

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Transport Report for January 2018

- 1. Forth Replacement Crossing** – The next Forth Bridges Forum public meeting will take place on Wednesday 31 January in the Contact & Education Centre, starting at 7pm. One agenda item is the launch of documents explaining the managed motorway and public transport corridor. I've been contacted quite often by the Gazette requesting quotes for inclusion in articles written regarding the new bridge. Queues of northbound traffic approaching the bridge have been virtually eliminated since introduction of a 70mph speed limit, and reports of congestion at the Queensferry Junction roundabout are less frequent. Overall movement of traffic around the town has been a topic of some discussion since bridge opening last September, and Graeme recently floated an idea regarding the new South Scotstoun housing development presenting an opportunity to exploit the Dark Entrance route (former B9035 and now NCN1) as another bypass for Queensferry, supplementing the A90. Obviously there are various pros and cons, but Keith has requested strategic consideration by CEC.
- 2. Winter Weather** – There have been a few colder days over the past couple of months, accompanied by calls from the public for more intensive gritting of roads and paths in Queensferry by CEC. Poor availability of grit stocks suitable for communal use has been highlighted too. Similar to many other services, previous QDCC experience of requesting replenishment or new grit bins from CEC has been rather patchy, and attempts to recruit volunteers as 'snow wardens' haven't been very successful. This year we've mostly left the councillors to arrange appropriate cover through direct contact with constituents.
- 3. Ferry Muir Road Crossing** – Kevin managed to obtain agreement in principle from CEC officers for a pedestrian crossing on Ferry Muir Road, near Tesco. See his own report for details.
- 4. Scottish Gas Networks** – We received advance warning from CEC of some fairly lengthy gas main excavations around Burgess Rd. There are likely to be some road closures and restrictions from 10 February, probably lasting into April. Information on the exact phasing hasn't been publicised yet.
- 5. Public Transport** – Lothian Country intend to make some changes to their 43/X43 service from 25 February. A couple of additional Mon - Fri journeys will be added, which should alleviate crowding issues, and retain half-hourly intervals longer into the evening. All Mon - Sat journeys will operate through Ferrymuir and the new Lochinvar Gdns development, and the X43 will observe all stops up to the Royal High. Fares will be increased from the same date. It was slightly disappointing to see the New Year's Day bus service was unable to cope with passenger demand or adhere to its schedule, because we'd previously identified this risk to Lothian. As mentioned at the November meeting, discussions with ScotRail confirmed that additional capacity is planned for the Fife Circle line, delivered through longer diesel multiple units which are being released from elsewhere through electrification. There is also a hope to make Fife timetables better balanced (rather than adding extra journeys) as an objective when introducing revised services to Aberdeen and Inverness. Although some enablers are running a few months late, various changes to timetables and rolling stock can be expected over the 2018-19 period.
- 6. Burnshot Bridge** – Demolition has taken place and a temporary structure carrying utilities has been installed. While we received useful summaries of the progress leading up to demolition, things have now gone rather quiet and we haven't heard when the flyover is likely to be replaced.

Grant Sangster
Transport Sub-Committee Convenor
20 January 2018