in order to be proactive with the foreseeable issues in the pipeline. Recent examples being waste management problems which surfaced after driver recruitment/retention problems and the current street lighting issue due to same with electricians. We also suggested visits/tours for community councillors to the CEC administrative centre to help build relationships and rapport with CEC officials and staff. Both suggestions were received well.

Community feedback

Planning

No new issues raised. Whilst many seem to get that the housing developments are driven by an increasing population but register complaint about the lack of support, particularly the local road network and traffic control, there is still a perception amongst some of the community that housing is driven by "greedy developers trying to make money".

We will look to put together some form of communication that illustrates the drivers behind development, the realistic limitations of objections and the channels through which to engage in shaping these developments.

QHS new build - A recent talk by John Wood raised an audience question on the drop off arrangements for the new QHS build. A concern was raised over Station Rd (where the new entrance will be) being used as the drop off/pick up by parents/carers causing traffic issues.

QHS Playing Fields approval – Not much negative feedback since the decision, majority welcoming the facility for the community. However, we need to follow up on the promises from Crawford on pursuing free access for local children, etc.

Transport

Traffic flow – Increased traffic eastbound along the B924 to join the A90 regularly tailing back beyond Dalmeny Estate gate on weekday mornings and increased B800 traffic heading in to Kirkliston. Both appear to support our forecasted view that much local traffic will choose those routes over the Builyleon or Bo'ness Rd routes to the QC roundabout. The Burnshot bridge closure diversion has been cited as an additional contributor.

Some stated that they are now using the train in the morning (even though they have a pre-paid bus pass) as the bus is unreliable when it gets caught up in this, causing significant delays. Fears were stated over this potentially jeopardising the 43 service with reduced passengers and down time.

Traffic speed – Complaints about speeding traffic on Scotstoun Avenue. However, contrary to claims of non-response from police by a small number of contributors, police reports from PC Douds showed no such reports from the public in that area in the last six months. This information was relayed as was a reminder of the reporting channels including the Almond Ward police email address.

Roadworks – A set of lights appeared on Burgess Rd without any apparent notice. They appeared to be switched off (or failed) in the evening and were reported as stuck on red at times.

FRB slip road - Despite the closure to all but buses it is still a common occurrence on the north bound FRB slip road from Echline roundabout for vehicles to make their way down the slip, as bus drivers will testify. Some try to come back up (reverse or turn) the same slip when they realise their error, others are u-turning across the carriageway serviced by oncoming buses (often at speed) from the FRB. Both scenarios carry considerable danger.

Cruise Liner Visits – Prior to a meeting with CEC officials on the cruise liner visits and particularly clashes with the Ferry Fair, we requested community feedback on the general issues, which were as expected :

- Kills the tills of local businesses
- Deters non-liner visitors through lack of parking
- Liner passengers regularly lost due to poor signage to/from public transport
- Queensferry information signs from QA badly weathered and illegible
- Train capacity not tailored to liner visits at all.
- Big opportunity for Queensferry not being capitalised on
- Local voluntary guides do an excellent job and prep work but cannot cover it all
- Poor toilets, no wifi, queuing on the pavement, resident and business owner confrontations with coach and taxi drivers blocking entrances, not best image for gateway to Edinburgh and often first view of Scotland
- Lots of local people willing to get involved in shaping this more effectively.
- Historical value of Queensferry being undersold.

The subsequent meeting with officials confirmed the view expressed elsewhere that the project is disjointed with each dept. working in silos and no central co-ordination. This was recognized by all and a cohesive business plan is being drawn up between all parties for proposals to CEC executives.

By that same evening the contents of the meeting had hit the top tier of the CEC Executives as we discovered, with a positive spin.

Keith and Graeme will attend a Cruise Liners summit early Dec. Previous summits have had Queensferry represented by QA alone or no one.

Environment

Failed street lighting remains a constant source of complaint with reports ignored or taking weeks. Some very recent successful repairs been reported. Ward councillors are actively pursuing this.

Youth Engagement

No significant changes since last report other than met with a number of valuable new local members of the group also representing Kirkliston.

Currently looking at how to best progress with the planned feedback collation through the High School, design a survey questionnaire and seek available options for street work. Work on all of these are in progress.

Scott Donkin will join us at the next meeting on Dec 4th as Isla will be taking maternity leave shortly.

End of Report

G. McKinley 24/11/17