



Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 29

28 August 2018

Meeting Room 1.15, FRC contact and Education Centre, South Queensferry

MINUTE

Attendees

Hugh Gillies (HG)	Transport Scotland
Scott Lees (SL)	Transport Scotland
Michael Dineen (MD)	Transport Scotland
Miles Oglethorpe (MO)	Historic Environment Scotland
Rebecca Jones (RJ)	Historic Environment Scotland
Craig Bowman (CB)	Network Rail
Sandra Montador-Stewart (SMS)	Fife Council
Graeme Malcolm (GM)	West Lothian Council
John Russell (JR)	Amey
Gillian Laurie (GL)	Amey (Secretariat)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. HG welcomed all attendees to Meeting 29 of the Forth Bridges Forum.

2. Apologies, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Actions

- 2.1. Apologies received from: - Lawrence Shackman, Mark Dunlop, Alan Shirley Transport Scotland; David Dickson, Ben Edwards, Jamie McLaren & Eddie Lebida - Network Rail; Campbell Docherty – BIG, Ewan Kennedy & Mirka Vybiralova - CEC; Ken Gourlay – Fife Council, Chris Waite, Mark Arndt & Ewan Angus – Amey, Caroline Warburton – Visit Scotland
- 2.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 22 May 2018 were agreed with two amendments and subsequently published.
- 2.3. Action points were reviewed and updated as follows:
Action 21.2 – Open action
Action 22.4 – Ongoing
Action 23.4 – Ongoing
Action 24.4 – On hold
Action 28.1 – Ongoing
Action 28.3 – Ongoing
Action 28.4 - Ongoing

3. Tourism Project Group Update – Update provided by SMS

- 3.1. Tourism Strategy -The Tourism Project group met on 23rd August 2018 and a presentation of the Tourism Strategy was shared. Final version will be circulated soon. Strategy will go to Fife Council and City of Edinburgh Council committees for endorsement with no commitment to funding.
- 3.2. The Tourism Project Group remit was discussed during the last Tourism meeting and group agreed that to take the strategy forward it is not a role for the current group members.
- 3.3. HG reviewed The Forth Bridges Forum 5 point remit, highlighting point 2: *To maintain effective engagement with local communities on issues that may affect, impact or be of interest to them* and point 3: *To promote the location of the bridges spanning the Firth of Forth as a unique tourist destination*. The shape and form of the forum needs to be agreed and local council meetings to be considered. See item 5.3 below
- 3.4. HG advised a Chief Executive's oversight group will be required when the Tourism strategy is endorsed
- 3.5. Trademark Application – MD updated the group. U.S application to Trademark is continuing. Post meeting note. Feedback from the legal team highlighted the request from USA requesting we agree to a disclaimer which restricts the extent of coverage we are applying for. It's not extensive but is to be considered.
- 3.6. Merchandising – MD gave an update. Scotia Kilts currently selling stock and the Rail Bridge Bistro likes all items and is in discussions about costs.

4. World Heritage Management Group Update

- 4.1. Management Plan has been updated. Commitments will be incorporated into the State of Conservation Report. Monitoring system discussions with HES, Balfour Beatty and Network Rail ongoing.
- 4.2. Any developments with the Forth Bridge Experience to be presented to UNESCO early.
- 4.3. Final UNESCO plaques will be placed in specific areas soon.
- 4.4. World Heritage Coordinator role will be discussed with HG, MO and RJ following meeting.

5. Forth Bridges Forum Update

- 5.1. Public meeting took place on 31st July 2018 and was well attended with a good variety of speakers.
- 5.2. SL advised there was many questions on local matters such as congestion and parking which was followed up in an email from Keith Giblett. One concern is the developments planned for South Queensferry therefore City of Edinburgh Council are needed to be present and included in discussions.

- 5.3. Improvements for local engagement was discussed with the group. Local issues are being highlighted at forum groups therefore a separate group should be created to address these concerns with the relevant parties committed. A remit and membership list will be drawn up for a Forth Bridges Communities Group which will encompass points 2 and 5 of Forum remit. 2: *Maintain effective engagement with local communities on issues that may affect, impact or be of interest to them* and item 5: *Develop and support schemes and measures to encourage an increase in cross-Forth active travel and sustainable public transport*

Action: HG Propose meeting for Forth Bridges Communities Group. Agree agenda and remit.

Action: Transport Scotland to ensure commitment from relevant parties for communities group including City of Edinburgh Council, Fife Council, local community councils, Stagecoach and members of Forth Bridges Forum.

6. Queensferry Crossing – Update by HG

- 6.1. Painting and snagging/remedial works continue on QC. Transport Scotland continue to press FCBC for programme of works completion.
- 6.2. First year anniversary statement will be issued.
- 6.3. Fines will be issued to drivers of unauthorised vehicles on FRB. Education and enforcement will continue. JR advised there are approx. 80,000 cars using Queensferry Crossing daily with approx. 100 unauthorised vehicles using Forth Road Bridge daily.
- 6.4. Route Road Signs stating Forth Road Bridge were looked at within a 30 mile radius but deemed to too expensive to change as there are between 600 to 700 affected.
- 6.5. JR gave an update on Forth Road Bridge ongoing projects including Truss End Link Replacement, Main Cable Internal Inspection and Demag Replacement. Main projects will be added to social media as there is a public interest in such works.

7. Communications Group

- 7.1. JR gave overview of website analysis report. Noting that weather page viewed less since QC opening. The Forth Bridges website has been viewed as successful and easy to navigate.
- 7.2. Next Communications meeting is 5th October 2018. Communications group will be vital going forward and a good turnout to meetings should be ensured.

8. Network Rail – Provided by CB

- 8.1. Network Rail's charity partner Barnardos are holding a charity event on Forth Bridge on 8th & 9th Sep and 15th & 16th September 2018. The popularity of this event indicates the significant interest of a permanent visitor experience.
- 8.2. Forth Bridge Experience – Network Rail continue to develop the business case for Transport Scotland but funding commitment towards the end of Control Period are proving difficult. CB will continue to press forward with the plans and suggested that face to face meetings with Transport Scotland and a higher authority at Network Rail would help.

ACTION: CB to provide necessary business cases.

9. AOB

- 9.1. 3D digital works will be showcased at the Education Fair at SEC on 19th and 20th September. MD will request John Swinney incorporates this topic into his speech and direct attendees to HES stand which will have 3D models on show. Official launch will be on 2nd October '18 at the Contact & Education Centre.
- 10. Date of next meeting – NEW DATE: Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 10am – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.**