

## North Queensferry Community Council

### Draft Minutes of Community Council Meeting on Thursday 14 November 2013.

<p><b>Members Present: Chair-Lin Collis (LC), Christina McKenzie (CM), Jim George (JG), Mary Findlayson (MF), Jan Short (JS), Barbara McKechnie (BM), Cllr Mike Shirkie (MS)</b></p> <p><b>Invited Guests from Queensferry &amp; District Community Council: Keith Giblett (KG) Chair and Terence Airlie (TA) Correspondence Secretary</b></p>		
Agenda Reference	Description	Action
<b>1. Apologies for Absence:</b>	Iain Mitchell (IM), Marisa di Fillipo Ferrier (MdFF)	
<b>2. Minutes of previous meeting.</b>	Minutes of October Meeting Approved	*BM Posted to NQCC web site
<b>3. Matters arising.</b>	<p>IM had suggested (outwith this meeting) the issue of the wild deer population should be raised at the next Forth Replacement Crossing Meeting.</p> <p>Re Floral Enhancement at NQ Railway Station – LC will follow up with James Lawson (Heritage Group) to determine responsibility for floral displays at the railway station.</p> <p>Re Invite to Fife Region budget consultations – full draft budget is available on line:  <a href="http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication.pop&amp;pubid=4CA61F09-DA90-A1D3-39A1EBE7A4EA3C9A">http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication.pop&amp;pubid=4CA61F09-DA90-A1D3-39A1EBE7A4EA3C9A</a>                      and interactive feedback online:  <a href="http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/minisites/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&amp;pageid=E41D37E4-C38C-762E-7FC8E1B06A6265AB&amp;siteid=E4174C6E-BD04-07FB-9114BE9C9D98DA0A">http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/minisites/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&amp;pageid=E41D37E4-C38C-762E-7FC8E1B06A6265AB&amp;siteid=E4174C6E-BD04-07FB-9114BE9C9D98DA0A</a></p> <p>Councillor MS confirmed that he did not feel NQ School or Services would be affected by changes in the council decentralisation policy and arguably, local voices will be better heard. MS encouraged public feedback using the online invitation.</p>	
<b>4. Policing Issues, including Battery Road and parking in lower village</b>	<p>BM had circulated the Community Engagement meeting notes to Members of the Council. MS advised that following the establishment of the Scottish Police with the loss of 5 Chief Inspectors and although there would be not police station closures in the next year, councillors have expressed concern with regard to loss of local knowledge (officers will be more flexible/transferable to areas of need). However, 2 additional officers are to be</p>	

	<p>attached to the Community team.  MF confirmed that no anti social behaviour issues had been received.</p> <p>The South Queensferry attendees confirmed they did not feel they had the same guarantees referred to by MS of Fife Council but they are more aware of the 4/5 year police plan for their area and receive monthly stats from the police. MS confirmed that he 'looks out' for NQ in police reports. TA gave the meeting a good outline of the Queensferry &amp; District's relationship and feedback with the police contacts. It is understood that police reports do go to the NQCC Chair, Iain G Mitchell. South Queensferry put a link on their website for public sharing of police issues. For NQ area see <a href="http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/fife/">http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/fife/</a></p> <p>Re Battery Road car park and car parking in NQ, review of September 2013 survey: only 11 replies including 2 from regular visitors to NQ. Replies included - 4 persons suggested keep car park closed, 2 that the car park is for residents only, 1 that the car park not be closed at all i.e. mixed response and not enough to merit any action by NQCC. It was reiterated that there has to be a decision by January 2014 should Fife Council be requested to amend signage. MF confirmed her view that closing a public car park allows antisocial behaviourists to determine policy. Further discussion covered the previous consultation re additional parking in the Brock Street area.</p>	
<b>5. Forth Bridge Visitor Centre</b>	<p>Extensive discussion by NQCC members, Councillor MS and the visiting Queensferry &amp; District representatives covered issues generally within Agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8.</p> <p>The actions of the last 5/6/7 years of work and reports on increasing liner visits to Sth Queensferry, the SQ High Street traffic impact assessment (Halcrow Plan), the redevelopment of former Agilent technologies site South Queensferry enabled the Queensferry &amp; District Council to apply for a Community Funding Grant (benefit of communities in Western Edinburgh) to do a feasibility study on the back of the original High Street fabric, Halcrow Report. For assessment of the impact of the UNESCO application, Fife does have the Professional Staff Group. BM confirmed the</p>	
<b>6. Forth Replacement Crossing</b>		
<b>7. Forth Road Bridge Festival</b>		
<b>8. Forth Bridge World Heritage Steering Group</b>		

leader of the Fife group had been invited to attend the NQCC November meeting but no reply was received. MS reminded all that he has strongly advised in the past that all community groups endeavour to work together. It was stated that to make the UNESCO bid there has to be a management plan in existence and that there should be a public meeting to discuss. MF expressed concern and this was supported by the attendees from South Queensferry that although community representatives attended the relevant steering groups regarding the Rail Bridge, Replacement Crossing and the UNESCO site application, there is a danger that the professionals are paying 'lip service' to the communities and the local communities may miss the opportunity to improve essential infrastructure if the draft plan to back up the World Heritage application is not reviewed prior to approval. MF will follow up with the World Heritage Steering Group.

Re the World Heritage Application, the strategic application is submitted and a site visit is planned for August 2014. MF believes the communities would be expected to be on side by that time and members considered options to see how this could be best achieved. We are aware of the pressure on the local government budgets but the Community Centre does now have a 25yr lease so MUGA fund raising is viable. The issues of parking and traffic flow in NQ and SQ already exist so how can the community itself benefit from the certainty of increased tourists and traffic. KG and TA of Queensferry District voiced their concerns re lack of apparent co-ordination between World Heritage, Network Rail and the Forth Estuary Transport Authority.

The meeting went on to listen to an outline of the Queensferry Ambition ([queensferryambition.co.uk](http://queensferryambition.co.uk)) a business district strategy network. Through this network, funding was received from various sources linked to South Queensferry's position as an urban town in the City of Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Visit Scotland Homecoming promotion for the Forth Road Bridge Festival – see details of funded events on <http://www.eventscotland.org/assets/2796>

	<p>MS stressed the need for both communities to co-ordinate their events, not clash. On the North bank of the Forth we have the Rosyth liner visits, Dunfermline history potential and North Queensferry to involve in a co-ordinated plan. MS suggested a public meeting and NQCC members suggested an extraordinary general meeting. Essentially the North Queensferry community must establish what they wish the ongoing legacy to be from the events of 2014/2015/2016. The exchange of information between the North and South Community Councils was recognised as worth continuing going forward. MF agreed with KG that, going forward, if issues were believed to affect both communities, information would be shared and discussed.</p> <p>LC has meeting for Forth Replacement Crossing Group later in November.</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p>
<b>9. West Bay</b>	<p>North Queensferry Community Trust had the preferred bid to manage the development of the site. There is an AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> December when the business plan will be discussed.</p>	
<b>10. Christmas Tree</b>	<p>Ferry Bridge hotel and NQCC will share the costs of erecting a tree on the Hotel corner at Old Kirk Road.</p>	
<b>11. Report on Meeting re Fracking</b>	<p>Fifty plus attendees plus press attended. Those attending included Friends of the Earth, local councillors, and representation from Heriot Watt University. Fracking will go ahead; the safety standards are twice as high in UK as USA; the drilling will be 1km underground and usually a 1km barrier around the fracking site. Fracking will go ahead in Fife but not in the North Queensferry area.</p>	
<b>12. Fife councillors' reports</b>	<p>MS confirmed both sides of the West Bay Development bids would be invited back to discuss the bid decision. Nothing additional on police reports. In May/June 2014, there will be co-ordination with the NQ Heritage group whose priority is to finish the railway station improvement first. Further development of the coastal path is in embryonic stage. The approval of Rankin's Cafe in the conservation area is subject to a site visit by the Planning Dept.</p>	
<b>13. Planning Applications</b>	<p>A Planning Application is in early stages for the redevelopment of the site for the current Forth Replacement Crossing offices.</p> <p>Other applications included replacement doors and windows in the conservation area and the demolishing of a shelter at the primary school.</p>	

<b>14. Community Group Reports</b>	None	
<b>15. Treasurer's Report</b>	CM updated the meeting on current funds. Thank you letter to go to Albert Hotel for their support on Remembrance Sunday.	*BM – sent 151113
<b>16. Floral Enhancement</b>	JS has submitted budget request forms to the Treasurer, CM. JS will check if usual plant supplier can supply the Christmas tree at a better price than Fife Council	*JS
<b>17. Correspondence</b>	Correspondence to date was posted on the NQCC web site and list circulated by BM prior to meeting.	
<b>18. Any other competent business</b>	Archiving of NQCC documents will be discussed at next meeting following questions received by LC from Fife Council. Previous village snagging list will be forwarded by JS to LC JS still has leaflets regarding householder responsibility to trim hedges off the public highway. CM advised the meeting of request to revive the Neighbourhood watch scheme. JS will speak to Jill Brown re possibilities.	*  *  *

Next Meeting 12 December 2013