

North Queensferry Community Council

Minutes of Community Council Meeting on Thursday 8 May 2014

<p>Members Present: Ian G Mitchell (IGM), Christina McKenzie (CM), Lin Collis (LC), Barbara McKechnie (BM), Jim George (JG), Jan Short (JS) , James Lawson (JL) Councillor Mike Shirkie (MS) , Councillor Douglas Chapman (DC) Police Community Engagement Officer: PC Matthew Ghilotti (MG) Guests: Network Rail – Ian Heigh (IH) and Craig Bowman (CB); Locality Support Team Leader - South West Fife – Lynn Hoey</p>		
Agenda Reference	Description	Action
1. Apologies for Absence:	Mary Finlayson	
2. Minutes of previous meeting.	Minutes approved	
3. Matters Arising	LC drew attention to the circulated negative reply from Fife Council in respect of NQCC request for consideration of retention of the current 30mph in place for road works. See following Minutes for Matters arising from the Agenda items.	
4. Police Report	<p>MG from the police Community Engagement Team outlined the content of the circulated monthly report. MG advised that Inspector Ian Flynn is now in charge of the area Team. Current local issues relate mainly to Inverkeithing. Police Surgeries are held monthly at the Inverkeithing Civic Centre and opportunities for the public to attend Community Engagement meetings are detailed on http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2013/april/swf-community-engagement-meetings/.</p> <p>A member of the public drew attention to possible vandalism regarding missing coping stones from the wall on The Brae.</p>	BM checked on 090514 and a number of the stones are lying on the other side of the wall
5. Network Rail – Forth Bridge Visitor Centre Update and 10. Fife Council – implications for NQ of Visitor Centre, World Heritage status, Forth Replacement Crossing etc	CB and IH addressed the meeting outlining the progress of the second of the feasibility studies into the Rail Bridge Visitor Centre. This study goes into more detail than the first, has increased the projected visitor numbers to 300,000 per annum for the Northern end of the bridge (following query from MS, CB these figures were based on a Network Rail study of similar attractions and the physical limits of the	

attraction and not related to a similar figure projected by the World Heritage site study). Information on the feasibility is available at <http://www.forthbridgeexperience.com/media/498/Network-Rail-Forth-Bridge-Feasibility-Study-LR.pdf> . The second study has more detail on the income and funding required to make the Visitor Centre a viable project for Network Rail, provides more demographic projection of the likely visitors and involved commercial property and tourism consultants. Network Rail believes the Forth Bridge Forum is the right group to bring the right people together and the Forum may lead the approach to the transport plans. Atkins is appointed as transport consultant. The recently installed traffic counters in NQ are part of the Network Rail research in the push to complete the feasibility stages and enable a return to NQ by the team in August /September 2014 to ‘thrash out the preferred options’. Prior to handing over to Lynn Hoey, CB stressed that the Centre is still in the feasibility stages but is feeling very positive about the funding being made available. The scheme implementation may be staggered eg North and South sides not open at same point in time but realistically, it will be 2016, not 2015 as previously put forward. The recent confirmation of the new Route Managing Director in Scotland, IH believes will result in increased rate of progress. Members of the public expressed strong concern about the effect on the village of the projected visitor count and the existence of a need to mitigate the effects. CM stated that as the Visitor Centre was more than likely to go ahead, it was to the village’s benefit that the mitigation studies were taking place.

LH then addressed the meeting in her role on the Forth Bridge World Heritage Economic Work Group. LH recognised the value of the Forth Bridge Forum in bringing together interests from not just Fife but Edinburgh and West Lothian, Network Rail, Queensferry Ambition, Feta – ensuring all are on same page and same line. The work group looks to study how the potential scenarios will be managed, the risks and the benefits. There is an Urban Design Summary Appraisal (will be shared), a marketing plan, an accommodation audit of a

	<p>15/20 mile radius, a townscape assessment identifying streets, spaces, intervention points, and orientation plan, links to Deep Sea World, the Heritage Group, Beamer Light Tower relocation and signage all indicative of the need to have full engagement with the community and creating a positive chance for the community to be involved. From questions by MS, it was confirmed that the Visitor Centre delay to 2016 would allow that community involvement. It was confirmed by CB, in response to a public question, that it has been in the Visitor Centre plan from Day 1, that a community fund would be set up to benefit the community directly including hard landscaping. To close, IGM stressed that although some of the public concerns expressed are held by a minority, it was essential that when Network Rail returns in August /September, there has to be an identifiable benefit to the village in order to capture hearts and minds.</p>	
6. World Heritage Steering Group	Attended by IGM and MF – no recent meeting to report	
7. Forth Bridges Forum	No new information	
8. Forth Replacement Crossing	Next meeting is 21 May 2014	
9. Forth Bridge Festival	Next meeting is 13 May 2014	
10. Fife Council – implications for NQ of Visitor Centre, World Heritage status, Forth Replacement Crossing etc	See #5 above	
11. Community Group Updates	<p>Heritage Trust: JIL confirmed walking tours would start during the Forth Road Bridge Festival and volunteers to act as guides would be welcome. It is hoped the Walking Tours could become a permanent feature of the village. In respect of the Railway Station where LC is also involved, Phase 1 is due to open on 1 July 2014 including the information point, cafe, waiting room and exhibition room. Phase 2 for the toilets has obtained planning. Visual plans are in progress for the Beamer Rock Light Tower.</p> <p>Community Centre: CM advised the Centre is still awaiting detailed revised MUGA plan. MS will telephone planning department on 090514 and arrange delivery to the Community Centre. JS advised school pupils are sending stationery package to school in twinned town of Hohoe.</p>	*MS

	<p>IGM advised there was no progress on the Community Trust and that Fife Council are still officially the landlord.</p> <p>MS advised that the Community Payback team were waiting to hear back about the painting of the Community Centre. CM will discuss with Pat, the Centre's Facility Supervisor.</p>	*CM
12. Fife Councillors' Report	<p>Mostly covered by the earlier talk from Lyn Hoey. MS will advise South West Area Committee Funding decisions following the next meeting on 14 May 2014 but the Minutes of the meeting will also be online - http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=committee.detail&servid=C2B8C952-EB0C-ACF9-11F5B9610F8E2683</p> <p>DC gave update on recent planning meetings and discussions. CM stressed the Urban Planning document referred to in #5 above must be available for discussion and we should raise the village parking needs prior to decisions being made. BM to follow up with LH re Brown Signage for North Queensferry.</p>	*BM
13. Planning Applications	<p>JG advised one private extension application for Ferry Barns and secondly, a 20yr plan for North Cliff woodland management (thinning, felling and replanting). The 62 page document is available on the Planning website ref 14/01290/TPO. IGM asked if anyone new of local expert who could comment on the Woodland plan. JG will contact Roy Taylor.</p>	*JG
14. Treasurer's Report	<p>The Information Commission had taken their Direct Debit from the bank account resulting in a balance of £1401.99 with £1421.84 set aside, therefore shortfall of £19.85 (annual funding not yet received – delay is normal).</p> <p>Discussion followed on repainting of bench at viewpoint at top of steps from Forth Road Bridge. Estimate will be sought from Peter the Painter.</p>	*LC
15. Floral Enhancement	<p>As mentioned previously, priority has to be determined for gardening by the Community Payback Team. Station planters are joint responsibility between Rotary and JS gardening team. New planters are on order, paid for by Scotrail and JS will arrange plants. LC will contact Ian Jones re flower beds at Battery Road Carpark.</p>	*LC

16. Correspondence	All correspondence to date posted to the NQCC website.	
17. Any Other Competent Business	<p>The Forth Bridge Tourist Group reports to the Forth Bridges Forum – objectives to be determined at next meeting.</p> <p>Colin Bell, attending member of public advised that the Minutes were not available to be read on the NQCC website. BM will investigate.</p> <p>Due to IGM and LC commitments the AGM will now take place prior to the July monthly meeting.</p> <p>It was confirmed that, unless something urgent occurs, there will be no NQCC meeting in August.</p>	*BM (100514)

Next Meeting: Thursday 12 June 2014, North Queensferry Community Centre 7.30pm

AGM will be held on 10 July 2014

There will be no meeting during the month of August 2014