



Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 28

22 May 2018

Meeting Room, Forth Road Bridge Admin Block, South Queensferry

MINUTE

Attendees

Scott Lees (SL)	Transport Scotland
Michael Dineen (MD)	Transport Scotland
Miles Oglethorpe (MO)	Historic Environment Scotland
Rebecca Jones (RJ)	Historic Environment Scotland
Caroline Warburton (CW)	Visit Scotland
Craig Bowman (CB)	Network Rail
Ken Gourlay (KG)	Fife Council
Sandra Montador-Stewart (SMS)	Fife Council
Graeme Malcolm (GM)	West Lothian Council
Mark Arndt (MA)	Amey
Gillian Laurie (GL)	Amey (Secretariat)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. SL welcomed all attendees to Meeting 28 of the Forth Bridges Forum. Group members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Actions

- 2.1. Apologies received from: Hugh Gillies (HG) - Transport Scotland; David Dickson, Ben Edwards & Eddie Lebida - Network Rail; Campbell Docherty – BIG, Ewan Kennedy & Mirka Vybiralova - CEC; Alan Shirley, Lawrence Shackman & Mark Dunlop - Transport Scotland; Chris Waite & Ewan Angus - Amey
- 2.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 27 February 2018 were agreed and subsequently published.
- 2.3. Action points were reviewed and updated as follows:
Action 21.2 – Open action
Action 22.4 – Ongoing
Action 22.6 – Ongoing
Action 23.3 – Ongoing
Action 23.4 – Ongoing
Action 23.5 – Ongoing
Actions 23.6, 24.6, 25.3, 25.4 – Ongoing
Action 24.4 – On hold
Action 25.2 – Ongoing

Action 26.3 – Ongoing

Action 27.1 - Ongoing

3. Tourism Project Group Update – Update provided by SMS

- 3.1. Tourism Strategy. Document is ready to go and currently with designers. Final amendment of proposed (aspirational) visitor centre included with final design version on schedule to be ready for 18th June '18.
- 3.2. Project Manager for Tourism Strategy to develop and oversee strategy. Who would fill this role, who would appoint the individual and how would it be funded?

Action: HG to write to each council for council endorsement of Tourism Strategy

- 3.3. Signage Strategy was discussed at the Tourism meeting on 17th May 2018 with Keith Giblett stressing the importance of engaging with local communities. SMS advised Heritage Lottery Funding application for the project would have to demonstrate community involvement. Business interests must be represented, how is this done in South Queensferry with no Queensferry Ambition?
- 3.4. Improvements to SQ High Street, SMS asked if consultants can have sight of the strategy in strict confidence, SL agreed. MD asked the extent of the works and if signage strategy would require updating.
- 3.5. MO raised Keith Giblett's comments on the proposed Welcome Hub at the last WHMG meeting on 8th May 2018. He is concerned that consultation goes forward for development with no pre-engagement. Discussion with members over attendance of local community council members at Forum meetings. SL recognizes their frustration, they are part of forum subgroups and wishes to keep them fully involved. Communities were fully engaged with QC project and now these meetings have ended the intention was for Amey to engage the community. As full handover to Amey has not yet happened they have not started this engagement yet. Possible solution may be 2 tier type engagements: Public meetings (2 per year) and another meeting (2 per year) aimed at local residents and businesses for information on potential projects and project updates/progress.
- 3.6. Branding – MD gave an update. MD and GL have met with local businesses to gauge interest in merchandise. All were very keen and follow up meetings with physical products will be held. An offer was made to Craig Allerdyce for exclusive rights to website photo which has been agreed, granting The Forth Bridges Forum exclusive rights to the image.
- 3.7. Trademark – All finalised for Europe. USA progressing well with anticipated marks secured by late December 2018.
- 3.8. SL added that this is all new territory for Transport Scotland and further details are still being considered.

4. World Heritage Management Group Update

- 4.1. World Heritage event took place on 11^h April 2018 at Kelvingrove, Glasgow. MO thanked all for participating. RJ added all six World Heritage sites will be encouraged to hold their own events in 2019.
- 4.2. UNESCO plaque unveiling events in South and North Queensferry went well. Additional plaque in South Queensferry was suggested at last WHMG meeting at Hawes pier area.
- 4.3. MO speaking with Network Rail to ensure Management and Maintenance of the Forth Bridge continues to work through PMA which is reviewed each year.
- 4.4. The State of Conservation Report will be finalised by end of 2018
- 4.5. World Heritage Coordinator role would merge with an existing post, 3 days per week FB and 2 days per week other. Draft job description sent to Hugh Gilles.

ACTION: SL will ask HG to push Coordinator role forward.

- 4.6. 3D Forth Bridges Education project progressing well. 4 education models have been produced. First Minister saw this at her Shanghai visit.
- 4.7. Stall holder invitation for the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative received through FBF Enquiries and forwarded to forum members.

5. Forth Bridges Forum Update

- 5.1. Public meeting took place on 31st January 2018 and was well attended. Next meeting to be arranged. Late July potential date.
- 5.2. Events Planner – regularly updated. SMS asked if this can be on Forth Bridges Website with link to event organiser

ACTION: GL email community councils to confirm local community council meeting dates.

ACTION: GL Email forum members to determine availability in July.

ACTION: CW consider event planner link on Website.

6. Queensferry Crossing – Update by SL

- 6.1. Lawrence Shackman has moved to a new role but remains with ad hoc work on Queensferry Crossing. Snagging works continue on QC.
- 6.2. There will be an education campaign on the enforcement of transport corridor following continued use of unauthorised vehicles on FRB.
- 6.3. Special lighting requests on Queensferry crossing – Transport Scotland looking at this.

- 6.4. "Services" signage has been placed in part on approach to Queensferry Crossing for local businesses concerned with drop in visiting numbers. Full installation planned for the end of June 2018.
- 6.5. MA gave an update on Forth Road Bridge ongoing projects including main cable inspection, Truss End Link replacement and Demag replacement.
- 6.6. MD advised there are plans to install a 360o camera on FRB North Tower. SMS asked if this can be linked to Forth Bridges Website when activated.

7. Communications Group

- 7.1. Mark Dunlop will be more involved with the communications group. SL to speak with Campbell Docherty.
- 7.2. The website Quarterly report will be circulated to group members.

8. Network Rail – Provided by CB

- 8.1. Maintenance contract out to tender for next control period starting April 2020. Early on in contract period NQ approach plan works will have an impact on local community.
- 8.2. Lighting on Forth Bridge – Business Case put forward to change from Halogen to LED as there is a considerable cost involved.
- 8.3. Network Rail's charity partner Barnardos are in discussions about a charity event on Forth Bridge. 2 weekends planned on 8th & 9th Sep and 15th & 16th September 2018. CB has spoken with NQCC. Expecting approx. 300 people per day over 4 days at £50 per person. Launch date for event June 2018.
- 8.4. Forth Bridge Experience – No funding identified for control period 6 for FB Experience and so critical decisions need to be made. Network Rail continue to develop the business case for Transport Scotland but CB stressed the need for a commitment from Transport Scotland for alternative sources of funding. Questions around this being a Transport or Tourism Project, seems more likely to be Tourism.

ACTION: SL, HG and CB have meeting to discuss Forth Bridge Experience ASAP. Post meeting note. Productive discussion were had on 24th May 2018

ACTION: HG to push this forward

9. AOB

- 9.1. Contact and Education Centre will end its education programme in Sep 2018. SL would like to see this continuing.
- 9.2. CW advised Visit Scotland campaign launched April 2018 – "Scotland is Now"

- 10. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 28 August 2018 at 10.00am – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.