

# Forth Replacement Crossing Community Forum Minutes

29 November 2017 – 7 pm

FRC Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry

Meeting Date/Time:

Meeting Location:

**Participants:** 

Transport Scotland – Employer's Delivery Team

Lawrence Shackman - FRC Project Manager

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

#### Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors

Katrina Bruce - FCBC Community Liaison Brian Walker – FCBC (part)

#### <u>Amey</u>

Chris Waite - Media and Communications Manager

## **City of Edinburgh Council**

**Dave Sinclair** 

## **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 Les Chapman - BRIGS Peter Fitzgerald - BRIGS David Buchanan – Kirkliston Community Council Doug Ross - Cramond & Barnton Community Council Tim Beasley - Newton Community Council

## Apologies

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

Keith Giblett – QDCC Bill King – Rosyth Community Council

		Action
1	Welcome and introductions	
	<ul><li>1.1 - Meeting Chaired by LS.</li><li>LS welcomed all to the Community Forum and reminded everyone</li></ul>	
	of the Health and Safety arrangements:	
	<ul> <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> </ul>	
	• 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).	
	<b>LS</b> also stated that this would be the final Community Forum in its current guise and following the Queensferry Crossing opening as a motorway at the end of January 2018, the responsibility for community engagement would transfer to the Forth Bridges Operating Company – FBOC.	
2	Review of Minutes from Previous Forum –13 September 2017	
	<b>2.1</b> - LS confirmed that the draft minutes had been circulated to members and no comments were received.	Noted
	The Minutes were agreed and after minor amendment would be posted on the Transport Scotland website.	

3	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 13 September 2017	Noted
	<b>LS</b> stated that there were a few matters outstanding from the Community Forum of 13 September 2017:	
	2.2 - Footpath at Springfield / Clufflats	CEC
	<b>LS</b> stated that the action from the September Forum was for Keith Giblett (QDCC) to discuss the matter with City of Edinburgh Council.	
	<b>DS</b> reported that the ownership of the area where the proposed footpath was planned had been established and that this had been conveyed to Keith Giblett.	
	<b>GS</b> provided some further background, stating that following QDCC's discussions with the 16 property owners in the area, the split was about 50-50 for a footpath and that the 'stronger' opinions of residents (around 4) were against the installation of the footpath but on balance, and taking into account the benefits to the wider community in South Queensferry, QDCC would not object to the footpath being established.	
	<b>DS</b> stated that in relation to the question of Planning Consent being required, City of Edinburgh Council were still considering if Planning Consent was required or not. He reported that QDCC had produced a 1 page leaflet for residents and following the Planning Permission discussions he was having, he would get back to QDCC to update them.	
	<b>DT</b> asked if the footpath was established, would there be lighting on it?	
	<b>LS</b> confirmed that the footpath would be Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant but that lighting may not necessarily be provided.	
	LesC said that the material for the footpath would have to be non- slip.	
	This was noted by <b>LS</b> .	

Item 3.1 - Queensferry Crossing Opening	Noted
<b>DT</b> asked if road safety audits had taken place on the Queensferry Crossing and connecting roads?	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that they had, with the final audit ensuring that the speed limit could be raised to 70mph.	
Item 5.2 – Bus Lanes Around A90	EDT
<b>LS</b> stated that at the September Forum, Keith Giblett asked if there was any reason why the bus lanes which were currently coned off in South Queensferry couldn't be opened to allow bus traffic the opportunity to use them as opposed to being stuck in traffic, predominantly on the A904?	
<b>LS</b> reported that every effort had been made to utilise the Forth Road Bridge and Public Transport Links at the earliest possible opportunity with scheduled buses starting to use Forth Road Bridge and southbound Public Transport Links from 13 October 2017.	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that the Road Orders were being prepared which will allow the roads to be opened to public transport and reported that reports from Stagecoach were encouraging with reported improvements on southbound journey times - but as yet, no real benefits northbound.	
<b>LinC</b> asked if all bus stops would be open on the north side of the Forth Road Bridge.	
LS confirmed that this would be the case.	
<b>GS</b> asked if the contractor could check the speed limit signage on the A90 as VMS was saying 40mph when it should be 50mph.	
LS confirmed that this would be checked.	
LinC asked if the B981 would be 40mph?	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that the 30mph speed limit had been agreed with Fife Council.	
<b>LesC</b> Reported that at the traffic lights on the old Echline Roundabout, even though they were not switched on, the white lines around the pedestrian crossing were no longer there and this	

LS – noted the concerns and stated that this would be reported	
back to the site team to monitor	
Item 5.3 - B800 – Dundas to Tesco	Noted
<b>LS</b> reported that at the September Forum, David Buchanan said that the area had been finished with 'edging' bricks and that these were 'stuffed' with weeds.	
<b>KB</b> – reported that the Monoblocks have been weed killed and FCBC are in the process of raking out and sanding all affected areas but this was weather dependent.	
Item 5.4 Traffic Accident Damage	Noted
LS said that at the September Forum, Keith Giblett had reported that as the result of a traffic accident, a lamppost had been knocked down and required replacing on the B800 north of the new overbridge and confirmed that if the lamppost was within the FRC site then it would be FCBC's responsibility to repair. If it wasn't then it would be CEC's responsibility.	
<b>KB</b> – reported that it was indeed within the land made available for the scheme and a new lighting column has been installed and that a related replacement marker post has been ordered and would be installed before Christmas.	
Item 5.5 Path – Bo'ness Road to Bund	Noted
<b>DT</b> asked in relation to the new path between the Bo'ness Road and the Bund (adjacent to the B924 at Echline Corner), which is currently fenced off, when would it open?	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that FCBC were using this path as an access route for bridge workers and that they would need to advise when it could be opened to the public and he believed that it would be well into 2018 before it would be available.	

5.6 Planting on the Bunds	Noted
<b>DT</b> had asked about planting and if the bunds would be seeded or weeded.	
<b>KB</b> confirmed that the bunds have been seeded and that there is an on-going landscaping maintenance regime which includes weeding.	
5.7 Planting of Crocus Bulbs	Noted
<b>DT</b> asked about the planting of additional crocus bulbs.	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that planting of crocus bulbs would be carried out to reinstate what was previously there and that this would be carried out during the coming planting season.	
<b>KB</b> said that additional bulb planting at Echline Corner and on the B981 has been carried out.	
5.8 Cleaning of Signage	Noted
<b>DT</b> had reported at the September Forum that around the road network, a number of signs required cleaning and the bushes and trees in front of the signs needed trimmed.	
<b>KB</b> reported that signage has been recently checked and cleared and that this will continue on an on-going basis.	
5.9 - Leaflets about using the bridges for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians?	Noted
<b>LS</b> reaffirmed that the Road 'Users Guide' would be published prior to the Queensferry Crossing becoming part of the M90 and that the Walking and Cycling guide would also be published at the same time.	
5.10 - Traffic Lights at Ferrytoll	Noted
LinC had previously asked if EDT were aware that the traffic lights at Ferrytoll are still causing concern as they spend a lot of time allowing non-existent buses to exit?	

	ated that an additional sensor had been installed at the bus nd that the traffic lights are now operating as designed.	
5.11 -	- Community Notice Boards	Note
being the lo	ked at the September Forum if the Notice Boards which are used for Community Forum issues could be handed over to cal community/local authorities for their use or whether FCBC d just remove them?	
comm	onsensus was that the Notice Boards should be retained for nunity use and FCBC agreed to provide EDT with the number ocation of each Notice Board on both sides of the project.	
autho perma with tl	ported that FCBC had been checking with the local rities to ensure they are content with the boards becoming anent – not yet all confirmed and so far, in principal, no issues he handover as long as it is agreed who is responsible for enance and removal in the future – Community Councils?	
Feed	back to date from local authorities:	
City o	of Edinburgh Council – Dave Sinclair	
•	Linn Mill (corner of Linn Mill and Society Road) - no issues with the location, on adopted verge.	
•	Echline Corner/B924 (adjacent to the bus stop) - no issues with location, on adopted verge, however this sign has been erected in a concrete drainage ring which needs to be removed. Done.	
•	Scotmid, South Queensferry - mounted on the building wall and the roads in this shopping area are not adopted - no LA interest.	
•	Tesco, South Queensferry (inside supermarket) - no LA interest.	
	Forth Road Bridge – west walkway – no LA interest.	
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	West Lothian Council – Graeme Malcolm	
	<ul> <li>Newton – no issues.</li> </ul>	
	Fife Council – Ian Jones	
	<ul> <li>North Queensferry Marina entrance (corner of Ferry Road &amp; road to Marina) – awaiting feedback.</li> <li>Inverkeithing Civic Centre (on wall outside) – awaiting feedback.</li> <li>Ferrytoll Park &amp; Ride (on wall outside) – awaiting feedback, however lan commented that if handed over to a Community Council there may be an issue with the bus companies.</li> </ul>	
	Noticeboards removed and no longer available:	
	<ul> <li>Ferrytoll Viaduct (roadside under the viaduct) - not a suitable location for Community use.</li> <li>B981 (roadside at Castlandhill Road lights) - not a suitable location for Community use.</li> <li>Echline Corner/B924 (adjacent to the bus stop) – removed as instructed by CEC.</li> </ul>	
3	Update from Employer's Delivery Team	
	3.1 - Queensferry Crossing – Progress	Noted
	LS reported that since the Forum last met on 13 September there had been further progress on the Queensferry Crossing project:	
	• 1st phase of reopening the Forth Road Bridge as a Public Transport Corridor for scheduled buses took place on 13 October 2017.	
	• Final mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) installation and ITS cabling and commissioning continuing inside the bridge deck and abutments.	
	• Shortening of the extents of the temporary traffic management (reduction in traffic management footprint) and an increase to a 50 mph speed limit over the Queensferry Crossing took place on 6 November 2017.	

TB asked what type of lighting would be on the Queensferry	
Crossing?	
<b>BW</b> explained that architectural lighting would be provided below and above road level (outer edge of deck and towers). The low height lighting at the ends of the bridge and the adjacent road lighting is classed as 'intelligent' lighting and FCBC were currently pre-commissioning an ILCS – Intelligent Lighting Control System. This should be operational early 2018. The system allows the lighting to be dimmed.	
3.2 - Queensferry Crossing – Snagging Works	Noted
<b>LS</b> reported that having closely monitored the new bridge since traffic started using it, the contractors had identified snagging works which require the lifting of the surfacing around the bridge expansion joints. He reported that the works will take up to 5 days to complete and are planned to run from 22:00 on Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November to 06:00 on Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 6th - <u>weather permitting.</u>	
<b>LS</b> continued by stating that the works will allow the bridge to achieve its next key milestone - operating at a 70 mph speed limit - as planned by December 2017 subject to weather conditions. He also stated that it is entirely normal for some snagging and finishing works to occur after a large infrastructure project opens, particularly on a project of this scale and complexity and that all works will be carried out under the terms of the existing contract at no additional cost to the public purse.	
3.3 - Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee Appearance:	Noted
<b>LS</b> reported that the latest meeting of the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee which took evidence from the Forth Replacement Crossing Project team took place earlier today – 29 November.	
<b>LS</b> reported that evidence was provided to the Committee by Lawrence Shackman, Michelle Rennie, Director of MTRIPS, Transport Scotland and Mark Arndt, Amey / Forth Bridges Operating Company and that the main focus was on the snagging works previously mentioned.	

A full transcript of the evidence will be available on the Scottish Parliament website - <u>http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=1</u> <u>1236</u>	
3.4 - Forth Bridges Forum	Noted
<b>LS</b> reported that the next Public Meeting of the Forth Bridges Forum which was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 has now been cancelled and an alternative date arranged in due course.	
3.5 - Future Use of the Forth Road Bridge - Control of Traffic on the Forth Road Bridge after Queensferry Crossing Opening	Noted
<b>LS</b> reported that the Traffic Regulation Orders are now published which designate the vehicles allowed to use the Forth Road Bridge when the Queensferry Crossing is opened to traffic. These orders have been subject to consultation with very little comment from stakeholders and the public.	
<b>LS</b> said that the slip roads to and from the Forth Road Bridge are clearly signed to show which classes of vehicle can utilise the bridge and failure to comply with these signs and Regulations would be considered a road traffic offence which would be dealt with by the Police. In addition to these road traffic signs, the project will be erecting ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras which will also be used to monitor the traffic using the FRB and the Public Transport links. Furthermore, any vehicle using the bridge has to also pass the Bridge Control Room so will be visible to Operating Company staff.	
<b>LS</b> continued by saying that the Forth Road Bridge is also covered by CCTV cameras at present and will continue to be in the future. In addition, there are also currently ANPR cameras on the Forth Road Bridge associated with the Weigh In Motion (WIM) equipment to allow policing of overweight vehicles.	
3.6 - Community Forum Site Visit	Noted
<b>LS</b> said Forum Members were offered the opportunity of participating in a walk over the Queensferry Crossing as part of the group visits on the afternoon of Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Septemer and as part of the local community day on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017. All agreed that both event has been very successful.	

3.7 - Footpath at Society Road	FCBC
LS reported that Doug Ross had written to the EDT stating the following:	
The pavement on Society Road has been repaired and improved much to the appreciation and satisfaction of Linn Mill Residents Association (LMRA) and they would like to convey their thanks. However, what has not been done is the re-surfacing of Society Road between the FCBC haul road crossover and the Linn Mill Junction on Society Road. At present, this is a mixture of different repairs complete with potholes and puddles. A (minuted) promise that this would be re-surfaced was made by Darren Wraight, City of Edinburgh several years ago - in 2015 or earlier.	
The resurfacing was to be carried out between the FCBC haul road crossover on Society Road and the Linn Mill junction on Society Road and could FCBC please confirm that this commitment will be honoured. There is no evidence of this happening at present.	
<b>LS</b> stated that these works were indeed to be undertaken and that FCBC were best placed to advise on timing of these remaining road surfacing/paving works. He understood that they were likely to be undertaken when FCBC completed their reinstatement works on and adjacent to Society Road.	
<b>BW</b> confirmed that FCBC would do what they were contractually obliged to do (during 2018).	
3.8 - Footpath at Springfield / Clufflats	Noted
<b>LS</b> reported that the works has been all but completed although extensive planting is still to be done along and adjacent to the path.	
3.9 - Contact and Education Centre (CEC) Update	Noted
<b>RK</b> confirmed that the current numbers were as follows:	
<b>Schools Programme</b> – this continues to be on-going – despite the slightly later start to the 2017/18 Schools Programme due to the opening celebrations, pupils numbers for the past 3 months totalled 1,428 pupils attending the CEC as part of 2017-18 academic year.	

	<b>Education Programme for 2017/18</b> - uptake from schools has been the same as in previous years and we are now almost fully booked until the end of the school session in June 2018.	
	<b>Presentation Series</b> has now closed for the winter break and we will be re-opening early next year.	
	<b>Project Exhibition</b> on each Saturday is also closed for the winter – again, re-opening in the new year.	
	3.10 – Compensation Claims	Noted
	LS reported that the latest figures were:	
	• 44 claims settled in full – (up 1 since September Forum)	
	<ul> <li>27 claimants received 90% part payments (No change from previous Forum).</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The part payments are as a result of advance payment requests from the claimants.</li> </ul>	
	3.11 - Social Media	Noted
	<b>RK</b> reported that project videos on the Queensferry Crossing <b>YouTube channel</b> have been viewed by over 348,000 people with subscribers up to 824 and that the Official Queensferry Crossing <b>twitter</b> account <b>@FRC_Queensferry</b> now has 9,938 followers - up from approximately 6000 since the September Forum update.	
4	Community issues	
	4.1 – Strip Light on the Contact and Education Centre	Noted
	<b>LinC</b> raised the point that the strip light on the Education and Contact Centre is on from around 4pm until about 8.30am each day and asked for the light to go back on its timer so as to be off in the middle of the night?	
	<b>RK</b> said that he had raised the issue and informed the Forum that the CEC is a 24 hour building and the light is for security reasons during the hours of darkness. The light allows those monitoring the CCTV to spot any unusual activities during the night.	

4.2 – Cyclist on the Forth Road Bridge	Noted
<b>LinC</b> raised the issue of pedestrians walking on the Forth Road Bridge being frightened by fast travelling cyclists, without bells, riding on the area reserved for pedestrians and that this occurs when the cycle lane is closed and cyclists are asked to dismount. LinC asked if some sort of barrier to ensure cyclists do dismount could be put up?	
<b>CW</b> replied stating that AMEY already have signs up instructing cyclists to dismount and it is not practical to erect additional barriers. However, he agreed to listen sympathetically to see if there is anything else AMEY can do.	
4.3 - Diverting Southbound Traffic onto the M90 at South Queensferry	Noted
LS stated that this had been responded to earlier in the meeting.	
4.4 - Measuring Operational Traffic Noise from the Queensferry Crossing.	Noted
<b>DT</b> asked about the removal of noise monitors from host monitor sites.	
<b>LS</b> responded saying that operational noise was predicted in the Environmental Statement which accompanied the parliamentary process which gave approval to the Forth Replacement Crossing project - <u>https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/forth-replacement-crossing-environmental-statement/</u> .	
<b>LS</b> continued by stating that operational noise for the scheme will be evaluated using a standard methodology agreed with the contractor and which is standard for the industry. As is standard practice on road schemes, this evaluation will be carried out prior to the first anniversary of opening to traffic (ie. end of August 2018) and will be published.	
<b>LS</b> concluded by saying that following the evaluation, those eligible properties who believe that they have been detrimentally affected will be able to make a claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973, from that date within a period of five years.	

4.5 – Code of Construction Practice - Procedures For Works To Be Carried Out On Sundays.	Noted
<b>DT</b> asked if it was still in the Code of Construction Practice for workers not to work on a Sunday without the permission of the EDT?	
LS confirmed that it was.	
<b>BW</b> said that if DT had information about contractors working a Sunday, he would be happy to investigate.	
 4.5 – Community Engagement Booklet	EDT
<b>LinC</b> asked when the Community Engagement Booklet would be issued?	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that the Community Engagement booklet would be issued at the same time as the Road Users Guide and the Walking and Cycling Guide – immediately prior to the crossing opening as a motorway.	
4.6 - Hump in Road on B981	FCBC
LinC asked when the hump in the road on the B891 would be sorted?	
<b>BW</b> confirmed that it was the intention to resolve this early in 2018.	
 4.7 – 'Planters' near Ferrytoll Park and ride	FCBC
<b>WM</b> asked if the 'planters' which were on the patches of grass leading north from Ferrytoll Junction will be replaced.	
LS confirmed that if the planters were to be replaced then these would be part of FCBC works.	
4.8 – Queensferry Crossing Memorabilia	Noted
<b>WM</b> asked if any Queensferry Crossing memorabilia was available.	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that there wasn't, however the official book of the construction of the Queensferry Crossing is now available for purchase.	

4.9 – A904 – Yellow Box on Queensferry Gyratory	Noted
<b>LesC</b> asked if consideration was being given to placing yellow box markings on the Queensferry Gyratory to regulate traffic and stop drivers blocking the entrance to the roundabout on the approach from Newton.	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that the EDT are aware of the issue and have stated that this will be looked at once the EDT have had an opportunity to see how the traffic flows once the motorway regulations have been in force for some time.	
4.10 – Number of Workers	Noted
<b>LesC</b> asked if the number of workers had been drastically cut as he hasn't seen as many as before.	
<b>BW</b> confirmed that as the project comes to a conclusion, there is a natural run down of staffing requirements.	
4.11 – Plant leaving Site pre 08:00	EDT
Les C reported that some plant was leaving site pre 08:00.	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that this would be raised with the contractor to remind them of their obligations under the CoCP.	
BW noted this.	
4.12 – Windshield Alignment	Noted
<b>LesC</b> asked about the alignment of the windshielding and if there were any plans to extend the windshielding?	
<b>LS</b> confirmed that there were no plans to move from the original design in relation to the positioning of the windshielding.	
4.13 – Approach to Dundas Castle	FCBC
<b>DT</b> asked if the EDT were aware of 'rippling' on the road towards Dundas Castle?	
BW confirmed that FCBC would investigate.	

5	Any Other Business	
	No Other Business was raised.	Noted
6	Next Community Forum	
	<ul> <li>LS confirmed that as the responsibility for Community Engagement was passing from the Forth Replacement Crossing - Employers Delivery Team to the Forth Bridges Forum, and that this Forum would likely be the final Forum in this guise. If any issues required to be addressed then the project team would still be available to respond.</li> <li>He thanked all Community Forum representatives – past and present for their contributions down the years.</li> </ul>	Noted