



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

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

**Meeting Date/Time:** 30 November 2016 – 7 pm

**Participants:** **Transport Scotland – Employers Delivery Team**

**Lawrence Shackman** - FRC Project Manager

**Alan Shirley** - Head of Policy, Governance and Stakeholder Liaison

**Raymond Kirk** - Governance and Stakeholder Liaison Outreach and Education - Secretariat

### **Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors**

**Ewen Macdonell** - FCBC Community Liaison

**Katrina Bruce** - FCBC Community Liaison

### **Community Representatives**

**Wayne Morris** - Inverkeithing Community Council

**Bill King** - Inverkeithing Community Council

**Grant Sangster** - QDCC

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

**Keith Giblett** – QDCC

**Tim Beesley** – Newton Community Council

**Doug Ross** – BRIGS

**Peter Selbie** – North Queensferry Community Council

**Doug Tait** – BRIGS

**Peter Fitzgerald** – BRIGS

**Apologies****Lin Collis** - North Queensferry Community Council**Les Chapman** - BRIGS**David Buchanan** – Kirkliston Community Council**Chris Waite** - AMEY

		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 said that this was the first joint meeting of the Forum's and it was encouraging to see all North and South Forum members represented.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of Minutes from previous Forums</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>North Community Forum – 24 August 2016</b></p> <p>Draft minutes were circulated to members.</p> <p>LS confirmed that no comments were received and the draft minutes will now be classed as agreed and posted as 'final' on the Transport Scotland website.</p>	Noted
<b>2.2</b>	<p><b>Outstanding Actions from the Minutes of 24 August 2016</b></p> <p>There were no actions from the meeting of 24 August 2016.</p>	Noted

2.3	<p><b>South Community Forum – 31 August 2016</b></p> <p>Draft minutes were circulated to members.</p> <p>LS confirmed that no comments were received and the draft minutes will now be classed as agreed and posted as ‘final’ on the Transport Scotland website.</p>	Noted
2.4	<p><b>Outstanding Actions from the Minutes of 31 August 2016</b></p> <p><b>LS confirmed that there were 4 actions outstanding from the South Community Forum of 31 August 2016.</b></p> <p><b><u>SCF250516 – item 2.1 – Grit Bin at Echline Corner</u></b></p> <p>Following the last South Community Forum, the Issue was passed to Dave Sinclair at City of Edinburgh Council for disposal.</p> <p><b><u>SCF250516 – item 2.1 – Annual Traffic Monitoring Report</u></b></p> <p>LS confirmed that following the last South Community Forum a condensed Report was requested detailing the counters and showing comparisons of traffic routing between M9 J1A and the A904. This was placed on the Transport Scotland website with the link being provided to Doug Tait and Les Chapman.</p> <p><b><u>SCF250516 – item 5.1 – Traffic Lights Westbound from Scotstoun</u></b></p> <p>LS reported that following the August South Community Forum, FCBC confirmed that there were no plans for implementing the westbound traffic diversion to Queensferry Junction and the traffic lights at this stage.</p> <p><b><u>SCF250516 – item 5.13 - Weed Growth – Mono-blocking bordering the Pavement and Carriageway</u></b></p> <p>Following the August South Community Forum, FCBC confirmed that this would be treated prior to the completion of the FRC Project.</p> <p>KG asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the area once the Queensferry Crossing was open? LS confirmed that responsibility for the</p>	Noted

	<p>gyratory would be passed to City of Edinburgh Council. However, the slip roads would become the responsibility of Transport Scotland and the maintenance of the landscaping of the whole junction area would remain with FCBC for the 5 year defects liability period to include trees, tree-guards and replacement of any dead trees.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Update from Employer's Delivery Team</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Queensferry Crossing Opening</b></p> <p>The FRC Project remains on schedule to open in May 2017.</p>	Noted
<b>3.2</b>	<p><b>Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee Appearance:</b></p> <p>LS reported that he and David Climie appeared in front of the Committee on <b>7 September 2016</b>. The main items discussed were;</p> <p><b>Programme</b> – on target for opening in May 2017.</p> <p><b>Workforce - Site</b> workforce averaged 1,196 in the past 12 months, with a peak of more than 1,300 in the spring.</p> <p><b>Progress</b> – update on site progress since June appearance.</p> <p><b>FRC Budget</b> – Information detailing complete FRC expenditure provided.</p> <p>LS concluded by saying that the Official Report of proceedings is available at <a href="http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10507">http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10507</a> and that the next appearance in front of REC Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016.</p>	Noted
<b>3.3</b>	<p><b>Rural, Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee Site Visit</b></p> <p>LS reported that 15 members of the Committee visited the site on 31 October 2016, and visited the North Approach Viaduct and walked to the North Tower fan. Members reported an enjoyable visit and commented on the sheer scale of the project and, seeing it so close at hand, put a lot of things into perspective for them.</p>	Noted

3.4	<p><b>Queensferry Crossing Deck Sections</b></p> <p>LS reported that 107 out of 110 deck units had now been lifted on the Queensferry Crossing and this leaves 3 smaller sections close to pier S2 to be lifted to complete the bridge deck.</p> <p>LS stated that earlier this month, the remaining piece of deck between the north and centre tower deck spans was lifted. This meant that the deck on the new bridge now stretches from Fife right across to the end of the South Tower fan.</p> <p>The closure of the north and centre deck fans was the third of four principal closures required to complete the structure. Pictures and a video have been released on the Projects' YouTube Channel showing the tight margins within which engineers have to work to safely and successfully complete the lift.</p>	Noted
3.5	<p><b>Queensferry Crossing - Another World Record</b></p> <p>EM reported that last month the Queensferry Crossing set a new World Record as the centre tower deck was recognised by the Guinness World Records as being the largest freestanding balanced cantilever in the world.</p> <p>EM said, however, that the balanced cantilever disappeared when the small gaps between the towers were closed - but the record is still there to be beaten.</p> <p>LS confirmed that the Queensferry Crossing will still be the tallest bridge in the UK <b>and</b> longest bridge of its type anywhere in the world.</p>	Noted
3.6	<p><b>Community Forum Site Visit</b></p> <p>LS reported that Community Forum members attended the annual Community Forum site visits on 17 &amp; 19 September.</p> <p>LS said that a request for a follow-up site visit from one or two Forum members who were unable to attend is being arranged with Ewen from FCBC and that future visits for Forum members may be arranged in 2017 depending on on-site activities etc.</p>	Noted

3.7	<p><b>Repair of Defects at M9 Junction 1A</b></p> <p>LS informed the Forum that since the last meeting there has been activity at M9 Junction 1a and that the original contractor SRB had repaired an unforeseen defect - as required by the original contract.</p> <p>LS said that these works took place at night as the works required the M9 to be reduced in width and therefore the only time this could be done was during a nightshift to minimise the impact on the travelling public.</p> <p>There was no additional cost to the Scottish Government and all works were completed on 11 November 2016.</p>	Noted
3.8	<p><b>Queensferry Crossing Opening Celebrations</b></p> <p>AS reported that scoping work regarding possible opening events had been undertaken, the Opening Celebration Organising Committee had met to discuss these and an announcement would be made in the new year once the scope had been further defined.</p> <p>AS continued by saying that health and safety concerns, traffic management issues and the scale of the event would mean that capacity for the event would have to be restricted through a registration process.</p> <p>AS concluded that it was likely however that the opening celebrations would consist of a workforce, family / friends and stakeholders day, followed by public events and a later official Opening Ceremony but that no official dates had yet been agreed.</p>	Noted
3.9	<p><b>Contact and Education Centre (CEC) Update</b></p> <p>RK updated the Forum on activities that have been happening at the Contact and Education Centre;</p> <p><b>Schools Programme</b> – is still on-going for school year 2016/2017 and that so far there have been just under 5,000 pupils attending the CEC as part of 2016-17 academic year and that over 18,000 school pupils have visited the Project.</p>	AS

	<p>RK continued by stating that up to bridge opening time in May 2017, that Transport Scotland are on target to have well over 20,000 school pupils attend the CEC as part of the FRC Education Programme since August 2013.</p> <p><b>Project Exhibition</b> – since the last Forum, over <b>2250</b> members of the public have visited the Exhibition. This includes a Transport Scotland Family Day that attracted over <b>500</b> members of the public. This means that since January 2013 the Project Exhibition has had over 20,500 visitors.</p> <p><b>FRC Presentation Series</b> - continues to prove successful during 2016 and that the final presentations in the 2016 series took place on 25 and 26 November. Since 2014 over 3,750 people have attended Presentation Series events.</p> <p><b>Outreach and Education Programme</b> - presentations delivered as part of the wider outreach and education programme have now been attended by about 30,750 people interested in hearing more about the FRC Project.</p> <p>Overall the <b>Outreach and Education Programme has now attracted over 68,000 individuals across all activities.</b></p> <p>KG said that the footfall numbers for the Contact and Education Centre were impressive but raised a point in relation to the Forth Bridges Forum (FBF) regarding the Public Forum being held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016. He asked why, when schools were having concerts and nativities etc were the FBF holding a public meeting and, why were Forum Committees only given a weeks' notice to advertise the event through their networks?</p> <p>PS also advised that meetings arranged also clashed with other Community Council meetings and could there not be a more co-ordinated approach?</p> <p>DT also requested that presentations at the FBF public meetings are delivered by a person properly qualified to deliver the presentation and answer appropriate questions with appropriate authority.</p> <p>AS said that Transport Scotland would raise the matter with AMEY.</p>	
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3.10	<p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>RK reported that over 236,400 people have watched project videos on the Queensferry Crossing <b>YouTube channel</b>, with subscribers up to 658 and that the Official Queensferry Crossing <b>twitter</b> account <b>@FRC_Queensferry</b> now has a total of 4,346 followers, an increase of more than 1000 since the last update</p>	Noted
3.11	<p><b>Compensation Claims</b></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 <b>136</b> 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"> <li>• <b>40</b> claims have been settled in full (no increase since the last meeting)</li> <li>• <b>27</b> claimants received 90% part payments (No change from previous Forum).</li> <li>• The part payments are as a result of advance payment requests from the claimants.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (Principal Contract)</b></p>	
4.1	<p>EM provided a slide presentation to Forum members including photos of work currently on-going, from south to north, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scotstoun</b> – southbound and northbound public transport links are progressing, work on the bus stops at Dalmeny will progress soon.</li> <li>• <b>B800</b> – works on the B800 northbound carriageway are also progressing.</li> <li>• <b>Ferrymuir</b> – EM reported that there had been a lot of unforeseen problems relating to the works in this area – particularly around unforeseen utilities, the road tie-in's, land ownership, blacktop and installation of traffic lights. He said that</li> </ul>	Noted



	<p>specialist resources were required for the latter which meant that they could not be installed prior to new year and apologised for the amount of time taken in general for the works. He said that FCBC were looking to get the traffic management (TM) off by Christmas but that limited TM would be required in the new year to complete the works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noise Barriers</b> – the majority of these are now constructed and will help protect residents from noise. The barriers north of the Queensferry Junction will tie-in with the windshielding on the Queensferry Crossing.</li> <li>• <b>Cycle Path/footway to/from A904 via south abutment</b> - work is to recommence in the new year.</li> </ul> <p>PF asked it to be noted that there was noise coming from earthmovers in the area around Queensferry Junction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approach Viaduct South</b> – Formwork for the cantilevers is now in place. There will be a requirement to jack-pull 10,000 tons of deck to slide the final deck positions into place.</li> <li>• <b>Final Deck Section Lifts – Central Fan to North Fan</b> – final deck sections are currently being welded on the north fan. This is one of the final stages towards completion. After the deck has been jacked along its length it is pulled into position, welded and concrete stitched.</li> <li>• <b>Approach Viaduct North</b> – concrete works are now complete.</li> <li>• <b>Northbound Emergency Link</b> - works on-going. This emergency link will help to facilitate a connection over the Forth via the Forth Road Bridge if the Queensferry Crossing or its approach roads are closed for any reason. It is due to open for northbound traffic before Christmas with the southbound following in the new year.</li> <li>• <b>King Malcolm Drive/Castlandhill Road Junction</b> – works are largely complete.</li> <li>• <b>Ferrytoll Gyratory</b> – traffic for M90 North is still being diverted up Castlandhill Road and using a temporary link to the M90 –</li> </ul>	
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	<p>the new slip road from Ferrytoll Gyratory will be completed shortly. Works are continuing on the carriageway around the junction and at Ferrytoll Park and Ride.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>M90/A90 North of the Forth</b> – will remain at 40 mph as there are still narrow lanes in the area. Traffic switches will be required to allow for the construction of the new southbound carriageway.</li></ul> <p>WM commented that works within the Ferrytoll area were causing some congestion and this was affecting bus times etc. With regard to the southbound slip road connection onto the motorway from Ferrytoll, EM stated that the slip road and southbound Public Transport link would split shortly after the gyratory with 2 lanes on each.</p> <p>KG said that although the crossing is due to open in May 2017 what would be happening about roadworks?</p> <p>EM stated that works were being prioritised by FCBC on the critical path to ensure that the Queensferry Crossing opens in May 2017 and as such resources are being directed accordingly.</p> <p>DT said that the diversion of resources was not new as this had also been apparent at Echline corner with the installation of the traffic lights. TB stated that was also the case for works at Newton – although those work had been undertaken by West Lothian Council on behalf of the Project.</p> <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: <a href="http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/information-road-users">http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/information-road-users</a>. Email alerts relating to the works at Ferrytoll are being issued for those who sign up for them at <a href="http://www.frc-ferrytoll.info">www.frc-ferrytoll.info</a>. The current phasing can also be viewed here.</p>	
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5	Community issues	
5.1	<p><b>Ferrymuir Road Works</b> – Protracted on-going works and road closures.</p> <p>KG said that most of the issues had already been covered earlier in the meeting but whilst understanding the challenges, asked EM to elaborate on the issue relating to ownership of land at Ferrymuir and asked if FCBC recognised the significant impacts that the works were having on local businesses and Tesco customers?</p> <p>Also, QDCC were constantly being advised of slipping timetables, stop/start on the works, lots of mud and chips on the road and requested that the works on the B800 be completed now rather than the workforce being diverted to other jobs.</p> <p>EM stated that the reasons for delays had been covered elsewhere during the meeting but stated that the issue of ownership of some of the land had been a surprise to FCBC as well and this is just an example of the many complexities that have to be gone through to get works completed. EM reiterated that It was hoped to have works finished at Ferrymuir as soon as possible and again apologised for the time taken to complete this part of the works.</p>	Noted
5.2	<p><b>Northbound Bus Lane to B800</b></p> <p>KG asked if the Northbound Bus Lane (Northbound Public Transport Link) could be brought into use before the opening of Queensferry Crossing to assist with one particular bus route?</p> <p>LS said that the necessary Road Orders were not in place to allow the Northbound Public Transport Link to be used just now. Also, the traffic lights at the B800/ Northbound Public Transport Link junction are yet to be installed along with completion of the road itself.</p> <p>LS concluded by saying that once the Road Orders were in place, the Link would be opened along with all the other roads within the FRC Project.</p> <p>KG suggested that it would be good PR to have the Orders completed and an early opening would be welcomed by residents and bus companies who could adjust timetables accordingly. This would help to assist with traffic flow, alleviate pinch-points and if these were improved, potentially more people would use public</p>	AS

	<p>transport.</p> <p>AS suggested that Transport Scotland take the issue back for consideration and prepare a Post-Meeting Note for the Forum. This was agreed.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	No other business was raised.	Noted
<b>7</b>	<b>Next Community Forum</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	Community Forum – <b>Wednesday 22 February 2017</b>	Noted