

# QDCC

# MONTHLY REPORTS

**AUG 2020**

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*Thank you*



## **Chairman's report for August 2020**

I attended the meetings noted below:

- Consultation meeting morning 4<sup>th</sup> August on site - Application to build House Annexe on East Side of Sealscraig

QDCC were invited to a meeting called by Alan Searle 13 Edinburgh Rd along with QHT and neighbours to learn about a proposal that Mr Searle was intending to lodge with CEC Planning sometime in the autumn '20. I suspect the meeting will be referenced as a public consultation meeting in the application documents. Both Diane and I attended mid-morning that day. A presentation was given in the pouring rain and questions were invited about the annexe standalone building that is being proposed opposite the house that Mr Searle had built in 2008. Mr Searle has acquired the land from the Crown Estates. Diane will likely provide more of detail from the hard copy of the presentation that was provided.

- Virtual meeting 10<sup>th</sup> August with QHT to discussing High St Improvement

QHT sought a meeting with QDCC to discuss the High St Improvement project with a view to aligning thinking about how the High St might need to change in line with covid 19 social distancing rules et all. It was a useful meeting and generally a common view was shared about parking controls, pedestrianisation and a one-way system. QDCC Transport Convenor Grant will no doubt report this in his Transport Report.

- Virtual Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Aug am High St Steering Group

A meeting was held to discuss the High St Improvements with the objective of reviewing the plans and attempt to future proof the design for the High St in the new environs of Covid 19 rules. Graeme and I represented QDCC. The consultants Ironside Farrer are tasked with looking at the design moving away from a two-way system to a one way/pedestrianised High St. The spaces for People project could be used to trail a one-way system as well as pedestrianising the High St at weekends or during events.

- Virtual meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Aug Forth Bridge World Heritage Management Committee

Graeme and I attended a virtual meeting on the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> August. There's little to report in the way of progress. Network Rail are presently preparing tender documents for the building of the Forth Bridge Walking Experience. I will circulate the draft minutes when I receive them.

- Site meeting with Rosebery Estates on site 17<sup>th</sup> Aug a.m.

Along with Diane I attended an onsite meeting with Rosebery Estates Factor Jonathon Burrows and their Planning Consultant to learn about a leisure proposal that they are working up, to be built within the field boundary of Station Rd, Bankhead and the east side of the railway line. Diane will no doubt provide an update in her capacity of Planning Convenor.

- Business Association

I had report previously that Kirsten had stood down from the position as Chair of the QBA. In the interim Jenni Meldrum of Seakist will represent the businesses when she can. A few of the owners of the Queensferry businesses are focusing on trying to re-form an active business association.

Other Business

Over the course of the month I have corresponded with council officers, councillors and other stakeholder groups representing the Community Council and in support of Executive and Convenors on the day to day business of representing our community.

Please don't hesitate in contacting me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Keith Giblett

Chair, QDCC, 21<sup>st</sup> Aug '20

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## Secretary's Report ▲ Terry Airlie

### CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY – AUGUST REPORT

1. The QDCC mailbox – both incoming and outgoing has continued to pick up despite the ongoing COVID-19 situation. As previously reported most people tend to engage with QDCC through social media rather than direct contact via e-mail although we do still get occasional phone calls, which this month included another request for information on how to get memorial benches installed, assistance in seeking out Council Tax relief, assistance relating to Council House provision and a query relating to Scotstoun Avenue traffic calming provision

Following dialogue with the CEC Community Council support team we took the decision in March to suspend all face to face meetings of the Community Council until further notice and informed CEC accordingly, however business continues as best we can using a combination of email and social media. Dialogue with CEC continues.

We have had some information from the office of the CEC CEO on holding remote meetings which we are acting upon but await further information and a response to some questions posed as an indication was given as to possible support for Community Councils.

There has also been an update from CEC about provision of information relating to holding an AGM which has already been circulated to all members and merits further discussion

Whilst it remains encouraging that local residents are keen to engage with QDCC, most communications tend to be complaints, issues with CEC service delivery and queries about local service provision.

My thanks go out to Diane for pursuing some additional planning queries, Graeme for help in organizing online meetings and Neil for picking up on a number of environmental queries that came into QDCC over the last month.

We did respond to CEC on the Spaces for People proposals for the High Street but as yet we have had no feedback.

We continue to receive regular information updates from CEC and on the ongoing role and responsibilities of Community Councils during the current pandemic.

2. An increased number of website enquiries have been received over the last month including further dialogue with Scottish Fire and Rescue service, overflowing litter bins on the High Street, litter at Queensferry High School, poor workmanship relating to the Scotstoun Avenue resurfacing, blocked drains on Scotstoun Avenue, the impact of construction traffic on Provost Milne Grove, a query from Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP relating to the Remembrance Day service in Queensferry, issues associated with both Hawes and Binks car parks and a notification from Historic Environment Scotland relating to the opening of Properties in Care.

No significant postal mail was received this month

3. On behalf of QDCC I continue to correspond with CEC officials, CEC Councillors, and local residents on various community related matters. I continue to distribute information to office-bearers, members and/or portfolio conveners as appropriate.  
**Please note the e-mail circulation list by which this report is delivered should be taken as the current version and used in any group wide communication.**

**Can I ask all members to ensure all details are properly transcribed.**

**Please reach out with any updates should any contact details change.**

Terry Airlie

Vice Chair & Correspondence Secretary – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

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Treasurer's Report ▲ [Diane Job](#)

Money in this month:

None

Money out this month:

None

**Total CC Funds = £747.73**

• **Community Facility Funding**

Clydesdale Bank

Treasurer Report August 2020

Cash Management Account - £21464.50

95 Day Notice Account - (July interest £20.70) - £60472.73

Nationwide Building Society - £85892.17 Barclays Bank - £85000.00

RBS - £85749.32

Charity Bank - £60098.63

**Community Facility Funding Total = £398677.35**

Diane Job , QDCC Treasurer

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## Communications ▲ Graeme McKinley

### QDCC Communications Report Aug 2020

Internal and external QDCC Communication has continued online throughout the lockdown through Facebook, Twitter, website, email, messenger, Zoom, MS Teams and Skype.

Having researched and trialled a number of online media tools, the executive committee has agreed MS Teams as the platform for our initial monthly meetings which recommence this month. Initially not open to the public directly but with a view to develop this option.

Public engagement has been well maintained throughout with much feedback on Spaces for People proposals, High St waste management, driver behaviour and noise, litter and foliage management, South Scotstoun Development construction traffic and cleaning, general traffic/parking in the High St, promenade and Hawes Brae.

Spotlight Magazine kicks back in next month under control of Alistair Pryde and Mike Smith with door drops expected by mid Sep. QDCC has been granted a page, however distribution is an issue since the Sea Cadets are no longer permitted to assist. As a result, Alistair is seeking volunteers to help distribute the community magazine door to door. There are 200 streets, if anyone would be willing to assist with a few streets and/or can suggest any groups to assist, please contact Alistair Pryde [alistair@wordsandpicturesuk.com](mailto:alistair@wordsandpicturesuk.com)

## Education ▲ David Flint

All local schools have returned as per the Scot Gov directive. The new QHS building was handed over in July and is now operating; demolition of the old school will commence in due course. An additional service day, 12th Aug, was requested and granted by Scot Gov, to allow the final transfer of old contents to new and to prepare for pupil inductions staggered over the first two days. A few technical teething problems (to be expected) but feedback on the new school has been very positive despite the extraordinary circumstances and procedures.

The home learning model applied during lockdown has been discussed with the Parent Council. Whilst the reasons for no live video teaching sessions were explained (consistent timely accessibility of IT equipment for pupils) the use of recorded video sessions has been suggested. Views that the parent feedback system was lacking and could be better have also been expressed.

During lockdown and the uncertainty of central decisions, John Wood and his team had to plan for three scenarios for QHS return - 33% return, 50% return or full return. This led to some frustration all round but was a highly dynamic situation throughout.

Edinburgh Leisure staff are still in furlough and it is unclear at this point when EL will be able to open and manage the new community facilities at QHS. Cllr Lang should be able to update us soon following a meeting.

The Forest Kindergarten planned for the Vat Run area appears to be progressing but no official details as yet.

## Environment ▲ Neil McKinlay

### **Environmental Sub –Committee Report for August 2020**

#### **Tesco Recycling facilities and general cleanliness of the car park and surrounding areas**

Although general progress has been made one remaining hotspot is the strip of land between the South end of the store and the Dakota hotel where a lot of rubbish is snagged in the fencing. This is a kind of “no man’s land “ between the two businesses and Keith has kindly contacted James Pitt the Development Director, Evans Property Group and the feedback is positive about them working with Tesco and Dakota management and

collectively tidying up this area of broken fences and overgrown, litter strewn vegetation.

We have also requested an update on the transfer of ownership of all the recycling units from CEC to Tesco

### **Ferry Glen Group**

Through social media a resident has raised the issue of raw sewage spilling onto old railway line cycle path at a spot heading towards Dalmeny.

Apparently this has been raised over a number of years with Scottish Water who despite investigations cannot determine the source of the problem.

Andy Malarky has taken the matter up with Scottish Water and we await the outcome of his efforts

### **CleanFerry**

The date for David Hutcheson's memorial ceremony at Hawthorn Bank gardens has been confirmed for Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> August with a 11.00am start. The memorial stone plaque has now been mounted on the garden wall ready for unveiling and looks first class. David's grandson's Blair and Thomas will undertake the stone plaque unveiling and tree planting.

### **Car and Motor Bike Disturbance Issues**

The closure of the Hawes car park has largely dissipated the noise issues being created by young drivers at night. We have sought an update from Martin Crow on the reopening of the car park, as local residents would prefer the closure extended for a further period.

A High Street resident has complained about the excessive noise in the High Street caused by motor bikes. Martin Crow has visited the resident for a discussion to see what can be done to try to mitigate the problem. Clearly banning the motor bikes from the High Street is not a realistic option but bikers will be reminded to be respectful to High Street residents when riding their machines through town. David Flint has also raised an ongoing issue with inconsiderate parking of their machines by bikers around the East end of the car park and main road and we understand Martin Crow will take this matter up too.

### **New Queensferry High School**

A resident complained about the amount of litter gathering inside and outside the new perimeter fence. An inspection has identified some litter which was removed from the outside the fence and the matter has been flagged with the Head Teacher John Wood who swiftly responded to say matters were in hand with the janitorial staff to deal with this matter. We wished John Wood and his team every good wish for the year ahead.

## **Binks Car Park/Green area**

A resident has raised concerns regarding the overgrown nature of the open areas adjoining the car park which have not been weeded or managed for many months. Norrie Work is taking the matter up with the Parks Dept. who clearly have been playing “catch up” with their programme of work. As an interim measure Neil McKinlay and his environmental team colleagues (Greenferry and Friends of Ferry Glen) may be able to undertake some tidy up work but that will not deal with the long term issue.

## **Rosebery Halls Gardens**

CEC have agreed to replace the fir tree that was donated by the Rotary Club of South Queensferry some years ago as it has become deformed (the tree that is!) . The work to remove the tree and prepare a suitable hole for the replacement will be undertaken by Rotary Club volunteers. The plan is for the tree to be replaced early in 2021 once the tree Christmas lighting as part of Christmas in Queensferry event has passed. Rotary members will also help with the ground work to have improved electric cabling routed across the gardens which work will take place over the next month or so.

**Neil McKinlay,  
Convenor QDCC Environmental Committee  
Saturday 22nd August 2020**

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## **Health & Wellbeing** ^ Anne Mitchell

### **Health and well-being report August 2020**

August has been a quieter month with many COVID related projects including foodbanks winding down and pre-existing support systems finding new ways to interact with clients.

Health in Mind is still supporting people but in an online format which is not being taken up in the same way that face to face contact was.

Once the flu vaccine is available vulnerable people will be able to receive this from the GP practice. This vaccine will not protect from COVID but does impact on seasonal flu. For those not classed in vulnerable groups this vaccine can be purchased from most pharmacies (prices vary).

Just eat bikes have several docking stations within the area and this is a good way to keep fit. You do need to provide your own helmet however. Download the app “just eat cycles”.

It is £3 per 24 hours but if you keep a pedal cycle for more than an hour you start to pay at 5p per minute. The way around that is to find a docking station within the hour and swap bikes!

Following on the keeping fit line Anne is collating local walks to pull together in leaflet and on line format. Anyone with suggestions please contact her through the website.

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## Planning & Housing ▲ Diane Job

### Applications

#### During the three week period six applications were received

20/03010/FUL - Solid panel roof replacement to sunroom at rear of semidetached dwelling - 40 Echline Grove

20/03017/FUL - Two storey side and rear extension - 11 Stoneyflatts Crescent

20/03177/CLP - Proposed Rear Extension to Semi Detached Dwelling to Form Family/Dining Area - 5 Hewlett Way

20/03121/PRN - Application for development under the provisions of Class 56 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 to erect a storage shed - Craigiehill Quarry West Craigie Farm Road Dalmeny

20/03209/FUL - Erect porch to front of dwelling house and erect new dormer window to rear roof slope - 3 Hope Street

20/03287/FUL - Single storey extension - 26 Station View

### Decisions

#### The Planning Authority made four decisions during the three week period

20/02768/CLP- Create extension to rear of dwelling - 9 Branders Place - GRANTED

20/02169/FUL - Change of use from Residential (Class 9) to Business (Class 4) for use as an office to conduct administration on behalf of a charity North Lodge Dundas Estate - GRANTED

19/05483/FUL - Erection of dwelling house and garage at land 40m to East of the Old Dairy House, Dundas Farm - Land 40 Metres East Of The Old Dairy House Dundas Home Farm - GRANTED

20/02610/TCO - Silver Birch - roughly 35ft height - Crown reduction with topping roughly 15ft in height - as recommended by a professional tree surgeon - 5 Ashburnham Loan - NOT MAKE A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

### Planning Matters

**Please be advised that during these unprecedented times planning officers are working from home for now. The public office at Waverley Court is closed and plans cannot be viewed, the help desk is also closed**

#### Dundas Children's Play Park

QDCC contacted Alan Grevers and we were advised that Dundas Play Park is on his to do list - there is no further update on sourcing the additional funding that is required and with COVID-19 affecting so many businesses I can't see that sourcing funding from out with CEC is going to be easy. QDCC will keep an eye on this as we already have £25,000 in funding

due to the High School build and we don't want to lose this and we also want to see an upgrade of this park as was discussed with CEC reps over 2 years ago - NO FURTHER UPDATE

### **Dalmeny Park**

Commercial Land - no further update on if/when building will start. To Let signage is still in place

### **South Scotstoun Development - Hawthorn Gardens**

As already advised construction vehicles are using Scotstoun Ave as access to the site, this week the access roads were getting messy with dried mud and dust. QDCC contacted TW after a resident contacted us via our Facebook page - a timetable for the cleaning/sweeping of the access roads has now been put in place and this will be done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### **Scotstoun Avenue**

Scotstoun Ave - Section 75 - Resurfacing and Traffic Calming Bus Stop Improvements

QDCC have been keeping in regular contact with Stacey Montieth-Skelton the senior engineer on this project.

Part of Scotstoun Ave was resurfaced earlier this month as part of the City Wide Road Surface Treatment programme - the remainder of Scotstoun Ave will be resurfaced later this year when the traffic calming and bus stop improvements are being progressed for the section 75 works. It is hoped the final design will be complete soon. It will be shared with QDCC once it is known and it has passed a road safety audit, along with (hopefully) the programme for delivery.

### **Builyeon Road Housing Development**

16/01797/PPP - 20/01137/PAN

Cala's design colleagues have been advancing the masterplan design of this site. This has included inputs from various departments from City of Edinburgh Council, including transportation, education, landscape and feedback from the Urban Design Panel. This has been coupled with technical support to consider transport/access strategy, drainage and site levels. Cala are almost ready to present a meaningful draft masterplan to the Community Council for initial comment. Discussions are needed to see how this can be presented. Cala would also like to discuss the public consultation strategy and how best this can be achieved given the COVID restrictions.

### **Ferrymuir Gait**

18/08266/AMC (revised application by the new developers)

Revised drawings and other updated documents were added to the portal on the 30th July. There have been a few additional documents added to the portal since the 30th July - including a document regarding car parking spaces and that the spaces have been reduced from 140 to 124 - (I thought 140 spaces was too low!) I have sent an e-mail to the case officer with a few queries on these additional documents and expect a reply after the case officer returns from holiday leave. The application is not on the agenda for the Dev Management Sub-Committee meeting on the 26th August

### **Network Rail Forth Bridge Experience**

## **Planning appeal reference: PPA-230-2312**

Network Rail appealed against the decision made by the Dev Management Sub-Committee to reduce the parking to 39 spaces from the original 78. The CEC Transport Department had advised that 57 spaces was adequate. The appeal was for the vehicle parking for the experience to be re-instated to 57.

Network Rail won the appeal with the reporter Timothy Brian appointed by the Scottish Ministers saying the following:

I allow the appeal and vary the terms of the planning permission by deleting Condition 17 and substituting the following condition: "Prior to the initiation of development, an amended car park layout shall be submitted for approval by the Planning Authority, demonstrating a parking provision of no more than 57 car parking spaces. The approved parking layout scheme shall be implemented prior to public access to the development. For the avoidance of doubt, the scheme hereby approved shall not be held to include the car parking layout as shown on any of the approved drawings."

Selected paragraphs from the decision:

I have no doubt, based on my site visit and the evidence lodged in connection with this appeal, that there is a significant longstanding problem with on-street parking in South Queensferry. The railway station car park is heavily used at peak times, when parking spills onto Station Road. Similarly, the main town centre car park on the promenade becomes full in busy periods and there is limited roadside parking nearby, other than at Hawes Brae which soon fills with cars on the north side of the road.

I share the concern of the community council and local residents that reducing the capacity of the car park at the proposed development would increase traffic congestion and parking issues at the promenade and on Hawes Brae. I agree with the community council's conclusion in its representation in support of the appeal, that parking would "be displaced to other areas surrounding the new facility that are already under severe pressure due to a lack of adequate parking provision."

Moreover, I find that the restriction to 39 spaces is not justified by the council's parking guidance (which does not address this unusual type of development), or by the relevant development plan policy Tra 2 (which refers back to the parking guidance). Whilst the policy seeks to pursue lower provision, it acknowledges the need to consider the impact on residential occupiers through on-street parking. If insufficient parking spaces were provided on site, I would expect that the imposition of parking restrictions on Hawes Brae would merely transfer on-street parking to residential areas nearby

The decision notice in full and other documents relating to the appeal can be viewed here <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?ID=121107>

## **Springfield LDP Site HSG1**

19/06079/PAN - Residential Development and Associated Works including formation of Vehicular and Pedestrian Access, SUDS Infrastructure Provision and Hard and Soft Landscaping - Land Bounded By M90, Springfield Lea, Place And Terrace And Bo'ness Road Echline

Cala have a finalised planning layout which reflects the changes arising from the consultation feedback, including two phases of affordable housing, increased mix of housing including introduction of semi-detached and smaller detached homes for sale.

The apartments to the north are also stepped down the hill (bringing the overall height down), with increased separation from the existing housing to the east.

As previously mentioned in the conference call between QDCC and Cala re the draft transportation assessment Cala provided, in particular the traffic speed on Bo'ness Road. Cala have extended the proposed traffic calming works to Bo'ness road including extension of cycleway provision to the Primary School.

Cala have been in discussion with Manor Estates Housing Association, to confirm detail and timing of the first phase of affordable housing at the early stages of the site development. This will be housing for social rent and discounted price houses for sale.

Cala are in the final stages of concluding the land sale contract with Transport Scotland, and once this is in place Cala will be able to provide the Community Council with a complete pack of information in advance of the planning application being submitted. Cala will also provide City of Edinburgh Council elected members with information so that they are aware of the proposals prior to submission.

### **Bankhead Steading Vision**

John Wright from Strutt and Parker contacted QDCC to arrange a meeting to discuss a proposal that he has submitted to the LDP(City Plan 2030) on behalf of Rosebery Estates for the Bankhead Steading location. Keith Giblett and I met with John and Jonathan Burrow the Factor for Rosebery Estates for an on-site meeting.

The vision is within the context of the existing Bankhead Steading development and the recently approved Forth Bridge Experience visitor attraction Rosebery Estates have identified an opportunity to complement these existing and emerging developments with a new mixed use development proposal. The proposals aim is to extend the existing steading development with new Class 4,5 and 6 business accommodation arranged a series of courtyard developments similar in scale and style to the existing steading. The field next to the steading is also in the proposal. A range of mixed-use and visitor orientated facilities will also be introduced to compliment the Forth Bridge Experience with the potential for a pub/restaurant with internal meeting and exhibition space, visitor/holiday accommodation and flexible events spaces and play areas.

This is in the VERY early stages, John Wright plans to follow up on this with us later in the year and will hopefully be able to give a presentation to cc's on the proposals/vision.

### **Sealscraig**

As mentioned in the Chair's report Keith and myself attended an on-site meeting to learn about a planning application proposal that is intended to be lodged later this year with CEC planning regarding the potential of building a studio with guest accommodation above on a small piece of land acquired from the Crown Estates at the Sealscraig rock by the owner of the neighbouring house at 13 Edinburgh Road, the house was developed around 10 years ago by the applicant. In the document provided at the meeting there is a Canmore photograph that shows that many many years ago there was a building of some sort on the proposed piece of land.

### **Street Naming**

I continue to spend time researching possible names(with help from the History Group) to propose on behalf of QDCC as street names for future housing developments in Queensferry, it can take some time to gather the information required to accompany the name being proposed as there are strict guidelines and criteria that has to be adhered too.

## Transport ▲ Grant Sangster

### Transport Report for August 2020

- 1. Various Planning Applications** – With a few applications on the go, support to the Planning Sub-Committee on some access and transport matters continues. As mentioned in Diane's report, the Forth Bridge Experience, Bankhead Steading, Ferrymuir Gait and South Scotstoun areas have been particularly active this month.
- 2. Road Conditions and Diversions** – As anticipated last month, the road dressing carried out on The Loan and Scotstoun Avenue during August wasn't very well received due to the practice of leaving loose stones to settle for a few weeks. Complaints about the messy nature of the finish have subsided latterly but are being replaced by complaints that the treatment wasn't extended further. Bo'ness Road is scheduled to be dressed in early September under stop/go boards while William Black Place will be closed altogether when it is done in October. Terry followed up on completion of gully cleaning for the Scotstoun Avenue stretch. This ought to be part of the dressing reinstatement process but there were additional complications here with legacy blockages and stolen covers. The Burnshot bridge opened successfully at the beginning of August. The contractor experienced difficulty in removing graffiti from the new structure, and also the temporary 'narrow lane' road paint from the A90.
- 3. Spaces for People and High Street** – We've had meetings with both QHT reps and CEC on the loosely related subjects of the Spaces for People response to promoting safe exercise with social distancing and revisions to the High Street resurfacing plans. For controlling spread of coronavirus, consensus opinion is in favour of narrowing road width on the High Street but retaining a permanent through route for all vehicles. This proposal would sacrifice parking facilities and prevent any traffic from travelling from east to west. CEC are investigating implications of the scenario. Meanwhile the general High Street resurfacing plans have been affected by complications in the tendering process and the lockdown from March. A schedule delay of at least a year is expected. This allows time to form a view on the longer term effects of the coronavirus on the role of the High Street in Queensferry along with other 'satellite' towns away from Edinburgh's city centre. The break offers an opportunity to take account of other rapidly-emerging health, planning and global warming influences from the City Mobility Plan and pressures to develop Edinburgh into a carbon neutral area by 2030. Traffic flow, facilities for car parking and vehicle congestion continue to generate correspondence. Views from the public are quite predictable and usually determined by existing personal circumstances. As times change there is a risk that these stances become obsolete and incompatible with some aims outlined above which demand a pace of modal shift unfamiliar to the present generation.
- 4. Car and Motor Bike Anti-Social Behaviour** – As mentioned in the environment report, Neil and Martin have been dealing with some concerns regarding actual or potential nuisance from cars and motor bikes being used or parked in the Hawes and High

Street areas. We've also heard from Dalmeny Station Residents Association about vehicles on Rosshill Terrace.

- 5. Public Transport** – Bus and train companies have largely reverted frequencies to pre-covid levels, apart from Lothian's service 63. There's still no word of when 63 operation will change to First, but it seems likely soon. West Lothian Council have delayed their contract review period for subsidised bus services as they predict a very different commercial network will shortly apply across the area due to long term declining trend in passenger numbers accelerating recently. Meanwhile, arrangements on Queensferry's conventional and taxibus services for St John's, Broxburn, Linlithgow and Newton will remain. These routes are amongst the more expensive subsidies for WLC and are comparatively lightly used.

**Grant Sangster**

Transport Sub-Committee Convenor

23 August 2020

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## Cllr Lang & cllr Young

### Cllr Kevin Lang & Cllr Louise Young

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### High Street changes

Most of our work over the last month has centred on the short-term and long-term changes to the High Street. We submitted a detailed response to the Spaces for People draft plans for a through-road closure. This was based on our extensive survey work with over 600 people in Queensferry and Dalmeny and direct conversations with a number of the businesses on the High Street. We await the final plans.

Longer-term, we are pleased the project is returning to the concept of a one-way system. Nevertheless, we remain concerned at the knock-on impacts for Rosshill Terrace / Station Road and have been clear in our expectations with officers about the changes which are necessary to address possible safety issues from diverting significant volumes of traffic along this corridor.

### Hawes car park

Whilst we are pleased the overnight closure of the car park made a big difference to the speeding and noisy racing vehicles along the High Street, we are concerned the closure has ended without, it appears, a clear plan in place.

This has been impacted by a reorganisation of the council's entire transport team which has left some frustrating uncertainty as to who is responsible. We are keen to ensure there is a proper plan to avoid a return of the serious issues we saw in the early summer months.

### **Network Rail Forth Bridge experience appeal**

We have had extensive correspondence with nearby residents about the Scottish Government decision to uphold Network Rail's appeal against the Council planning committee decision to slash the number of car parking spaces at the new Forth Bridge visitor centre in Queensferry.

The majority committee decision to cut the number of on-site parking spaces in response to local concerns stands as one of the most ridiculous decisions we have seen in our time as local councillors. Whilst we still have concerns about whether the level of parking will be sufficient, we are pleased this arbitrary lower limit put forward by the committee has been rejected.

### **Queensferry public toilets**

Like many of the residents and visitors to Queensferry, we are very frustrated that the High Street public toilets are still closed. At committee, our LibDem group put forward a motion to reopen these and a number of other public toilets in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, this was blocked by the administration which says the toilets will likely remain closed till October.

### **Local policing**

Earlier this year, the Council voted to scrap all council funding for community police. We disagreed strongly with this decision and voted against the cut. As local councillors, we have seen first-hand the positive difference that local community police officers make, particularly in Queensferry.

The police divisional commander confirmed the withdrawn of Council funding will mean an end to the dedicated officers we had for our ward. These officers were specifically in place to focus on community engagement, local anti-social behaviour and community concerns. We remain very concerned and frustrated by the short-sighted move to scrap all council funding for community policing.

### **Transport safety measures**

We have continued to press officials on the promised speed table at Rosshill Terrace, new crossing at Bo'ness Road and traffic calming on Scotstoun Avenue. Whilst we realise COVID-19 has impacted the timetable for these works, we think it vital that all are in place by the end of the year.

### **Ferrymuir Gait housing**

Despite being tentatively scheduled for three different meetings of the planning committee, we still await a confirmed date for the committee to consider the housing development at Ferrymuir Gait. We have had substantial correspondence with the Chair of the Varney Residents'

Association and, depending on the nature of the case officer's report, are ready to submit a hearing request.

### **Play parks**

In too many of our parks, children are having to play on old and damaged equipment which desperately needs replaced and upgraded. At the last meeting of the Council, Kevin asked a series of questions about the state of local play parks.

We got it confirmed that five play parks in Queensferry and Dalmeny have been identified as requiring significant repairs or refurbishment.

- Carlowrie Crescent, Dalmeny
- Dundas Park, Queensferry
- Forth Terrace, Dalmeny
- Inchcolm Terrace, Queensferry
- George IV Park, Queensferry

The good news is that about £15,000 has been secured to replace the climbing frame that had to be removed from Inchcolm Park because of safety fears.

This should be in place soon.

However, the answers provided to us show there is a multi-million-pound funding gap covering our parks and dozens more across Edinburgh. As things stand, only £1 million of the £4 million total required has been secured.

### **Road resurfacing / surface treatment**

Following the surface treatment to The Loan and Scotstoun Avenue, the surfacing of Bo'ness Road is planned around 1-3 September but is weather dependent. The work can be carried out with a closure. William Black Place will also be treated.

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**Cllr Hutchison**

## **Queensferry and District Community Council**

**Councillors Report — August 2020**

### **COVID-19 Response**

The Council is now beginning a return to BAU in terms of Council meetings, albeit in a virtual setting. Beginning with Finance and Resources on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August, standing committees are now being reinstated on their normal 8 week schedule. Alongside this meetings of the Policy and Sustainability committee which had been taking place on a fortnightly basis will now move back to being held monthly.

The council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is analysed through update reports to the Policy and Sustainability committee and the recovery programme is discussed at a monthly all-party oversight group.

## **Full Council**

Full Council met virtually for the first time on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July. This worked relatively well with the proceedings well controlled by the Lord Provost.

The next meeting of Full Council will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 10am on Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be webcast in the usual fashion.

## **Policy & Sustainability Committee**

The Policy and Sustainability Committee has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis, taking decisions in-lieu of Full Council up until the end of July when Full Council was reinstated. Much of the discussion at these meeting in recent weeks has related to the Spaces for People programme. At the meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August a number of schemes were given the go-ahead despite overwhelming opposition from local communities. My Conservative colleagues moved an amendment to suspend some of the schemes with the remaining funding being used to improve the existing schemes which remained in place.

Reports to the committee continue to present the stark financial position facing the Council in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. The 3 year budget for 2020-23 set in February will have to be revisited and the 6 month progress update on the budget will present options to inform the budget process for next February.

## **Hawes & Longcraig Pier Users Committee**

There are no meetings of Hawes & Longcraig Pier Users Committee scheduled at present.

## **Local Issues**

**Street Naming** — I was very pleased to support the ultimately successful request from my Lib Dem colleagues to have the late former Lord Provost George Grubb's name exempted from the normal 5 year restriction to allow it to be used in the South Scotstoun development.

**Marriages** - Marriages are now resuming in the refurbished Queensferry Marriage suite which has been made COVID-19 safe, work is in progress to re-open the front room for smaller ceremonies.

**Spaces for People** - I received a number of responses to the spaces for people proposals for Queensferry. As indicated on my response to the QDCC Secretary's email on this matter, response were mixed but a majority were opposed to the plans. My own view is that this is a missed opportunity to trial a one way system as a potential long term solution.

**Kirkliston Road** – Following resurfacing works on Kirkliston Road around the Burgess Road junction, the double yellow lines were not reinstated, I contacted the Roads Manager to request that this be done as a matter of urgency.

I have also been aiding residents with housing repairs and waste collection issues.

## **Surgeries**

My surgeries are postponed indefinitely until the COVID-19 advice to Councillors on face to face meetings changes. Constituents requiring assistance can contact me by telephone or email.

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## Clr Work

Attended two virtual meetings in relation to the emergency spaces for people legislation and the upgrade works for the High Street. The council have been asked to include the one way system in its implementation of the temporary spaces for people proposals. Another virtual meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Hedge at Stewart Terrace; I was asked if the hedge could be trimmed on Stewart Terrace as the hedge was encroaching on the pavement. The sides were trimmed last week but the hedge will not be properly trimmed as with all hedges till later in the year.

Burryman; It was good to see that the Burryman's tour round Queensferry was still able to take place, Social distancing was observed which resulted in less followers for most of the tour. I managed to follow for part of the morning and Andrew Taylor and his team must be congratulated for making sure this event took place when it could have easily been cancelled by them or the authorities as there were concerns expressed about the size of crowds that can gather.

Fireworks; received some complaints about fireworks being set off around 10pm on Ferry Fair Saturday. However, there was nothing illegal in setting off fireworks before 11pm. Most of the complaints were about the lack of warning as residents are used to the good practice of being notified of upcoming firework displays.

Binks car park area; I have asked the ground crew if they can attend to the area to clear up some weeds and a general tidy up. Unfortunately, they never managed to get around with weed killing this year in Queensferry and are way behind schedule. However, I've asked if at least if they could attend to the Binks car park area due to the complaints.

Council meetings: More committees are starting to hold virtual meetings. Emergency legislation allows the Licensing Board to have a reduced quorum of four councillors which enabled the Licensing Board to be the first to hold virtual meetings. Instead of monthly meetings the Licensing Board have been holding meetings more often but at least are shorter than the monthly meetings.

Under the Covid-19 cycling & walking emergency response measures, parking restrictions at Echline & Queensferry Primary Schools have been put in place to help pedestrians & cyclists travel safely while meeting physical distancing requirements.

Hawes Car Park; I attended two outside consultation events organised by PC Crow to listen to residents about the complaints against 'Car Enthusiasts' which resulted in the Hawes Car Park being closed at night. This was initially till the end of July but continued into August. The restrictions have

come to an end. However, discussions are still taking place to hear views from residents and community reps about whether this should continue.

Regards,

Cllr Norman Work

Almond ward

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## Other Documents



August 2020

### 1. **QHT Talks programme**

The programme which normally commences in the Autumn has been postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions. These talks normally attract between 50 -80 members and take place in the Masonic Hall.

### 2. **QHT committee meetings**

Virtual committee meetings have enabled business meetings to continue.

### 3. **Projects**

2 new projects are underway:

**Queensferry under lockdown** – QHT plans to launch a series of blogs to build a picture of an extraordinary time and is inviting contributions. See:

<http://www.queensferryheritage.org.uk/?p=474>

**Digital Queensferry** – QHT plans to create a digital repository of documents and photos relating to the heritage of Queensferry for researchers, schools and members of the community. We are currently testing software options, identifying key documents and determining copyright protocols.

#### **4. Spaces for People and High Street Refurbishment**

A productive and useful meeting was held between QHT & QDCC to discuss how the 'Spaces for People' initiative might work in Queensferry and allow some experimentation which could feed into a broader review of the High Street Refurbishment project. QHT would like to propose that this dialogue continues to enable clear views to be put forward to the High Street Steering Group. (The next meeting of the steering group is 9th September).

David Learmond

Vice Chair