



## **Forth Replacement Crossing Community Forum Minutes**

**Meeting Location:** FRC Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry

**Meeting Date/Time:** 13 September 2017 – 7 pm

**Participants:** **Transport Scotland – Employer’s Delivery Team**

**Lawrence Shackman** - FRC Project Manager

**Raymond Kirk** – Policy, Governance and Stakeholder Liaison, Outreach and Education

### **Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors**

**Katrina Bruce** - FCBC Community Liaison

### **Amey**

Chris Waite

### **Community Representatives**

**Wayne Morris** - Inverkeithing Community Council

**Lin Collis** - North Queensferry Community Council

**Grant Sangster** - QDCC

**Bert Scott** - Cramond & Barnton Community Council

**Doug Tait** – BRIGS

**Peter Fitzgerald** - BRIGS

**David Buchanan** – Kirkliston Community Council

**Bill King** - Rosyth Community Council

## Apologies

**Chris Waite** – Media and Communications Manager

**Keith Giblett** – Queensferry and District Community Forum

**Jim George** – North Queensferry Community Council

**Doug Ross** - Cramond & Barnton Community Council

		Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	<p>Meeting Chaired by LS.</p> <p>LS welcomed all to the Community Forum and reminded everyone of the Health and Safety arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilets are located on the ground floor in reception area.</li> <li>• No smoking policy in and around the entrance to the building.</li> <li>• No fire alarms planned for this evening.</li> <li>• If the fire alarm sounds, make your way to the nearest exit and congregate at the muster point in the car park (red phone box).</li> </ul> <p>LS asked that Forum members note the retirement of Ewen Macdonell, thank him for his contributions down the years and following the official opening of the Queensferry Crossing, send him the best wishes from the Forum on his current venture – a solo cycle around the world.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of Minutes from Previous Forum – 31 May 2017</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<p>LS confirmed that the draft minutes had been circulated to members and no comments were received.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and after minor amendment would be posted on the Transport Scotland website.</p>	Noted
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 31 May 2017</b>	CEC
	<p>LS stated that there was one action outstanding from the Community Forum of 31 May 2017:</p>	

	<p><b>Item 3.10 – Footpath at Springfield Road / Clufflats</b></p> <p>LS stated that City of Edinburgh Council were checking the Title of the land in question and will report this to Transport Scotland once investigations are complete.</p> <p>LS said that a number of concerns had been sent to Transport Scotland regarding the apparent lack of screening from the footpath to properties. LS said that there was still much planting to be done and a swathe of trees, including heavy standard trees will be planted during the autumn planting season.</p> <p>KG confirmed that 8 representations had been made to QDCC about the open space at Clufflats, also Facebook comments left.</p> <p>KG confirmed that QDCC wouldn't oppose the footpath installation and that all comments received were passed to Dave Sinclair at City of Edinburgh Council to confirm that the footpath works were permitted developments as part of the Forth Replacement Crossing Project.</p> <p>DT said that BRIGS had also been approached by a number of residents from Springfield and Clufflats who reported that they were seeking legal advice over the installation of the footpath.</p> <p>He continued by saying that if residents are in general for or against the footpath but questions were being asked about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No lighting</li><li>• No Risk Assessment being carried out following the diverting of the path from south of the SUDS to the north side</li><li>• Ownership of the final 10 meters of the path.</li></ul> <p>DT also informed the Forum that the initial request for a footpath had been raised by Juliet Summers at the Scottish Parliament on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council as a Green issue.</p> <p>DT confirmed that whilst this isn't a BRIGS issue and is now primarily in the hands of Clufflats residents, questioned the location of the path as it comes out of Echline Field insofar as the original understanding was that the patch come out further south at Springfield.</p>	
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	LS confirmed that the Forum would need to wait to see the outcome of the investigations being conducted by City of Edinburgh Council.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Update from Employer's Delivery Team</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Queensferry Crossing Opening</b></p> <p>LS reported that at the May Forum, the EDT reported that FCBC had forecast that opening the Queensferry Crossing to traffic would be achieved between mid-July and the end of August depending on weather conditions and that, in case anyone missed it, the Queensferry Crossing opened to traffic on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 before closing again to allow the opening celebrations to take place prior to fully re-opening again on 7 September 2017.</p> <p>The Queensferry Crossing is carrying all traffic just now and will become part of the M90 on completion of road tie-in works at the north end of the Forth Road Bridge.</p> <p><b>Traffic Switching</b></p> <p>LS stated that the switch overs from the Forth Road Bridge to the Queensferry Crossing and vice-versa went well with no reported incidents.</p> <p><b>Queensferry Crossing Experience</b></p> <p>LS confirmed that the Queensferry Crossing Experience took place on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> September where 50,000 were allocated a place in the ballot.</p> <p>LS stated that the uptake by those who had been allocated a ticket, was as follows;</p>	Noted

	<b>QCE OFFICIAL NUMBERS</b>			
	<b>Crossers</b>	<b>Tickets</b>	<b>Take up</b>	<b>Drop-off</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	27345	28249	96.8%	3.20%
<b>Sunday</b>	21120	21751	97.1%	2.90%
<b>Total</b>	48465	50000	96.9%	3.10%

LS said that the Event Company stated – “This low level of drop off is unprecedented for an event of this scale”.

**Invited Guests – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September pm**

LS said that an additional 6,500 guests of Transport Scotland were given the opportunity to walk the Queensferry Crossing and that these had also been well attended and well received.

**Local Community Day**

LS stated that Transport Scotland had reacted positively to requests from the public for a Local Community Day. He said 6,500 local school pupils and 3,500 local community guests had been invited and many of them accepted the invite to walk on the Queensferry Crossing on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Opening Celebrations**

LS said that the Official Opening Ceremony took place on 4<sup>th</sup> September in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. Apart from the weather, everyone seemed to have an enjoyable day.

DB asked for it to be recorded in the Minutes that the Opening Ceremony it was a fantastic day.

These sentiments were echoed by Forum members.

LS concluded by saying that it had been a team effort, and, in

	<p>particular with the Local Community Day, without the help of Community Council members who done a lot of work behind the scenes, the day may not have been the success it was.</p> <p>KG reported that the feedback he had received for the Tuesday event was that it had been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and compliments should go to all involved. With regards to the Opening Ceremony itself, the clips of views of Scotland and Scottish Bridges had been particularly well received.</p> <p>KG suggested that the Opening Events should be uploaded to the website. This was agreed.</p>	
<b>3.2</b>	<p><b>Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee Appearance:</b></p> <p>LS reported that the latest meeting of the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee which took evidence from the Forth Replacement Crossing Project team took place on 31<sup>st</sup> May and was reported at the previous Community Forum.</p> <p>LS said that no invitations to attend the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee have been received by the Project Team – but fully expected an invitation later in the year.</p>	Noted
<b>3.3</b>	<p><b>Forth Bridges Forum</b></p> <p>LS said that the last meeting of the Forth Bridges Forum was held on <b>8 August 2017</b>.</p> <p>The next Public Meeting of the Forth Bridges Forum is scheduled to be held on <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017</b>.</p> <p>LS said that the last Forth Bridges Forum had been well attended and indeed Forum members had also attended. He thanked Forum members for assisting in getting the message out to their various groups.</p>	Noted
<b>3.4</b>	<p><b>Community Forum Site Visit</b></p> <p>LS said Forum Members were offered the opportunity of participating</p>	Noted

	in a walk over the Queensferry Crossing as part of the group visits on the afternoon of Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September and / or hopefully as part of the local community day on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017.	
<b>3.5</b>	<p><b>Beamer Rock Tower</b></p> <p>LS reported that at the last meeting, EDT advised that subject to certain conditions being acceptable EDT would organise the delivery of the Beamer Rock Lighthouse to a Fife Council Depot when identified.</p> <p>LS confirmed that the Beamer Rock Tower pieces were successfully delivered from the Rosyth Office to a Fife Council Depot and that the issue of restoration was now a matter for the groups involved – North Queensferry Heritage Trust and Fife Council.</p>	Noted
<b>3.6</b>	<p><b>Removal of 3 Metre High Temporary Fence – North End of Echline Field at Clufflats.</b></p> <p>LS reported that the removal of the fence had been completed.</p>	Noted
<b>3.7</b>	<p><b>Footpath at Society Road</b></p> <p>LS reported that the work has been all but completed and that resurfacing of road would follow.</p>	Noted
<b>3.8</b>	<p><b>Footpath at Springfield Road / Clufflats</b></p> <p>LS said that this matter had been dealt with under ‘matter arising’ from previous minutes.</p>	Noted
<b>3.9</b>	<p><b>Contact and Education Centre Update</b></p> <p><b>RK</b> updated the Forum on activities at the CEC stating that since the May Forum, the schools have mainly been on holiday and the Contact and Education Centre had been prepared and used as a Travel and</p>	Noted

	<p>Media Hub for the opening celebrations.</p> <p>RK confirmed that the current numbers were as follows:</p> <p><b>Schools Programme</b> – on-going. In 2016, in excess of 5,000 pupils attending the CEC as part of 2016-17 academic year.</p> <p>As at end school year 2016/17 around <b>25,000</b> school pupils had participated in a Project lesson as part of the FRC Education Programme since August 2013.</p> <p>RK concluded that the EDT had recently advertised the Education Programme for 2017/18 to schools and expect a similar uptake as previous years.</p>	
<b>3.10</b>	<p><b>Road Users Guide</b></p> <p>LS reported that the Road Users Guide and Cycling and Walking Guide would be issued closer to the full opening of the Queensferry Crossing as a motorway and the Forth Road Bridge as a Public Transport Corridor to traffic. Forum members asked that the FAQ's for the Guides should be published on-line and added to as enquiries are received. This was agreed.</p>	
<b>3.11</b>	<p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>RK reported that over 283,000 people have watched project videos on the Queensferry Crossing <b>YouTube channel</b>, and that the Official Queensferry Crossing <b>twitter</b> account <b>@FRC_Queensferry</b> now has a total of 5,773 followers, an increase of more than 300 since the last update.</p>	Noted
<b>3.12</b>	<p><b>Compensation Claims</b></p> <p>LS reported that since the last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 43 claims have been settled in full (up 3 from previous forum)</li> <li>• 27 claimants received 90% part payments (No change from previous forum).</li> </ul>	Noted



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The part payments are as a result of advance payment requests from the claimants.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (Principal Contract)</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<p>LS provided a slide presentation to Forum members including the latest photos, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gantries</b> – 6 gantries would soon be on-line providing full CCTV coverage of the Queensferry Crossing and connecting roads.</li> <li><b>Landscaping</b> – would be wholly complete this year with particular attention being paid to footpaths, gyratory and embankments.</li> <li><b>Society Road</b> – surfacing work still to be completed.</li> </ul> <p>LS reported that the Park and Rides had been essentially full.</p> <p>WM confirmed that he had been happy with his bus travel through the Ferrytoll area and that there had been little or no delay's.</p>	Noted
<b>5</b>	<b>Community issues</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Traffic Congestion around Queensferry Crossing, Builyeon Road and Roundabout.</b></p> <p>KG said that even allowing for the expected increase in the initial volume of traffic immediately following the opening of the Queensferry Crossing there had been a marked increase in the number of vehicles caught in congestion on the Builyeon Road and around the Queensferry Gyratory. Traffic had appeared to be stuck between the B800 and Tesco roundabout.</p> <p>LS said that he hoped this was just an initial problem related to the opening and history tells us that after the novelty of the new crossing has worn off, traffic flows return to normal.</p>	Noted
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Bus Lanes Around A90</b></p> <p>KG asked if there was any reason that the bus lanes which were currently coned off in South Queensferry couldn't be opened to allow</p>	EDT

	<p>bus traffic the opportunity to use them as opposed to being stuck in traffic, predominantly twice on the A904. To open them up would relieve pressure on buses to adhere to timetables.</p> <p>LS said that it was the intention to open all bus lanes in due course and in one go as to open them bit by bit may cause driver confusion.</p> <p>KG said that there was a feeling that after it had taken so long for Queensferry to get Lothian Buses to come to South Queensferry that they may re-consider that decision if the roads continue to be snarled up.</p> <p>LS confirmed that EDT would consider the issue.</p>	
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>B800 – Dundas to Tesco</b></p> <p>DB said that the area had been finished with baby bricks and these were stuffed with weeds.</p> <p>LS confirmed that the block work does need weeded and sanded and that the responsibility for this was with FCBC.</p>	FCBC
<b>5.4</b>	<p><b>Traffic Accident Damage</b></p> <p>KG reported that as the result of a traffic accident, a lamppost had been knocked down and required replacing.</p> <p>LS confirmed that if the location was within the FRC site then it would be for FCBC to repair and possibly re-charge the offender with the costs</p> <p>DB also mentioned that there was a damaged marker post at the 'gateway feature' on the B800 near Dundas Home Farm which required to be replaced.</p>	FCBC  FCBC
<b>5.5</b>	<p><b>Path – Bo'ness Road to Bund</b></p> <p>DT asked in relation to the path between the Bo'ness Road and the Bund, which is currently fenced off, when would it reopen.</p>	Noted

	LS confirmed that FCBC were still using this path as an access route by bridge workers.	
<b>5.6</b>	<p><b>Planting of the Bunds.</b></p> <p>DT asked about the planting of the bunds – would they be seeded or weeded?</p> <p>LS confirmed that seeding would be done when it was the appropriate time to seed the area.</p>	FCBC
<b>5.7</b>	<p><b>Planting of Crocus Bulbs</b></p> <p>DT asked about the planting of additional crocus bulbs.</p> <p>LS confirmed that planting of crocus bulbs would be carried out to reinstate what was previously there. This would be carried out during the appropriate planting season.</p>	FCBC
<b>5.8</b>	<p><b>Cleaning of Signage.</b></p> <p>DT said that around the road network, a number of signs were requiring cleaning and the bushes and trees in front of the signs needed trimmed.</p> <p>LS confirmed that this was a matter for FCBC.</p>	FCBC
<b>5.9</b>	<p><b>Publicity for the Light Show</b></p> <p>LinC asked why local residents didn't receive notification of the light show held on the Monday prior to opening?</p> <p>LS stated that No publicity was planned as this was wholly a private event. He said to have advertised a light show would have brought a huge volume of traffic to North and South Queensferry affecting the infrastructure on both sides of the bridge - similar to the traffic volumes experienced when the Queen Elizabeth ship was starting sea trials.</p>	Noted
<b>5.10</b>	<p><b>Leaflets about using the bridges for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians?</b></p>	EDT

	<p>LinC asked when these leaflets would be available.</p> <p>LS confirmed that The Road Users Guide would be published prior to the Queensferry Crossing becoming part of the M90 in October – once the tie-in works have been completed on the Forth Road Bridge and to issue it too early would cause confusion.</p>	
<b>5.11</b>	<p><b>Amey Contact Details</b></p> <p>LinC asked who would be the contact at Amey for on-going issues.</p> <p>LS confirmed that final edits were currently being undertaken to the Engaging with Communities booklet and this would be published once the tie-in works have been completed on the Forth Road Bridge.</p> <p>CW said that he was contactable at Amey should anyone wish to raise an issue.</p>	Noted
<b>5.12</b>	<p><b>Reinstalling the Ferrytoll / Admiralty Marker</b></p> <p>LinC asked if the Marker was going to be replaced at Ferrytoll?</p> <p>LS said that Fife Council were now the owners of the markers and there are no plans that we are aware of for re-instatement. If the Community Council would like the markers re-instated then they would need to Fife Council.</p>	Noted
<b>5.13</b>	<p><b>Cycle Lanes on the Road Bridge?</b></p> <p>LinC asked if Amey could assure cyclists that one cycle lane will be kept open on the Road Bridge?</p> <p>CW confirmed that cyclists will continue to use the existing cycle / pedestrian walkway as directed by Amey.</p>	Noted
<b>5.14</b>	<p><b>Traffic Lights at Ferry Toll</b></p> <p>LinC asked if EDT were aware that the traffic lights at Ferry toll are still causing concern as they spend a lot of time allowing non-existent</p>	FCBC

	<p>buses to exit.</p> <p>LS confirmed that EDT were aware there are currently faults at this junction and are working with the contractor for rectification.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<p><b>Community Notice Boards</b></p> <p>LS asked whether the Notice Boards which are being used for Community Forum issues should be handed over to Transport Scotland or the community/local authorities or whether FCBC should just remove them.</p> <p>The consensus was that the Notice Boards should be retained.</p> <p>FCBC agreed to provide EDT with the number and location of each Notice Board on both sides of the Project.</p>	FCBC
<b>7</b>	<b>Next Community Forum</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	Community Forum – <b>Wednesday 30 November 2017</b>	Noted