

Queensferry & District Community Council

Chairs report for the QDCC meeting being held on Monday 27th January 2020

I have represented and carried out the following business on behalf of QDCC following from the November 2019 meeting.

Christmas in Queensferry

The Christmas Lights switch on was held on the early evening of the 28th Nov '19 and was a resounding success. It was necessary to raise considerable funds to replace pole-mount decorations and pay for the street lighting infrastructure modifications for the Energy Efficient Project. WE are grateful to a number of sponsors who supported the event as well as the Primary and High Schools for providing the entertainment.

Meeting with Museums

A meeting was held with Head of Museums Mr Frank Little to discuss local concerns raised with QDCC about the longevity of the museum, opening times especially during Liner visits, how local volunteers can get involved and the ability for local exhibits to be shown. It was agreed that QDCC would arrange to hold a local forum for museum staff by facilitating a tour of Queensferry to familiarise museums staff with local developments and introduce them to key stakeholder group representatives. Other interested parties are the Forth Bridge World Heritage MC (FBWHMC), Queensferry History Group and Trust, Briggers, Network Rail Walking Experience and North Queensferry Heritage Trust.

The Forum is planned for the 12th February, Subsequently a meeting was held with Queensferry History Group, QHT, and FBWHMC to keep them informed.

Liner Visits

Following from my letter to Paul Lawrence about the outstanding liner visits business and the lack of progress with the improvements tabled by QDCC, at Mr Lawrence request I had a telephone conversation with him about same. A meeting is planned for the 28th January to be chaired by Mr Lawrence with Council Officers and QDCC and QBA representatives.

Walker Drive LIPs

I was asked an attended an on-site meeting to discuss the demolition of the lorry-ops with Council Officers and the Demolition Contractors representatives. Information was posted on QDC Social Media.

City Cycle Scheme coming to Queensferry

I facilitated a meeting to discuss the proposal to bring the City Cycle Scheme to Queensferry with TSC members and Richard Sharpe of Transport for Edinburgh and Alex McDonald of Serco. This will be covered in the TSC report.

Queensferry High School

I was invited to meet the new Deputy Head Teacher Michelle Gordon by Jenny Smith who is moving to Currie High School to take up the post of Head Teacher. I would like to thank Jenny for her time working with QDCC and her contribution to the work of QDCC.

Port Edgar Yacht Club

I was invited by Charlie Simpson Club Commodore to view the progress of the building of the new club house. The new build is well underway with the internal fitting work taking place with the social area and bar eighty per cent complete. The toilets and locker rooms will be formed in the old bugaboo and is to follow. The old clubhouse will be demolished and the area used for boat storage.

Cala Springfield Development

I assisted Cala holding the consultation events on 24 & 25th January in the Echline Primary School and attended a planning meeting with council officers about the site. Please refer to the Planning Convenors report.

Corus Site

I have been corresponding with MSP's and TS Officers about the Corus Site by bringing to their attention the QDCC paper that was requested by the FBWHMC outlining and alternative mixed use proposal for the site. The proposal could deliver wider benefits; both employment and leisure to Queensferry and complement the Tourism Strategy. One objective was to bring the paper to the attention of Fiona Hyslop which has proven to be extremely difficult.

Community Facility – amendment to legal agreement

I am optimistic that the amendment to the legal agreement could be signed off in the next week which will allow the exchange of the legal agreement between QDCC and QCCC and allow the project to quickly move on. This has been particularly frustrating and challenging time. I cannot offer a satisfactory explanation of why it should have taken so long.

Keith Giblett
26th Jan '20