



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Monthly Business Meeting

Monday 25 January 2021 at 7.30pm

MS Teams – Virtual Meeting

Present: Terry Airlie (Vice-Chair), Diane Job (Treasurer), Grant Sangster (Minutes), Graeme McKinley, Anne Mitchell, Muir Kay, David Flint, David Learmond (QHT), Laura Sexton, Neil McKinlay, Cllr Graham Hutchison, Cllr Norman Work, Cllr Louise Young, Michelle Gordon (QHS), Bilal Rathore (QHS), 3 local residents, 1 guest

<p>1. QDCC Chairman’s Welcome</p>	<p>With the Chair submitting apologies, the Vice Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members, residents and guest speaker to the online meeting. The 35th year of QDCC was notable as starting in a similar challenging manner to most of 2020, with business meetings held on the internet using Microsoft’s Teams software service. Links are circulated to members in advance and available to the public on request. The expectation is for this format to continue for several months in future given the limits on physical gathering.</p> <p>Ferry Elves were praised in relation to efforts in spreading festive cheer amongst those with particular hardship over the Christmas period.</p> <p>An appeal was issued for each member to check their email circulation list matched the definitive up-to-date version issued by Terry.</p>
<p>2. Apologies</p>	<p>Keith Giblett (Chair), Andy Malarky, Gillian Smith (QCCC), Martin Crow (Police), Cllr Kevin Lang, Lauren Sinclair (QHS), Jenni Meldrum (interim rep for town centre businesses)</p>
<p>3. Police Report</p>	<p>The Police Report was circulated just before the meeting. With no police attendance, any questions could be fed back via Terry. The report format was noted as being quite different from previous versions, not least because all Almond crime was condensed into a length of report that previously would have covered Queensferry alone. Some members were disappointed that it did not mention an incident where the police had specifically sought input from QDCC.</p> <p>ACTION: Terry to speak to Martin regarding potential for improvement of the report format and content</p>
<p>4. Guest Speaker</p>	<p>The guest speaker was a delivery manager from Openreach and coincidentally also a local resident. The company is looking to roll out fibre to premises (FTTP) to 20 million homes across the UK by 2030, with roughly 4 million complete to date. Queensferry will be affected by this work over the next year. About 1000 east side properties scheduled for connection by April are ‘quick wins’ due to a high proportion of cable here being accessible through ducts. The company hopes to engage with QDCC to advertise disruptive activity that could affect the public. Some straightforward duct clearance took place recently but cables buried directly under tarmac will require excavation. Where cables lie beneath verges, intermediate difficulty is expected.</p> <p>Optical fibre reaching property doors linking to the exchange at Inverkeithing should allow speeds up to 1Gb/s immediately on connection, and potentially higher in future.</p>



<p>5. QHS</p>	<p>Michelle thanked the Ferry Elves for their efforts around Christmas. She reported that distance learning at QHS had recommenced but with a much improved experience compared to the previous school closure enforced by a lockdown in March 2020. More live elements could be introduced with the prospect of adhering to a conventional timetable within the school day. Pupils requiring a compatible digital device are now finding this can be provided but identifying quiet study spaces remains challenging for some. Concerns were being raised over the impact of new learning methods on performance in looming SQA exams. The school had ongoing engagement with QDCC reps and others on the community's continuing skate park aspirations. Bilal added that pupils were mostly positive on the latest home learning model, enjoying the challenge of self-motivation and responsibility to find appropriate focus. However some found it a struggle with lacking of routine leading to difficulties holding concentration and perhaps also suffering mental health issues.</p>
<p>6. Minutes from Last Meeting</p>	<p>As minutes from November 2020 had only just been circulated, additional time could be allowed for corrections by contacting Terry over the following few days. Reference to the formation of a development trust for a community facility mixed together with the community forum paragraph was an example of a minor correction for clarity. As a formality, the November 2020 minutes were proposed at this January 2021 meeting by Neil and seconded by Diane.</p>
<p>7. Matters Arising</p>	<p>OUTSTANDING ACTIONS</p> <p>May 2019 Harbour Wall: New information recently came to light with the appointment of a project manager (Stephen Knox). He was put in contact with Muir and QDCC for liaison purposes. ACTION CONTINUES</p> <p>JANUARY 2020 Forest Nurseries: Some concerns were raised by Cllr Hutchison regarding road access to the site at Dundas, which passes near some residences. ACTION CONTINUES</p> <p>FEBRUARY 2020 Museum: Action for QDCC to re-engage with CEC Museum Dept. ACTION CONTINUES</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 2020 Leisure Facilities: A new timetable issued in November 2020, but then quickly withdrawn due to further coronavirus restrictions. ACTION CONTINUES.</p> <p>Financial Support: There was no movement on this matter and seemed little prospect of financial support to help community councils function during the pandemic. ACTION CLOSED</p> <p>OCTOBER 2020 Development Management Sub-Committee (DMSC): Ongoing dissatisfaction on the questionable basis for making decisions at CEC. Investigate formation of a community forum. The purpose of such a forum being to act as an engagement vehicle. ACTION CONTINUES</p>



	<p>NOVEMBER 2020</p> <p>Development Trust for Queensferry: Keith Giblett suggested that a working party be identified, and it was agreed by all present. Terry will communicate out for interested parties to include themselves in the working party for a meeting to be arranged, hopefully before the end of the year. ACTION CLOSED</p>
<p>8. Development Trust for Queensferry</p>	<p>Laura reported on a recent virtual meeting to explore how development trusts are used elsewhere in Scotland. Such trusts are business devices allowing members of a community to execute activities that align with a hyperlocal plan. This plan results from engagement with the same affected community, with evidence of valid surveys required. The necessary financial reserve could accrue from various sources, even from the interested parties 'buying a share' themselves. Examples were cited from Mull/Iona where around 20 staff are employed with responsibilities for tasks such as operating tourist offices. A trust is typically a long term business prospect, with another example given from Rosewell where 10 years of effort resulted in a community facility being set up.</p> <p>ACTION: Terry to arrange a meeting to see what direction this could take next, particularly relating to Queensferry's community facility existing 'seed fund'</p>
<p>9. Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)</p>	<p>A member of the public spoke about repeated antisocial behaviour issues experienced in the Scotstoun Grove area. Although an ongoing detriment to quality of life for residents, examples around Halloween illustrated typical incidents. In these events, children of school age would buy eggs from one of the shops or beg passers-by to obtain them on their behalf. Subsequently it was alleged the children would proceed to throw these raw eggs at nearby properties causing inconvenience and distress to residents. Despite CCTV evidence of egg procurement within the store no clear follow-up from police was apparent. Investigation status information hadn't been reported back and communication between the police and victims of crime was felt generally inadequate. The prospect of CCTV outside the stores was suggested as a deterrent and this might record actual incidents rather than just circumstantial collection of materials.</p> <p>Michelle mentioned that the school received police reports on anyone under 16 attracting their attention and had a community link officer along with including antisocial behaviour on the curriculum from S1 to S6. Bilal and Lauren could expand on this in future if QDCC were interested in hearing about ongoing initiatives.</p> <p>ACTION: Norman to make enquiries on whether either CEC or a development trust could invest in CCTV coverage to monitor activities outside shops and residences around Scotstoun Grove.</p> <p>ACTION: Terry to follow up these ASB events with the police reps</p>
<p>10. Road & Pavement Adoption</p>	<p>A member of the public spoke about the weak understanding of adoption status for roads and pavements in the Dalmeny Park development. This came to light during the recent cold spell when ice forming on paved surfaces prompted distress amongst residents. Difficulty was experienced when trying to identify responsibility for the supply and spread of grit. Initial assumptions that responsibility lay with CEC were disputed by local employees who cast doubt on certain monoblocked surfaces in particular. Open discussion at the meeting surrounded the possibility of partial adoption and whether</p>



	<p>developers had correctly applied for adoption. Also it was unclear if adoption applications were either already determined or remained under consideration.</p> <p>ACTION: Norman and Graham to clarify adoption status of Dalmeny Park streets, perhaps with the aid of a map. A timescale for adoption by CEC, if applicable, would be desirable</p>
11. QDCC Minute Secretary Role	<p>Following a recent appeal, one member of the public showed interest in taking minutes of QDCC meetings, and they mentioned experience of previous minute-taking roles for other organisations.</p> <p>ACTION: Terry to pass on further information regarding duties of the minute secretary to the volunteer</p>
12. Chair's Report	No report this month
13. Councillors' Report	<p>Cllr Work – report circulated before the meeting. Nothing to add.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Hutchison – report circulated before the meeting. Some correspondence had arrived immediately prior to the meeting regarding a mast being assembled next to Builyeon Road.</p> <p>Cllrs Young and Lang – report circulated before the meeting. Louise picked up on the tower subject mentioned above and confirmed this was a temporary mobile phone mast which did not require permission from CEC or merit formal advance notice to nearby residents</p>
14. Treasurer's Report	Report circulated before the meeting. Nothing to add.
15. Secretary's Report	<p>Report circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>Some discussions with BT had taken place over the past month with regard to maintenance of their phone box at the junction of Station Road and Queen Margaret Drive. BT stressed that their phone boxes should not be used for activities unrelated to making phone calls. On a separate subject, Neil clarified that the phone box in Dalmeny village had not been adopted by the Rotary Club, contrary to a sign recently posted on the box.</p>
16. QDCC Subcommittees	<p>Transport & Environment</p> <p>Transport – Report circulated before the meeting. Nothing to add.</p> <p>Environment – Report circulated before the meeting. Recent resurgence of antisocial behaviour reports around the Hawes car park were highlighted. This will continue to be monitored for just now. There is little prospect of securing effort from CEC to open & close the facility every day of the year.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Report circulated before the meeting. A sum of £263.67 remains from the Ferry Elves initiative. This was expected to be a one off effort but many of the families supported did not necessarily need this secondary to Covid impacting them. Ideas were being sought on disposal of the excess funds.</p>



ACTION: Everyone should think about what to do with the money left over from Ferry Elves in 2020 and pass ideas back to Anne. Also consider if Ferry Elves should continue next Christmas as the virus may still have an impact.

Queensferry Churches Care in the Community (QCCC)

No report this month

Education & Recreation

Report circulated before the meeting. Nothing to add.

Communication

Report circulated before the meeting. Additionally, recent correspondence was picked up which was critical of an idea to supplement car parking facilities at the Binks

ACTION: Kevin to clarify the emerging opportunity to increase car parking capacity at the Binks which had generated alarm amongst local residents

Planning & Housing

Terry wished to record particular credit to Diane for her recent efforts in dealing with a large number of planning and housing proposals coming forward over the past two or three months.

Report circulated before the meeting.

The temporary phone mast appearing a few hours prior to the meeting on Builyeon Road came as a surprise to neighbours. This was felt worthy of further investigation to establish events leading up to construction.

A possible affordable housing development by Cruden at Craw's Close was perhaps the same as an offset proposal from a Juniper development in the Cramond/Barnton area rather than a supplement.

The Sealscraig area was felt as becoming at risk from over-development with several dwellings being formed along a narrow communal lane near the former piggery. QDCC would consider if representation should be made to CEC's DMSC in light of activity accumulation here.

Flats at Ferrymuir (Glenforth Court) were noted as being complete with occupation commencing recently. QDCC were working to publicise conditions pertaining to buying these independent living flats. Demand was expected to be high, although the conditions may filter applicant numbers.

Queensferry Heritage Trust

Some consternation arose amongst QHT members on the recent application for a development in the Sealscraig area following sale of land through the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. QHT are seeking an explanation of the background to this case from QLTR. A scoping study will shortly commence to identify other land that is 'at risk' of similar purchase.

Queensferry Boat Club

Delivery of replacements for stolen lifebuoys had not been received personally by Muir at his home address. There was a hope that theft might be less common following harbour repair if CCTV could be installed and Muir is liaising with CEC with this and other ideas for the development.



	ACTION: Norman to expedite replacement harbour lifebuoys with CEC (possibly Brian Paton)
17. AOB	None
18. Questions from the floor	No further questions came from the floor, with members of the public mostly departing prior to this point anyway.
19. Date and time of next meeting	Monday 22 February 2021 at 7.30pm