

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairs report for the QDCC January business meeting to be held on 22nd January 2018 in the QDCC Meeting rooms.

In my capacity of Chairman I have carried out the following business on behalf of QDCC.

LDP2 Plan update

On 4th December along with Grant I attended the Drumbrae Hub to be briefed about progress with the LDP plans. Of particular interest is the development planning gain funding. Council officers have been working on the plans. Attached is a copy of the briefing document. I also have two extra hard copy of the LDP2 plan should anyone like a copy. You can access the plan on the Council Website http://queensferrycommunitycouncil.co.uk/index.php/download_file/view/900/

Grant circulated a summary note a couple of days after the meeting;

“ I don’t think there was any new material presented at the meeting but it was still useful to hear about the progress made and share opinions with other community councils around the locality. In presenting pages 75 and 76 the planners seem to realise public engagement could be more thorough, covering a more representative demographic, and also that there’s a wealth of knowledge amongst the communities that they could use to their benefit. Having seen the long list of actions for Builyeon Road it does look as if they’re starting to listen, although we’ll need to see what remains when the proposal eventually arrives at the committee.

Incidentally when they talk about LDP2 nowadays they actually mean the CEC’s new local plan which is being worked up in response to the most recent strategic development plan from Scottish Government (called SDP2) that we saw earlier in 2017. It isn’t the “Second Proposed LDP” from June 2014 to and a meeting address a shortfall in housing allocation. A wee bit confusing for anyone who isn’t following things closely!”

High Street Improvements

On the afternoon of the 7th Dec. I was invited to attend the Councils contractor evaluation meeting. Four contractors had tendered for the work and the objective was to select a preferred contractor for the improvement works. The contractor’s representatives attending the evaluation meeting had been asked to give a short presentation about the project and how they would go about it. They were asked how they would consult with the stakeholders and what they saw as the project challenges. They were then scored on the presentation and their responses the questions. The contractors have been asked for some additional detailed information about costs. The responses will determine the preferred contractor and the contract will be let in the next couple of weeks.

Sea Cadets Lease

On 12th Dec. I was invited to attend a meeting supporting the Sea Cadets with CEC Property Services to discuss extending the lease for the Sea Cadets property at Port Edgar. The Sea Cadets have been provided with a “draft proposal paper” which is presently under consideration.

Cruise Forth & Q’ferry Business meetings

I have attended three meetings 7th & 20th December and 9th January. For information please see the Cruise Liner notes.

Queensferry Heritage Trust Forum 11th Jan 2018

QHS held a forum asking the question; “is local government fit for purpose”? The thinking was to have a debate about models of local government from the days of the Burgh Council to Queensferry being taken into Edinburgh District Council and Lothian Regional Council, until the local government review and change to today’s present services being provided by The City of Edinburgh Council. Former Burgh Councillors had been invited but due to poor health couldn’t attend on the night. For this reason the focus of the forum changed to a discussion about the present day service provision by The City of Edinburgh Council and the role of QDCC. I shared the platform with Councillor Hutcheson and we both had an enlightening and entertaining evening.

ANP Meeting 17th Jan

I attended a second ANP in the life of this present council. The meeting had been called to inform members about the forming of Locality Committees. There is no role for Community Councils in the localities committees. It’s up to community councils to influence and lobby councillors so there is little change in our role. The positive is that 18 councillors are members of the North West Locality against 63 ward councillors at a full council meeting. Please see the two attached reports on the Localities. I’m pleased to report that several projects are being brought forward in the Housing Revenue Account NEP and Roads & Footpaths NEP: Walker Drive Improvements and Harbour Improvements. See attached report.

Forth Bridge UNESCO Inscription Plaque

I am presently facilitating a meeting to discuss and agree locating a UNESCO Inscription Plaque for the Forth Bridge to be fixed on the wall at the Boathouse steps on the building owned by Jean Winning. The question arises should an unveiling of the Plaque be held. I have invited HES, QHG and QHT to attend the meeting which is planned for the morning of Tues 23 Jan at 10am.

Correspondence

- I have written to Paul Lawrence Executive Director of Place CEC and had an acknowledgement about the delay with approval for the 44 Supported Living Homes proposed at the Ferrymuir site.
- I have emailed council officers urging that they find solutions for traffic travelling east to west and vice-versa for Queensferry.
- I have been supporting Rosebery Hall Management Committee in lobbying for the heating to be repaired. The main hall has had no heating for 11 weeks.
- I enquired about TRO for DYL at Hopetoun X Roads under the FRB to be advised that it’s on a long list!!

Keith Giblett 21 Jan 2018.