

QUEENSFERRY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Transport Report for March 2020

- 1. Forth Bridges Forum Public Meeting** – Last month we hoped a meeting would be called where the public would have an opportunity to hear about things like closures of the Queensferry Crossing due to ice falling onto the road. A date was set for mid-April but the meeting has now been cancelled
- 2. Road Conditions** – Earlier in the month there were several observations from the community regarding potholed road surfaces. Many of these have been patched over the past couple of weeks and complaints have largely stopped
- 3. Bike Hire Docking Stations** – Some bike docks have been introduced over the past month and are appearing on the mobile phone app. Given present circumstances and advice on social distancing, the service is no longer being widely promoted and only a minimal fleet is maintained
- 4. Routes in New Developments** – During March we met with representatives from companies wishing to develop the Springfield and Ferrymuir Gait sites. For Springfield, the merits of paths towards Society Road, Clufflats and Springfield Place were discussed in addition to mitigation measures on Bo'ness Road near the only vehicle access to the site. A draft transport assessment has been left with QDCC for comment. For Ferrymuir Gait, a new plan with primary vehicle access via the unadopted road from the B800 has been proposed. An additional two routes would be available from Kirkliston Road through the Varney estate, one passing the playpark. Diane has been asking CEC about coordination of building traffic calming features on Scotstoun Avenue given that all construction traffic will use the road. From experience, the weight of construction traffic often has a rapid detrimental effect on road surfaces therefore its influence over several years should feature within a funded maintenance plan. CEC's Development Management Sub-Committee debated the Forth Bridge Experience plan. Background to provision of car parking, access routes, active travel and possible effects on the town are covered in other reports
- 5. Road Closure Updates** – The Hopetoun Road bridge near Morison Gardens has now re-opened, a couple of weeks ahead of schedule. The diversions caused some inconvenience, especially for people travelling to Queensferry town centre by bus
- 6. Public Transport** – As mentioned last month, CEC's tender for the 63 bus service was reviewed and councillors on T&E and Finance Committees decided First should be awarded the contract at a cost of about £1.5m over four years. Community benefits from First include access to city centre tours for local school pupils and a mobile community centre outreach project. The service becomes operational after the statutory notice period following First's registration submission. Of course none of this can be taken for granted in the present climate where it appears travel companies will attract virtually no passengers for an indefinite period. We met representatives from Lothian Buses earlier this month for a regular update which we hold approximately annually. No major changes are anticipated for the 43/X43/N43 service group but we discussed a few common observations from the community which they took on board. The N43 enhancement plan remains due from 30 March, but may be affected by the introduction of emergency timetables given the sudden drop in passenger demand. In the City Mobility Plan, Lothian Buses seemed opposed to the suggestion for 'to not through' bus services in the city centre, which probably aligns with Queensferry passenger behaviour too. The proposal could see routes like the 43 terminating around the West End with passengers needing to use other modes for onward travel. They support bus stop rationalisation in principle but rollout needs to be done sensitively and carefully.

Grant Sangster
Transport Sub-Committee Convenor
22 March 2020