

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairman's report for monthly business meeting being held on Monday 26th February at 7.30pm in the QDCC meeting room.

In my capacity as Chair I have attended the following meetings and events representing QDCC;

- In the last month I have been working on the plans for the unveiling of Forth Bridges UNESCO Inscription Plaque at the Boathouse steps on Sunday 4th March at 2pm. A meeting was held on Tuesday 23rd Jan '18 with the local interest group members who are represented on the Forth Bridges World Heritage Management Committee being the QHG, QHT, The Briggers and Mark Watson HES. The plans are nearly complete for the event. Diane, Ann and Laura will represent QDCC at the unveiling ceremony. Our Ward Councillors have also been invited to the event.
- On the 25th January Graeme and I organised and facilitated a meeting of local businesses with Jim Galloway CEC Head of Enterprise and Innovation to discuss local business matters and how the local businesses might engage with CEC and QDCC. Ten businesses were represented. The local businesses advised that the month of December was one of the worst Decembers in a long time and that they were finding trading difficult. Liner visits were discussed, that they weren't good for local trade and exasperated the parking issues with resultant loss of trade. We subsequently learnt that two foot fall counters were still in place one at the former QA office and one at the Hawes Inn. The figures were supplied and are a little spurious but support the trader's views that there is little benefit to Queensferry High Street from the liner visits. QDCC sought from the businesses to table a proposal how they would be represented with QDCC and CEC. Jim Galloway is the businesses point of contact.
- Following the above I was contacted by Adam Buchanan-Smith the new Franchise owner of McDonalds who sought a meeting with me to learn more about Queensferry, the town and its community and how the community functions. Following the opening of the Queensferry Crossing McDonalds have seen a drop in trading and are obviously concerned about their future prospects. Adam observed that there was little signage from the Queensferry Crossing advising of the services facilities. Following on from this meeting I put Adam in touch with Scott Lees TS at the Forth Bridges Forum. I understand that TS are looking at the request for additional signage.
- On the afternoon of 30th January I facilitated a meeting with Council Officers and QBC representatives to discuss repairs to the Harbour using NEP's funding. This was an action on me from the January business meeting when the QBC Commodore and Vice Commodore made representation to QDCC. Mr Dave Sinclair West Localities Roads and Environment Manager is leading this work.
- On 31st January I attended the Forth Bridges Forum held at the Contacts & Education Centre. The meeting consisted of a series of presentations about the three Bridges and is a matter of public record on the Forth Bridges website.
- On the 5th February I attended the Forth Bridges WH Tourism sub group. An item of business of interest to QDCC is who will take on the work of working up the application for Lottery

funding for the Paul Hogarth Signage project. A possible proposal is that a coordinator is hired by the Forth Bridges Forum to undertake the work. The paperwork that was produced by QA is held by CEC Mr Jim Galloway's department so is available.

- I attended the QDCC meeting on 5th February held to discuss the community facility.
- I was invited to attend a meeting with Audit Scotland on the 6th February to answer questions about TS and FCBC performance and had they delivered on "Community Engagement" with the Queensferry Crossing project. My view is that TS didn't deliver in the early stages of the project at the inception stage and completely ignored any contribution that QDCC had to make and did not take on board the community's views. I thought that both TS and FCBC did engage and handle QDCC's enquiries reasonably well during the project.
- Along with David I attended Echline PTC meeting held on the 6th February and gave a limited update on LDP2 and the housing proposals. I subsequently provided a written report for the minutes of the meeting.
- Along with the Treasurer I attended a meeting with The Clydesdale Bank Business adviser and subsequently a QDCC meeting to discuss the community facility finances as reported by the Treasurer.
- On the afternoon of the 13th February I attended a Forth Bridges World Heritage Management Committee meeting – the item of interest is the Signage project as reported.
- High Street Improvements; The Project Management for the refurbishment work tender has been awarded to Ironside Farrer Environmental Consultants after evaluation. A meeting is planned for the 7th March. The purpose of the QHS Group is to meet regularly throughout the project to consider the scope, programme, and consultation, traffic management etc. including elements of the design and delivery phase.
- I was invited by the Lord Provost to attend the Edinburgh Official Chinese New Year Concert held in the Usher Hall on 22nd February from 7pm. My wife and I attended a very interesting event; it's the year of the dog the eleventh sign of the Chinese zodiac symbolizing loyalty and honesty. The event was organised following the success of the 2017 event by the Asian Association of Culture, Commerce and Education.

Keith Giblett Chair QDCC 24th February 2018