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Queensferry & District Community Council – January 2018 Report

Grit bins / gritting

The last eight weeks have been dominated by issues relating to the colder winter weather. Recent icy conditions left many areas in Queensferry and Dalmeny treacherous. A number of roads still have no grit bins. Other bins were empty whilst key roads were left ungritted by Council gritters.

We have already requested over a dozen new grit bins for local streets. It has been extremely frustrating for us that officials have been so slow to react, caused we are told by staff absence. We are continuing to work on this and plan to raise at the next full Council meeting.

A90 slip road

In December, Kevin joined Alex Cole-Hamilton for a meeting with Transport Scotland to discuss the traffic impact on Queensferry following the opening of the Queensferry crossing. Top of the list was a call for a new study into the opening the old Echline A90 slip road to help ease traffic flow. Officials said this would require a policy change from the Scottish Government and we intend to continue to push for this. Meantime, we also made the point that as there is no traffic signalling on the A904 approach to the new roundabout, or any box junction, that traffic is backing up on the A904 towards Newton. Transport Scotland agreed to monitor this and consider introducing box junctions on the roundabout.

Ferrymuir crossing agreed

We were pleased that, following the site visit with some members of QDCC and our direct representations to the Council road safety team, the traffic analysis showed that Ferrymuir does meet the criteria for a new pedestrian crossing. This is now being added to the priority list and timetabled for action.

Lothian 43/x43 changes

We were pleased to see that, after making a number of requests (along with QDCC), Lothian Buses agreed to increase the morning peak frequency for the 43/X43 and extend the 30-minute frequency to later in the evening. The changes will also see the 43/X43 extended to Ferrymuir Retail Park at all times Monday to Saturday.

South Scotstoun housing

We have tried to keep people updated on the changes made by Taylor Wimpey to their South Scotstoun housing application. The relevant planning officer provided us with a summary of the changes as follows. The general layout remains broadly the same, although the number of units has actually increased slightly to 341. There has been a significant reduction in proposed car parking space to 592 spaces from the original 792 spaces.

The main changes have been to the design and layout of the houses and flats next to the central area around the proposed public open space, where the flats are and the link south to the east/west cycle way. The orientation of the houses on the far east of the proposed development have also been altered.

The opportunity to submit comments has now reopened and is available until Friday 2 February.

Dalmeny Park survey

In December, we carried out an extensive survey of houses in the Dalmeny Park housing estate. This was in response to concerns raised by many residents about the traffic problems being seen. Part of this was provoked by the recent closure of Hewlett Way which changed the flow of vehicles through the new development. However, the opening of the road at Sandercombe Drive/Bourdock Road (so you can get all the way to Dalmeny Station) has clearly made the local area more attractive for through traffic to and from Scotstoun Avenue.

Almost 200 households took part in the survey. Whilst a clear majority were opposed to closing off the road through to Dalmeny Station, there was support for new pavement safety posts to stop cars from taking corners at speed. We also need to get the Scotstoun Avenue traffic calming in place.

Other news in brief

- Kevin worked closely with the Rosebery Hall Management Committee following the delays which left the hall without heating. This was finally resolved last week.
- Local transport officials have confirmed a formal consultation on changes to the parking restrictions around Queensferry Primary is expected in late spring. The proposals would include new double yellow lines along parts of Station Road, Burgess Road and Rosebery Avenue.
- The planning application for the new high school is due before the planning committee this week.
- We have been doing survey work with residents on Farquhar Terrace, Inchgarvie Park, Forth Place, Society Road and Clufflat/Clufflat Brae on the parking issues which are causing so many problems. Farquhar Terrace is already on the locality watch list for a possible TRO and we will be sharing the views of residents with them. We will update QDCC on this next month.
- We are still pursuing the road safety team on the results of the traffic monitoring following our public meeting on Bo'ness Road.
- We pressed Hopetoun estates following the **extremely** poor repair work carried out on the small stretch of Loch Road falling under their ownership. Frustratingly, they say the standard of the patching is consistent with other parts of their land and that no further action will be taken.