

QDCC Chairmans Report

Meeting Date; 26th November 2012

November has been another busy month representing QDCC affairs. During the month I was privileged to represent the Community Council at the Sunday Remembrance Service which was well attended by representatives of the many community groups that serve our town.

Chairmans diary

- On the 25th October I attended the QA Apps launch which was well represented by the local businesses.
- On the 8th November along with other members of QDCC I attended a meeting with Councillor Andrew Burns Council Leader to learn more about The City of Edinburgh Council's initiative "Cooperative Edinburgh". The Headline about this initiative is that the coalition council wants to radically transform the way that services are planned, managed and delivered and move Edinburgh towards being a truly Co-operative Council. As the Chair of QDCC I think this initiative presents some opportunities to work with the council seeking improvements to the delivery of services to the Community of South Queensferry. The "Lead Politicians" have committed to a series of 53 pledges and I believe that QDCC should be studying these pledges to see where they sit with services delivery in South Queensferry, ensuring that we get a good service delivered.
- On the 12th November along with QDCC Exec members I met with a new prospective member for QDCC Ms Juliette Summers. WE discussed the work of QDCC and Juliette is very interested in joining QDCC. Juliette will join us at our first meeting in 2013.
- On the 13th November I attended a QA Access and Signage Sub Committee meeting convened and chaired by Mr Will Tunnel. The key points discussed were signage, car parking and transport matters in Queensferry which QDCC members are fully aware of.
- On the evening of the 13th I chaired a meeting of Christmas in Queensferry.
- On the 14th November I attended the Inaugural Annual Dinner of the Scottish Property Federation being invited by Evans Property Group. One of the Guest Speakers was Derek Mackay MSP, Minister for Local Government and Planning and it was interesting

to learn of some of the business being brought forward by the Scottish Government such as reducing the time it takes for local councils to deal with planning applications.

- I organised a meeting, held on the 22nd November with Natalie Hoy and Gavin Brown and the QDCC Exec, QA Representation and Police Representation to discuss concerns about the condition of the High St, and local parking issues. Mr Gavin Brown has been appointed as the lead CEC Official to work with QDCC. Gavin has to produce an action plan which will be circulated to QDCC members early in 2013.

Other Business Correspondence

I received a letter from Mr David Garthley Scruples Jewellers claiming to represent 25 - 30 local businesses complaining that QA Bids has been "thrust upon them" with little discussion and advice from the Queensferry Community. The letter closes by stating that it is unfair as local businesses working from home don't pay a levy and that they have been "railroaded" by the BID's project. I replied outlining the BID's process, the Community Councils role and suggested that Mr Grathley and representative from these businesses meet with QA and discuss their concerns. It is apparent that some businesses are confused about the BID's process and haven't read nor studied the literature available.

Planning

Planning applications remain low in numbers.

There have been six applications for the usual extensions and property alterations, one application granted and one refused.

QDCC was supplied with additional information for the retrospective application 41, Echline Park for change of use - open space to private garden. It transpires that there is mitigating circumstances that this change of use is driven by a need to remedy a flooding problem. As the land is not adopted by CEC then they will take no responsibility for dealing with the flooding problem. QDCC has therefore withdrawn there objection to this application.