

Mr Iain G Mitchell QC  
North Queensferry Community Council  
North Queensferry Community Centre  
Brock Street  
North Queensferry  
Fife  
KY11 1JD

**Economy, Planning and  
Employability Services**

Sandra Montador-Stewart  
03451 555555 ext. 442279  
Sandra.montador-  
stewart@fife.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear Mr Mitchell,

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A PONTOON AT TOWN PIER, NORTH QUEENSFERRY**

Thank you for your letter to Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, dated 9<sup>th</sup> March regarding the proposal for the installation of a pontoon at the Town Pier, North Queensferry. Mr Grimmond has passed your letter on to me and asked me to reply to you.

The event referred to in your letter, held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015, was the Marine License Pre-Application public consultation in the local Community Centre. Your letter states that the Community Council felt that this event was not publicised well enough in advance. I can confirm that Fife Council officers ensured that all necessary steps were taken in a manner fully consistent with the 'Marine Scotland Guidance on Marine Licensable Activities subject to Pre-Application Consultation'.

In particular the process was guided by 'the public pre-application consultation procedure' section of that document and went beyond that minimally required including notification of all statutory consultees and publication of a notice, six weeks in advance of the event, in a local newspaper.

The notice was published in the Dunfermline Press on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Anticipating that some residents may not read this publication a number of additional measures were also undertaken. The North Queensferry Community Council, NQ Heritage Trust, the members of the World Heritage Steering Group, Port Edgar Marina Ltd, the South West Fife Local Areas Services Team and the three Fife Council local ward members were all notified of the event.



Over a week in advance of this, on 9th December, Fife Council staff emailed a copy of the notice to a number of key local contacts including yourself as Chair of North Queensferry Community Council. This communication stated:

"As you know, we have been working on a Coastal Communities Fund bid for some time now, the aim being to install a small floating pontoon/landing berth in NQ town Pier. As part of the consent process, Marine Scotland requires us to go through a pre-application public consultation process.

With this in mind, we will be holding a public drop-in consultation event from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm on 27/01/2014 at North Queensferry Community Centre. We will have a small display of plans etc and project team members will be present to explain the proposal and to answer any questions. An advert, promoting the event will appear in next week's Dunfermline Press, but in case you can't wait until next week, I have attached a copy of the notice that will appear. Please feel free to advertise this event as widely as possible as we would like as much feedback as possible."

You kindly forwarded this communication to the Community Council Secretary on 15<sup>th</sup> December and on 16<sup>th</sup> December the following reply was received from the Secretary:

"On behalf of the North Queensferry Community Council (NQCC), I have been asked to thank you for the information regarding the pontoon in NQ town pier. We look forward to viewing the project plans at the public consultation on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and, as you requested, will publicise details of the event including mention on the NQCC website."

The attendance level at the consultation event was beyond expectation with in excess of 45 local people having registered their attendance to view the designs and record their comments. The pontoon installation will now be subject of a full Marine License application which includes a copy of all of the comments received on the day of the consultation and will also require both planning and listed building consent (as the Town Pier is an A-listed structure).

The second area of concern that your letter raises is the question of possible siting at the Railway Pier and I can confirm that this is an issue that has been examined subsequent to the public consultation meeting in January following this being mentioned by a number of attendees. However, to attach the pontoon bridge to the stable part of the Railway Pier before the slipway would mean around a 160m long access walkway to allow the pontoon the same sort of clearance at all tides as that proposed at the Town Pier. Any proposal to attach it further out on the pier would require significant restoration works to be carried out as it has been barriered off as unsafe for some years. Any pontoon in this area would have more exposure to the elements than at the Town Pier and this has been raised as a concern by Transportation colleagues. Additionally, on alighting their vessels, pontoon users would be accessing the village through what is basically a boat storage yard which is well removed



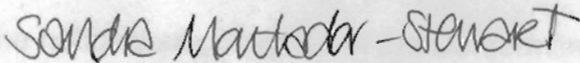
geographically from the other attractions in the village. There are also significant issues with the current overall aesthetic of the West Bay area when compared with the Town Pier which will deliver visitors much more directly to the heart of the village in the shadow of the Forth Rail Bridge benefitting local hotels and cafes etc. This also ties to main strategic driver for the pontoon installation as referred to above; the bid for World Heritage Inscription for the Forth Rail Bridge on which we expect a decision from UNESCO later in 2015.

The Coastal Communities Fund application was submitted on the bid deadline date of 24<sup>th</sup> September in recognition that it was the best vehicle to bid for funding for the pontoon installation and there was therefore a significant concentration of work in the weeks leading up to this deadline. During this time local elected members, statutory consultees and the Community Council were kept informed. The application to the Coastal Communities Fund bid was submitted on the deadline date of 24<sup>th</sup> September and there was significant concentration of work in the weeks leading up to the deadline during which time local elected members, statutory consultees and the Community Council were kept informed.

The Forth Bridge Tourism Opportunities Public Consultation Event was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in the North Queensferry Community Centre and was attended by over 90 local residents. At this meeting it was advised that waterborne options for visitors to North Queensferry were high in the Council's thinking and that in line with this a Coastal Communities Fund bid was currently being drafted to support the establishment of a harbour-based landing platform (or pontoon) which would support small ferry transport between the south bank of the Forth and North Queensferry. Consultation on the proposed pontoon has already begun with the Marine Scotland pre-application consultation event and there will be further opportunities for the community to comment on the planning application when this is brought forward. It should be emphasised that receipt of the Coastal Communities Fund award of funding for the pontoon is conditional on Fife Council securing all necessary consents and licenses to facilitate its installation at the Town Pier.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the Council will continue to keep local residents and representative bodies involved and informed on any developments moving ahead.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Montador-Stewart  
Service Manager, Economy, Tourism and Town Centres

cc Mr Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council