

North Queensferry Community Council

Minutes of Community Council Meeting on Thursday 12 June 2014

Members Present: Ian G Mitchell (IGM), Christina McKenzie (CM), Jan Short (JS), Mary Finlayson (MF), Barbara McKechnie (BM), Jim George (JG), James Lawson (JL) Councillor Mike Shirkie (MS)		
Agenda Reference	Description	Action
1. Apologies for Absence:	Lin Collis	
2. Minutes of previous meeting.	Item #11 correction of Community Trust for Harbour Trust and Minutes approved	Amended and Posted 130614
3. Matters Arising	BM advised of Variation of Licensing Application for Wee Restaurant, Main Street, North Queensferry.	None
4. Police Report	None	
5. World Heritage Steering Group	<p>IGM had attended last meeting and advised that an informal visit had taken place by a gentleman from Krakow on behalf of UNESCO as a precursor to the official inspection visit. IGM advised that, on querying buffer areas around the bridge site, the UNESCO visitor was told of the conservation areas at both ends of the bridge and that these could be regarded as the buffer areas.</p> <p>JL confirmed that possible funding may be available from the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/grants/conservation-area-regeneration-scheme.htm . Lucy Macaulay represents the Community Trust who looking at possible sites for regeneration eg the Town Pier, West Battery Pier, St James Chapel. (For information on the NQ conservation area see http://publications.1fife.org.uk/uploadfiles/publications/c64_MicrosoftWord-NQFINAL.pdf)</p> <p>Applications for funding are normally for areas of deprivation but World Heritage Site status would enable eligibility. MS stressed the need for prioritisation of maintenance/regeneration funding requests. If the village can perform the regeneration tasks themselves (some clean up etc) then we should not cloud our funding requests with these items. MS advised of a public meeting to be held in September 2014 for the involved groups in the World Heritage Steering Group to confirm their plans and what</p>	

	<p>they are doing. CARS applications for funding have a current deadline of 31st August. JJL will circulate an outline report of possible areas/buildings for regeneration CARS funding and all Council members should think carefully to select their top 3 items prior to the July NQCC meeting. A villager Elizabeth Sevier requested that the list of possible areas for regeneration is copied to all homes within the Conservation Area. This was agreed by the Council. Streets/lanes included in the conservation area are noted in the above Fife Council document on North Queensferry Conservation Area.</p>	*JJL
6. Forth Bridges Forum	<p>See http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/forth-bridges-forum.html for information on composition of the Forum. NQCommunity Council, South Queensferry Community Council and Queensferry Ambition believe there is some disconnect between the constituent parts of the Forum and the Community organisations. Funding for the community projects has been forthcoming from Edinburgh and Fife Councils but not from the commercial organisations and this channel of communication has thus far, not proved effective. At recent smaller meeting, the air was cleared a little and there was more understanding of issues. The Transport Scotland representative will take the comments back to the Forum itself. Efforts will continue to be made to present community issues and requests to this Forum and a meeting on 18 June regarding the Forth Road Bridge traffic assessment and Forth Bridge Tourism will be attended by CM and MF.</p>	*CM/MF
7. Forth Replacement Crossing	<p>Update was circulated by LC to Members prior to the monthly meeting.</p>	
8. Forth Bridge Festival	<p>Following the recently advised inability of the Queensferry Hotel to feature in the Festival programme, JJL reported that Derek Rankin has initiated discussions between the hospitality businesses in the lower village to offer food/drink options on Saturday 13 September. JJL did indicate that some funding may be required eg for a marquee with a possible site in the Battery Road Car Park. JG did suggest that an approach could be made by the hospitality team to query availability of marquees from the Boat Club. JJL will pass this information on. MS recommended that any</p>	*JJL

	<p>plans and requests for funding are made as quickly as possible as time is very short. IGM confirmed the support of the Community Council for Mr Rankin's plans as outlined at this meeting for the September. (Big Lunch at South Queensferry is on 6th September, street food festival in South Queensferry on 13th September –same day as evening fireworks)</p> <p>JJL indicated that Indigo, the official event organisers, have requested information from NQCC in respect of traffic logistics that we would require. The Council strongly believe that the experts in this field are Police Scotland and that it is FETA who have the ultimate responsibility to ensure North Queensferry is not overrun and would expect their contracted organiser, Indigo, to have contact with Police Scotland to plan for the event. This said, BM will follow up with the previous email chain with the police and ask for any update to the Forth Road Bridge Festival traffic plans for the North side of the Bridge.</p>	<p>*BM (130614)</p>
<p>9. Community Group Updates</p>	<p>Railway Station: Opening of the renovated waiting room, gallery and cafe will be on 1st July, the 124th anniversary of the opening of the station. Jim Leishman will perform the opening ceremony attended by some invited guests including the last Station Master at North Queensferry (Bill McKinnon). The first exhibition will be 'The Station Story'.</p> <p>Community Trust: A meeting was held at the Albert Hotel on June 7th between the Community Trust and Community Ownership (http://www.dtascommunityownership.org.uk/) looking at the management of the harbour site and the continuing negotiations on the lease.</p> <p>Heritage Trust: The Light Tower is doing well and walking groups have included those going up to the top of the Forth Bridge. The relocation of Beamer Rock progresses with a meeting planned next week with the architect and site engineer. JJL suggested a possibility that the location may also be a memorial to those in the services who set sail from but did not return to this part of the Forth.</p> <p>Boat Club: JG advised the Community Council that the Boat Club had been served notice to</p>	

	<p>quit by Fife Council and asked the Community Council to advise if there was an intention by Fife Council to enforce this notice. BM will draft email to David Campbell, Estates Surveyor, Fife Council and copy to Cllr Mike Shirkie to confirm wording. Due to size of NQ, it can be challenging to find members of the council who do not have any connection to groups in discussion, in this case, the Boat Club and the Community Trust. The NQCC are aware that the serving of notice may be a necessary legal step by Fife Council to provide a 'clean lease' to the Community Trust.</p> <p>Community Centre: CM advised that the Community Centre budgets were being reviewed to determine if an additional caretaking assistant could be employed. Funding had been approved from Fife Council for new windows and insulation in the main hall. MF queried if Network Rail could not be approached for specific funding in a similar way and MS confirmed he will try again to have a meeting request with Forth Bridges Forum representative prior to any further public meeting.</p> <p>Bridgehead Enterprises: Villager Laura Malcolm advised NQCC of the previous establishment of a dormant company, limited by guarantee that continues to exist and could be utilised by other village groups. Laura Malcolm may be contacted by post at 3 East Bay, North Queensferry KY11 1JX.</p>	<p>*BM (130614)</p> <p>*MS</p>
<p>10. Fife Councillors' Reports</p>	<p>MS confirmed the funding applications approved for the refurbishment of the main hall at the Community Centre and Phase 2 of the Railway Station development. MS attended an area tourism meeting on 11 June regarding the Queen's attendance at the Naming Ceremony for the aircraft carrier at Rosyth, school projects relating to the Queen's Baton for the Commonwealth Games with athletes visiting schools in the area. MS stressed again the need to prioritise the need for area committee support for matched funding of projects. Raised again from last month were the state of the Battery Road Car Park surrounds and the lack of effective maintenance. BM to write to Ian Jones, Fife Council with regard to</p>	<p>*BM (130614)</p>

	clarification of the scheduled works in North Queensferry especially prior to the UNESCO visit.	
11. Planning Applications	JG reported the only planning application to come in this month was for the felling of 12 trees (dead, dangerous or causing damage to walling beside a public path) at Craighdu. JG advised that Fife Council had supplied him with a straightforward guide to planning requirements. MS understood this to have been sent to all Community Council contacts.	
12. Treasurer's Report	No change to balances. JS presented receipts for planting in the village. CM advised that the Wreath has been ordered for the Remembrance Service and that Brian Armstrong will not be available to organise. JS will approach Colin Bain with regard to possible acceptance of role.	*JS
13. Floral Enhancement	The Brae and display barrels have been replanted, with additional planting at the new Pumping unit on Ferryhills Road. JLL advised the Rotary had planted their boxes at the station but indicated that this may have to be a joint task in the future due to increasing number of containers.	
14. Correspondence	BM had posted all emailed correspondence to the NQCC website and advised of the letter received from Fife Council Licensing Board relating to variance in the License for the Wee Restaurant. Also letter received from Alex Rowley in respect of charity coffee morning for Rachel House at Kinross. IGM advised of WW1 commemoration invite for 31 st August 2014 at Dunfermline Abbey. IGM will forward to LC as he is unable to attend. JLL will be attending meeting re Railway Arts Trust.	IGM
15. Any Other Competent Business	CM will chase up on the previous contacts relating to clearing the boats from the beach beside the Albert Hotel. The Community Council wish to note their sincere appreciation for the life of Jimmy Dyce who had loyally served the North Queensferry Community for a number of years and will forward their condolences to Jimmy's family.	BM

Next Meeting: Thursday 10 July 2014, North Queensferry Community Centre 7.45pm

AGM will be held on 10 July 2014 at 7.30pm

There will be no meeting during the month of August 2014