



Forth Replacement Crossing Community Forum Minutes

Meeting Location: FRC Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry

Meeting Date/Time: 31 May 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

Ewen Macdonell - FCBC Community Liaison

Katrina Bruce - FCBC Community Liaison

Community Representatives

Wayne Morris - Inverkeithing Community Council

Lin Collis - North Queensferry Community Council

Grant Sangster - QDCC

Bert Scott - Cramond & Barnton Community Council

Tim Beesley – Newton Community Council

Rupert Gore – Newton Community Council

Doug Tait – BRIGS

Les Chapman – BRIGS

Peter Fitzgerald - BRIGS

David Buchanan – Kirkliston Community Council

Bill King - Rosyth Community Council

David Sinclair – City of Edinburgh 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
1	Welcome and introductions	
1.1	<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"> • Toilets are located on the ground floor in reception area. • No smoking policy in and around the entrance to the building. • No fire alarms planned for this evening. • 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). 	
2	Review of Minutes from Previous Forum – 22 February 2017	
2.1	<p>LS confirmed that the draft minutes had been circulated to members and no comments were received.</p> <p>BK asked that the February minutes be amended to reflect that he represents the Community Council of Rosyth.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and posted on the Transport Scotland website.</p>	Noted
2.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 22 February 2017	Noted
	<p>LS stated that there were a number of actions outstanding from the Community Forum of 22 February 2017:</p>	

	<p>Item 5.1 – Responsibilities and Boundaries</p> <p>LS stated that the publishing of the Engaging with Communities booklet continues to be on-going until nearer the opening to traffic date and the subsequent transfer of responsibilities to Amey.</p> <p>Item 5.2 – Landscape Commitments – B924 SP Works</p> <p>EM confirmed that if the landscaping was for FCBC then they would do it before the end of the contract.</p> <p>DS confirmed that if the responsibility lay with City of Edinburgh Council then they would tidy up the relevant area.</p> <p>Item 5.5 – Metal Posts at Dundas Golf Course Entrance – B800</p> <p>EM confirmed that the works in the area were now complete.</p> <p>DT confirmed that as there was now a ‘Road Narrows’ sign in place this was a lot better than before.</p> <p>Item 5.7 – Dirt on Road</p> <p>EM confirmed that Police Scotland was aware of the FRC works and they made no comment regarding the condition of the road.</p> <p>Les C stated that there was still dirt on the road.</p> <p>Item 5.8 – CEC Strip Lighting</p> <p>RK stated this had again been raised with Amey and he would pursue.</p> <p>Item 5.10 – Sunday Working</p> <p>EM confirmed that the matter of Sunday working had been closed out and that FCBC had tidied up the polythene sheeting from the site.</p> <p>Item 5:11 – Future of Forum Meeting</p> <p>LS confirmed that the transition arrangements were still in place even though the opening to traffic date had been moved.</p>	
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3	Update from Employer's Delivery Team	
3.1	<p data-bbox="320 230 799 264">Queensferry Crossing Opening</p> <p data-bbox="320 309 1286 521">LS stated that there had been some movement on the opening to traffic date and on 27 March 2017, FCBC advised that a May 2017 opening date was no longer achievable. FCBC cited delay and disruption caused by the weather – in particular wind, beyond that which was foreseen by them in June 2016 as the primary source of this delay.</p> <p data-bbox="320 555 1286 696">LS said that FCBC forecast that opening to traffic will be achieved between mid-July and the end of August depending on weather conditions and that FCBC is making every effort to open at the earliest opportunity that it is safe to do so.</p> <p data-bbox="320 730 1286 909">LS stated that The Cabinet Secretary Mr Keith Brown provided the Rural, Economy and Connectivity Committee with a full update on 29 March 2017 and all of the Committee Members agreed that the safety and quality of the construction works should be the guiding principles in determining the programme to completion.</p>	Noted
3.2	<p data-bbox="320 936 1098 1014">Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee Appearance:</p> <p data-bbox="320 1048 1278 1160">LS reported that he and David Climie appeared in front of the Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee on Wednesday 8th March 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="320 1193 1278 1335">LS also reported that there had been an additional appearance on Wednesday 29th March 2017 with Keith Brown MSP, Michael Martin and Sally Cox from FCBC to discuss the Forth Replacement Crossing opening to traffic date.</p> <p data-bbox="320 1368 1278 1509">LS said that the EDT wrote to all Forum members giving notice that the next meeting with the Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee was to be on the morning of the Forum on 31st May 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="320 1543 1278 1722">LS said that Keith Brown updated the Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee earlier that day (31st May 2017) on the progress towards the opening to traffic date of the Queensferry Crossing and that this would now be between mid-July and the end of August 2017.</p>	Noted

	A full transcript of the Committee hearing is at - http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10992	
3.3	<p>FRC - Annual Briefing Sessions</p> <p>LS reported that it had been the intention of the EDT to hold public briefings to inform the public and stakeholders about the FRC Project but these had been set aside given the change to the opening to traffic date.</p> <p>LS said that the EDT will notify Forum members when these public briefings are likely to take place in order that Community Forum members can publicise these briefings around their mailing lists.</p>	Noted
3.4	<p>Forth Bridges Forum</p> <p>LS said that the latest public meeting of the Forth Bridges Forum was held on Tuesday 25th April 2017 and that this had been well attended with around 70 participants.</p> <p>LS thanked Community Forum members for circulating details of the public meeting to members.</p> <p>LS said that a number of Presentations were held and been apparently well received.</p> <p>Les C confirmed that the session and presentations had been well received and that members of the public were looking forward to the hard copies of the Road Users Guide being made available in order that they can see for themselves what is planned and how the road network will operate.</p>	Noted
3.5	<p>Community Forum Site Visit</p> <p>LS said that Forum Members will still have the opportunity for a site visit in 2017 and that the EDT will investigate options for visits and write to members with proposals in due course.</p>	Noted
3.6	<p>Queensferry Crossing Opening Celebrations Committee</p> <p>LS reported that we are currently finalising arrangements for the opening events for the Queensferry Crossing, considering all requests and looking at the full range of options in order to satisfy the significant interest that has been received already.</p>	Noted

	<p>LS explained that, as the Crossing is now expected to open to traffic between mid-July and the end of August 2017, we anticipate that further information will be available with regard to the opening celebrations and public access events in the coming weeks.</p> <p>LS continued by stating that the opening events are coordinated by a multi-agency group including: Transport Scotland, Jacobs Arup Joint Venture (Transport Scotland's advisors), Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors, Fife Council, City of Edinburgh Council, West Lothian Council, North Queensferry Community Council, Queensferry District Community Council, Event Scotland/Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government. As well as the event group there is a multi-agency communications group who are coordinating all communications around the events. Event delivery will involve professional external expertise where required.</p> <p>LS explained that, with regard to the opening to traffic, the timing for this will depend on operational requirements.</p> <p>LS concluded by saying that comprehensive plans for opening events will be in place and will be activated as soon as the date for opening the bridge to traffic is announced.</p>	
3.7	<p>Beamer Rock Tower</p> <p>LS reported that the EDT wrote to Fife Council on 24 May and asked them to confirm that certain criteria regarding the removal and relocation of Beamer Rock Tower to a location in Fife were acceptable to Fife Council and North Queensferry Heritage Trust.</p> <p>LS said that subject to these conditions being acceptable, FRC will organise the delivery of the Beamer Rock Lighthouse to a Fife Council Depot when identified.</p> <p>Discussions are clearly still on-going with interested parties but seem to be moving towards a conclusion.</p>	Noted
3.8	<p>Removal of 3 Metre High Temporary Fence – North End of Echline Field at Clufflats.</p> <p>EM updated the Forum regarding progress towards removal of the fence stating that the fence would be coming down shortly.</p> <p>LS said that the work commenced on Monday 28th May 2017 and is</p>	Noted

	<p>due to be completed in July 2017. The removal of the fence was always intended towards the end of the FRC Project and it will probably commence in June.</p> <p>Les C confirmed that sections were already starting to come down.</p>	
3.9	<p>Footpath at Society Road</p> <p>LS reported that these works are as a result of a request by the community to extend the new footpath on Society Road to the Linn Mill junction.</p>	Noted
3.10	<p>Footpath at Springfield Road / Clufflats</p> <p>LS reported that this remains on-going and the latest position is that the EDT wrote to Keith Giblett QDCC on 17 May stating;</p> <p>“Our understanding of the Forth Crossing Act is that the section of path within Echline field is completely in our FRC gift. However, the connection to the footpath going through Clufflat is not on our land or land controlled by us and therefore we do not have permission to build the missing 10 metres of connection. We need permission from a legislative viewpoint and the adjacent land owners/ occupiers/ neighbouring community in order to progress.</p> <p>We also confirmed that it would not be the QDCC who is delivering it but it is them who are requesting the facility”</p> <p>LS stated that permission to commence work had been received from QDCC for the works to be done during the FRC Contract period.</p> <p>DS said 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>	DS
3.11	<p>Contact and Education Centre Update</p> <p>RK updated the Forum on activities at the CEC;</p> <p>Schools Programme – on-going. In 2016 the CEC received in excess of 5,000 pupils as part of the Schools Education</p>	Noted

	<p>Programme. This brought the total number of pupils attending to 21,515 since August 2013.</p> <p>Project Exhibition – on-going. In 2016 the CEC received 5,634 visitors to the Project Exhibition. This brought the total number of visitors attending to over 21,500 since August 2013.</p> <p>FRC Presentation Series – on-going. Since 2014 - nearly 4,400 people have attended a Presentation Series event.</p> <p>Overall the Outreach and Education Programme has now attracted over 72,000 individuals across all activities.</p>	
3.12	<p>Social Media</p> <p>RK reported that over 283,000 people have watched project videos on the Queensferry Crossing YouTube channel, and that the Official Queensferry Crossing twitter account @FRC_Queensferry now has a total of 5,773 followers, an increase of more than 300 since the last update.</p>	Noted
3.13	<p>Compensation Claims</p> <p>LS reported that there has been no change to the number of claims received since the last meeting.</p> <p>LS stated that as previously noted, to date, we have received 136 claims from the 316 owners / General Vesting Declaration's carried out in April and June 2011 and that of these;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 claims settled in full (no increase since the last meeting). • 27 claimants received 90% part payments (no change from previous Forum). • The part payments are as a result of advance payment requests from the claimants. 	Noted

4	Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (Principal Contract)	
4.1	<p>EM provided a slide presentation to Forum members including photos of work currently on-going, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southbound Public Transport Link – all but complete. By August the area will be tidied and seeded. • Northbound Public Transport Link – traffic lights are currently bagged and will be switched on after opening of the Queensferry Crossing. • M9 Spur – all but complete. • A90 – Emergency Links and barriers are in place. • SUDS Ponds – completed. • Queensferry Junction – roads completed. • Cycle Paths – works on-going towards completion. • South Approach Viaduct – Expansion Joint in place and Blacktop has started to be laid on the deck. Access track being finalised and the footpath has started. Abutment offices are being fitted out. • Cranes – all removed and concrete patches required to fill the spaces in the deck left by the cranes are being filled. • Main Crossing Deck – finishing works on the cables is on-going. Tension Rings and Dampers are being fitted to all cables. • Main Crossing Under Deck – Electrical and Plumbing works on-going towards completion. Emergency Exits from the deck are almost complete. • Main Deck Waterproofing – This is weather dependent and on-going towards completion. • Windshielding – on-going installation towards completion. • A90 South Approach Slip Road – works continuing to prepare 	Noted

	<p>the southbound bus lane from Ferrytoll Park and Ride towards the A90 Forth Road Bridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency Access Link Roads – connections have been incorporated both to the north and south of the bridge to form ‘emergency links’. These are both currently being used. In the future, if deemed appropriate by the operating company/emergency services, they could be used to divert traffic back across the Forth Road Bridge in the event of the Queensferry Crossing closing for any reason.• A90 North - The A90 carriageways are currently using the north emergency links which will remain as a permanent feature. The A90 carriageways will shortly be diverted to run along the new southbound carriageway to allow removal of the temporary bridge and complete the northbound carriageway.• King Malcolm Drive/Castlandhill Road Junction – works are largely complete.• Ferrytoll Gyratory – works on-going to the southbound slip road from Ferrytoll to the Forth Road Bridge/Queensferry Crossing. Retaining wall construction now complete.• Ferrytoll Park and Ride – bus turning circle sub-base work now complete.• Castlandhill Road – planting now complete. <p>EM also stated that information is posted on the FRC section of the Transport Scotland website as part of the ‘Weekly Traffic Management Update’ updated at the end of each week: http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/information-road-users.</p> <p>Email alerts relating to the works at Ferrytoll are being issued for those who sign up for them at www.frc-ferrytoll.info.</p>	
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5	Community issues	
5.1	<p>M90 Signage at Queensferry Gyratory.</p> <p>Les C reported that a sign which is currently un-bagged is directing motorists towards the Queensferry Crossing - a route that is as yet unavailable. EM agreed to investigate.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note – The signs are behind the cones on the road and nobody would follow these signs onto the site. No issue. In addition, bagging these signs has a detrimental effect on the signs.</p>	Noted
5.2	<p>Echline Roundabout from Ferrymuir – Road Markings</p> <p>Les C reported that travelling west through Echline Roundabout from Ferrymuir, many residents expressed the view that three lanes going into the roundabout all pointing forward was dangerous. It was suggested that the bus lane be closed completely and anything else that can be done to make it better/safer.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note – This junction requires to be carefully negotiated in its current configuration. FCBC does not believe it is unsafe. It will remain as-is until the Forth Road Bridge becomes a public transport corridor.</p>	Noted
5.3	<p>Ferrymuir Roundabout.</p> <p>Les C reported that the painted road markings at Tesco roundabout are fading already.</p> <p>EM stated that this would be rectified in due course.</p>	Noted
5.4	<p>Noise – M9 Junction 1a</p> <p>Les C said that the grass in Echline Field is high and asked for it to be cut asap.</p> <p>EM stated that this would be rectified in due course.</p>	Noted
5.5	<p>Society Road – Weeds on Footpath</p> <p>Les C stated that there are weeds on Society Road – on the new footpath and could these be cleared please.</p>	Noted

	Post Meeting Note – This is not the responsibility of FCBC as responsibility for Society Road was passed to City of Edinburgh Council some years ago.	
5.6	<p>Queensferry Gyratory weeds in block work and planted area.</p> <p>Les C stated that there are weeds coming through the block work and planted area at the Queensferry Gyratory and could these please be cleared.</p> <p>EM stated that this would be dealt with within the FCBC 5 year maintenance period.</p>	Noted
6	Any Other Business	
6.1	No other business was raised.	Noted
7	Next Community Forum	
7.1	<p>Community Forum – Wednesday 30 August 2017</p> <p>Post Meeting Note – As the next meeting is due to take place on 30 August 2017, the same date as the opening to traffic, it was considered sensible to move the Date of Next Meeting to 13 September 2017.</p>	Noted