



**QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



**QDCC August Business Meeting  
Monday 24 February 2020 at 7.30pm  
QDCC Offices, Council Building  
53 High Street, South Queensferry**

**Present:**, Keith Giblett (Chair), Diane Job, Grant Sangster (minutes), Graeme McKinley, Anne Mitchell, Andy Stuart, David Flint, Martin Crow (Police), Councillor Norman Work, Michelle Gordon, Councillor Louise Young, Gillian Smith, Laura Sexton, Neil McKinlay, Terry Airlie, Andy Malarky

**Guest Speaker:** Rachel Barrington (Vat Run)

<p><b>1. QDCC Chairman's Welcome</b></p>	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting in 2020 and introduced Rachel Barrington, mentioning that Iwan Thomas was unable to attend because he was off sick. Keith also referenced the recent closure of the Forth Replacement Crossing due to blocks of ice falling from the cables onto passing road traffic and that sensors might be fitted soon. A public meeting would be held soon to allow further discussion on the condition of all three bridges across the Forth.</p>
<p><b>2. Apologies</b></p>	<p>David Learmond. Emilia Michalak, Muir Kay, Councillor Graham Hutchison, Councillor Kevin Lang, Kirsten Heggie</p>
<p><b>3. Police Report</b></p>	<p>Martin Crow outlined crime stats between 21 January and 24 February. 18 crimes were recorded in total with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 vehicle vandalisms. There had been no police involvement in an apparent vehicle vandalism in the Tesco car park, the subject of recent Facebook dialogue. However some children had been moved on from the café recently</li> <li>• 1 broken school window</li> <li>• 2 assaults</li> <li>• 5 road traffic offences</li> <li>• 2 breaches of the peace</li> <li>• 1 shoplifting</li> </ul> <p>A scattering of calls claiming nuisance had been received. These were typically of noise from cycle paths. While some thefts from trailers in work compounds were reported, there had been no housebreakings. Patrols continue during school bell times. Bike marking has been successful despite poor weather, with 30 marked at a recent event.</p>
<p><b>4. Rachel Barrington – Vat Run</b></p>	<p>Rachel said there was likely to be evidence of more formal governance at the Vat Run in future, with four key user groups identified: under 5's; youths; sports interest; and environment interest. Each group has a rep to put forward cases for work plans lasting about 30 to 60 days. Examples of future events are the Dig Day Event, planned for 15 March and the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. The group's Facebook page has a large number of followers and funding for new tools has been received.</p>
<p><b>5. January Minutes</b></p>	<p>The January minutes were proposed by Diane and seconded by David Flint.</p>
<p><b>6. Matters Arising</b></p>	<p><b>OUTSTANDING ACTIONS</b> <b>May</b></p>



	<p><b>1</b> Norman to continue reporting on harbour wall knuckle progress until repairs are complete. Action <b>CONTINUES</b> Brian Paton from CEC has completed surveys and the repairs seem very expensive. CEC are trying to reduce the cost and a further report is awaited. Muir does not expect much to be done due to CEC's budget constraints.</p> <p><b>4</b> Diane to investigate prospects for Planning Sub-Committee to hear talk from former CEC planning official, similar to the recent presentation to QHT. Action <b>CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>June</b></p> <p><b>3</b> Keith and Graeme to establish dialogue with the Facilities. Action <b>COMPLETED</b> Dialogue with Museums Department progressed as reported last month.</p> <p><b>January 2020</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Terry to arrange meeting with Crawford McGhie about Forest Nurseries <b>CONTINUES</b> Crawford needs to bring along an assistant to this meeting (probably Elaine Watson) but a date is not set yet</p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Some debris blockages to flow of the Ferry Burn near Rosebery Avenue had been identified by Andy M, but responsibility was proving difficult to establish. SEPA had been invited to attend and Neil would accompany them in a meeting at 2pm on Tuesday 25 February.</p> <p><b>2</b> Ideas for using this year's grant from CEC to be passed to Diane</p> <p><b>3</b> Neil to arrange uplift of dislodged bollard identified by David F</p>
<p><b>7. Chair's Report</b></p>	<p>The report was circulated before the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on liner arrangements can be expected in March. The state of public toilets was highlighted in a recent meeting. Repairs, improvements and liner facilities would be driven by the Forth Bridges Forum Tourist Strategy. A tourism manager had recently been appointed. Unfortunately the World Heritage 5 year plan had not shown much physical evidence of improvements to date.</li> <li>• The sad passing of David Hutcheson together with his sterling, selfless and unstinting work was highlighted. In addition to his high profile efforts for Cleanferry he had been involved in the Rosebery Hall Association, Tom Thumb Nursery, Hawthornbank Gardens and Christmas in Queensferry. Many of these groups will find him difficult to replace.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Councillors' Report</b></p>	<p>Reports circulated before the meeting by Cllrs Hutchison, Work and Lang/Young.</p> <p>Cllr Young – highlighted budget concerns with community policing (eg motor bike crime), fear of city centre focus for resources, and potential for attainment gaps with less contributions towards nursery provision and swimming or music tuition.</p> <p>Cllr Work – budget aligns with practices of other authorities in Scotlands with respect to nursery and education, together with setting the expectation that police funding should come through Police Scotland themselves. Saturday library facilities had been</p>



	<p>retained as a tradeoff. The top community centre was being assessed for flood mitigation and fitting disabled toilet facilities. Some worries had been raised over the budget and what would happen to clubs if the facility had to close. Reduction in wellbeing of participants through social isolation would be a concern. Some debris blockages had been identified at the Ferry Burn around Rosebery Avenue, but responsibility was proving difficult to establish. SEPA had been invited to attend and Neil would accompany them in a meeting at 2pm on Tuesday 25 February.</p>
<p><b>9. Treasurer's Report</b></p>	<p>Report circulated before the meeting. Diane mentioned that March will be the end of the financial year and moving into the 2020-21 period, use of the QDCC grant will need to be considered in the light of changing circumstances. For example QDCC previously donated £100 prize money for the decorated float competition on Ferry Fair Day, but this has become less inclusive because insurance difficulties led to a decline in child participation. Also, the £50 per year Echline Woodland donation is not always required now that capital items have been bought and only things like fuel or repairs are necessary. Ideas for use of the grant can be put forward to Diane.</p>
<p><b>10. Secretary's Report</b></p>	<p>Report circulated before the meeting. There were no questions on the report.</p>
<p><b>11. QDCC Subcommittees</b></p>	<p><b>Transport &amp; Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant and Neil circulated reports before the meeting.</li> <li>• Maintenance of road surfaces and damage to vehicles from potholes became a recurring theme over the past month. Claims for damage should be directed to the North West Locality Team.</li> </ul> <p><b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne circulated her report before the meeting.</li> <li>• Resurgence in the number of people attending anxiety workshops and arrangements for access during the Hopetoun Road closure much appreciated</li> </ul> <p><b>Queensferry Churches Care in the Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the trishaw imminent and there will be an open day at the community hub with a view to recruiting pilots. Training will be provided by Cycling Without Age, who require PVG checks and route approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education &amp; Recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report circulated before the meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report circulated before the meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning &amp; Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report circulated before the meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>Heritage Trust</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update</li> </ul> <p><b>Business Association</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update</li> </ul> <p><b>Boat club</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harbour survey done by a contractor as directed by the CEC Survey Department (Brian Paton). Survey included test bores at the end of the East pier and at the end of the North pier. i.e. at the harbour entrance. Results indicated lack of infill material under the pier surfaces which has caused the North pier surface to sag.</li> </ul>



	<p>The harbour steps in way of the "visitors" berth at the end of the North pier are also extremely dangerous and are breaking apart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cost for all remedial work, including the above issues, has been estimated at £480,000 of which £460,000 is for urgent work.</li> <li>• The project is now with the CEC Engineering Department for planning detailed costing, it will then move on to the CEC finance people for review. Mr. Norman Work has been asked to find out the name of a senior person in the CEC Engineering Department.</li> <li>• Cllr Hutchinson attends Piers council, QDCC finance convener to attend too.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rotary Club</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock interviews would be arranged with S4 pupils at Queensferry High School on 4 March, and support offered to around 30 summer leavers in S6.</li> <li>• The recent Primary School Quiz was popular and won by Kirkliston Primary.</li> <li>• Following a period of high turnover in members, an alternative Rotary Club had been proposed. However membership presently stands at around 40.</li> </ul> <p><b>Queensferry High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle answered some questions raised at last month's meeting: School buses will retain same drop-off and pickup locations throughout demolition of old building and after full site available; Defibrillators only accessible to public during school opening hours under current plans; Maths teaching staff level returned to full complement changes and turnover can be expected this year</li> <li>• Issues with anti-social behaviour outside the school being addressed using extra staff escorts en route to bus pickup areas. Bus parking complaints can be raised directly with Michelle and her team</li> <li>• While the recent press coverage of pupil behaviour was disappointing, the school's anti-bullying arrangements would remain unchanged.</li> <li>• Tours of old building can be booked for 9 &amp; 17 March from 6.30 to 8pm. Invitations to tour the new school facilities can be expected in due course. Access is currently anticipated around the period 30 March to 3 April.</li> <li>• After a number of proposals were suggested, the name of the fourth house has been chosen as Forth. This supplements Dundas, Hopetoun and Rosebery.</li> <li>• The new librarian has now started.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. AOB</b></p>	<p>David had identified a dislodged bollard in the Varney estate. Neil said he could arrange uplift on receipt of an email clarifying its troublesome position.</p> <p>At Port Edgar, continuation of existing building lease to the Sea Cadets plus land to the west for an extension is now agreed in principle. This will go to CEC committee soon.</p> <p>Meanwhile the National Sea Cadets expect to complete their separate building by 22 March. This provides a number of facilities, including two 16-bed dormitories and will offer several useful community assets.</p>
<p><b>13. Questions from the floor</b></p>	<p>There were no questions from the floor.</p>
<p><b>14. Date and time of next meeting</b></p>	<p>23 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Burgh Chambers basement office. Note that the April meeting is expected to be held in Port Edgar.</p>