

Queensferry District Community Council – Environmental Sub –Committee Report

Recycling facilities

During December 2019 Keith Giblett and Neil McKinlay met with John Thomson (JT) the Tesco store manager and Murray Black (CEC) to discuss the various environmental issues surrounding the recycling facilities located on the Tesco site.

The recent withdrawal of the glass recycling facilities were discussed the reason for this given by JT was the inability to find a contactor with the ability to empty the large glass recycling unit they had installed. It was pointed out that the Tesco store in Corstorphine continues to provide this facility using recycling units of a size and type that can be readily serviced so we did not understand why our local store could not do likewise. JT has undertaken to discuss the matter with the manager responsible for overseeing all the Tesco recycling services and revert to us. As expected the withdrawal of the facility created additional pressure on the Scotmid facility particularly over the Christmas period when their glass recycling facilities were swamped.

The regularity of the servicing of the other recycling units was also discussed as they are regularly seen to be suffering from overspill creating littering in the surrounding areas, again JT undertook to look into getting more regular servicing of the units organised.

Within the short term (a month or so) all the CEC recycling units on site will be replaced by Tesco owned and managed units as currently both CEC and Tesco have separate recycling units and separate servicing arrangements in place which tends to complicate matters .

A follow up meeting was held with JT by Neil McKinlay and Jim Hume (CleanFerry Group) to discuss the unsatisfactory situation with littering within the car park and surrounding areas. A site visit was undertaken and JT agreed that the state of cleanliness was unsatisfactory particularly within the bushes next to the car wash where a significant amount of litter was trapped. Again JT will meet with the firm contracted to keep the areas clean and litter free to agree actions to address matters. He will also investigate cutting back some of the bushes where the litter is being snagged .

A further meeting will be held with JT in February 2020 to review progress with the above issues. It should be stated that JT appears genuinely committed to sorting out these environmental issues.

The Scotmid recycling area became very unsightly over the festive period due to over spilling of the glass and other recycling units leading to various materials and bottles being dumped. The surrounding areas were also heavily strewn with litter. The CleanFerry and the Friends of Ferry Glen teams kindly undertook 2 clean up sessions with over 30 bags filled and Graham Philip the store

manager arranged for the recycling units to be emptied more regularly. Again a weather eye will be kept on this recycling site.

Enhanced foot/cycle path linkage from Scotmid car park to the VAT run

In December 2019 Graeme McKinley, Ann Mitchell and Neil McKinlay undertook a site visit to look at the feasibility of establishing a user friendly path for cyclists and walkers to enable them to transit from the Scotmid car park end of the National cycle route down Morison Gardens to the VAT run via the underpass at Plewlandcroft.

At the moment transfers from Morison Gardens down to Scotmid car park and visa versa are only achieved by the negotiation of a step stair case making it very difficult for cyclists and pram users and impossible for wheelchair users.

It is possible that Sustrans the organisation that promotes the use of paths for walkers and cyclists and also provides funding for projects of this type may be able to support such a project. In the first instance Graeme McKinley will speak to one of his contacts who has links with the Sustrans group to gauge if this is a project they might be interested in becoming involved with.

Stone Wall near the Leuchold Gate Entrance to the Dalmeny Estate

Concern has been raised regarding the angle of part of the stone perimeter wall near this entrance which is leaning towards the path. Not being engineers this may not represent a real risk however to be on the safe side Keith Giblett will arrange through his contacts with CEC Transport to get this examined.

Neil McKinlay

Convenor, QDCC Environmental sub- group

16/1/2020