



## Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 30

16 January 2019

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                          |
| Ken Gourlay (KG)              | Fife Council                          |
| Graeme Malcolm (GM)           | West Lothian Council                  |
| Mark Arndt (MA)               | Amey                                  |
| Chris Waite (CW)              | Amey                                  |
| Rose Tweedale (RT) -Dial in   | Transport Scotland – Rail Directorate |
| Gillian Laurie (GL)           | Amey (Secretariat)                    |

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. HG welcomed all attendees to Meeting 30 of the Forth Bridges Forum.
- 1.2. Introductions were done.

#### 2. Apologies, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Actions

- 2.1. Apologies received from: - Lawrence Shackman, Mark Dunlop - Transport Scotland; Ewan Kennedy - CEC, Caroline Warburton – Visit Scotland
- 2.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 28 August 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 23.4 – Ongoing
  - Action 24.4 – On hold
  - Action 29.1 – Ongoing
- 2.4. Action 21.2 Forth Bridges Event planner to be updated with 2019 events. GL to email forum and subgroup members to request event details

- 2.5. Action 22.4 Initial Tourism Strategy meeting held on 29 November 2018, Paul Lawrence (CEC) in attendance. Potential for Co Chair of this group to sit with CEC or Fife Council, or both. To be discussed with Keith Winter. Funding discussion will follow.
- 2.6. Action 23.4 Rose Tweedale has a role with this. Transport Scotland is providing funding. Business case to be completed by Network Rail. Consultant procured to take forward, more detailed program in February 2019. See item 8.1 below.
- 2.7. Action 29.9 SL gave update. Engagement has started with QDCC and CEC around local issues. This dialogue is working well and so will continue. Separate engagement to be arranged with North Queensferry and Newton. Issues can then be dealt with as they arise. Long term ambition is to bring all parties together.

### **3. Tourism Project Group Update – Update provided by MD**

- 3.1. Tourism Strategy launch was postponed due to an Environmental paragraph. Strategy should be complete and signed off by end January 2019.  
**Action- HG asked all members to carefully check their relevant section.**
- 3.2. SMS added that The Tourism Project Group was closed. Reconstitution will be agreed for a Tourism Strategy Group.
- 3.3. Trademark Application – Europe application is complete. U.S still in progress.
- 3.4. Merchandising – Shops selling Forth Bridges stock are Scotia Kilts, Rail Bridge Bistro, Wrights, Deep Sea World and there is another interested part in North Queensferry. Wrights is North Queensferry has sold the most stock. Art in Glasgow Buchanan Galleries interested in prints
- 3.5. MD and GL will promote Forth Bridges merchandise at the Trade Fair at SEC on 20/21/22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.
- 3.6. Picnic coffee shop are keen to lease the kiosk and have agreed to sell merchandise from here.
- 3.7. Tartan items, cushion and scarf made by Kinloch Anderson were passed round the table.
- 3.8. Bike Share Scheme – Transport for Edinburgh not keen to have bike station in North Queensferry. There will be station at SQ Viewpoint.

### **4. World Heritage Management Group Update – Update by MO**

- 4.1. State of Conservation Report has been completed and submitted to UNESCO.
- 4.2. Any developments with the Forth Bridge Experience to be presented to UNESCO as early as possible. See item 8.2 below.

- 4.3. Destination Forth WW1 events in 2018 were successful with long wave radio used to link up other World Heritage Sites.
- 4.4. The Forth Bridge Collections Group have discovered a letter in Montreal from Kaichi Watanabe to Frederick Couper, Forth Bridge resident engineer, written in 1889.
- 4.5. MO encouraging all to continue to collect examples of 'Forth Bridgery' – where the image of the Forth Road Bridge is used. MO suggested a link to this on the Forth Bridges website.
- 4.6. World Heritage Coordinator role – RG, MO met with HG and discussed various options. Role may be included with Tourism post or within role at Network Rail, options will be explored.  
**ACTION: Role option to be agreed**

## **5. Forth Bridges Forum Update – Provided by HG**

- 5.1. HG suggested the 5 point Forum remit should remain as is until snagging issues on Queensferry Crossing are complete. The live issues that the snagging works brings ensure regular discussion meetings with Transport Scotland and Amey (FBOC).
- 5.2. Questions of future use of FRB continue. TS exploring CAV. Stagecoach buses, stage 4 pilot scheme is approved for later this year
- 5.3. MA provided an update on the continuing works on the Forth Road Bridge, upgrading underdeck walkways, Truss End Link Permanent Replacement and Demag Joint Replacement. The public unaware of the amount of ongoing works. CW publishes this work on social media however as these works are not inconveniencing the public it goes largely unnoticed. A time-lapse camera will be installed when the carriageway joint is removed. Further large investment works are resurfacing and painting and strengthening. The public are interested in these works as was evident from the last public meeting.
- 5.4. SL advised that Keith Giblett asked to raise to the forum the concerns of local people with the housing development plans for the land adjacent to the Contact and Education Centre. Keith asked the forum to consider purchasing this land. HG advised that land purchase to stop development it is beyond the remit of this forum but has noted this request. SL will ask City of Edinburgh for an update on the land. CW advised there is concern over the use of the service road (which is owned by Transport Scotland), for construction vehicles.,. HG added use of this road has not been requested.  
**ACTION: SL seek update from CEC on plans for this land.**
- 5.5. A Business Case for the viewpoint area development is underway.
- 5.6. Forum Public meetings will be planned to provide an update on Major works on FRB, Ongoing works on Queensferry Crossing, Update from Network Rail, Tourism Strategy update and Transport Scotland CAV update.  
**ACTION: GL to consider suitable meeting date**

- 5.7. Go Forth – Launch on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 was successful. Potential provision of usage data being investigated by Lyn Wilson. CW advised that feedback from schools is to build this into next year curriculum. CB added this would help STEM Ambassadors to engage with children.

## **6. Queensferry Crossing – Update by HG**

- 6.1. Painting and snagging/remedial works continue on QC. Lighting is on 1000 hrs testing, comments regarding this include the brightness of the low level lighting. Majority of painting works will be in Spring/Summer 2019.
- 6.2. ITS not fully commissioned yet. Yellow boxes and changes for signalisation from Newton being considered. GM has experienced longer delays of traffic leaving at junction 2. SL advised the plans CEC has for Newbridge may help to alleviate these delays.
- 6.3. In February 2019, a one year study since opening as a motorway will be done.
- 6.4. Public Transport Corridor working well with around 700 vehicles crossing per day. Lawrence Shackman has reminded SL of outstanding action to finalise this.

## **7. Communications Group**

- 7.1. CW advised no quarterly report due to timing of this meeting.
- 7.2. Website usage saw a large spike with Storm Callum in October 2018 which closed Queensferry Crossing to High Sided vehicles.
- 7.3. CB raised the issue of guerilla projections on the Bridge, wondering if it be raised as a nuisance? HES had similar issues at Edinburgh Castle. CW added Amey receive requests to light up QC and FRB.
- 7.4. Next Communications meeting is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **8. Network Rail – Provided by CB**

- 8.1. Forth Bridge Experience – Network Rail continue to develop the business case for Transport Scotland, with funding now confirmed for the next Control Period. . Good progress with appointment of Arup for South Side, with GRIP 4 design details underway. GRIP 4 completion expected April, pre application then full application will take around 1 year.
- 8.2. MO asked if Arup understand the World heritage UNESCO requirements. CB advised they do and UNESCO will be made aware as early as possible via HES. CB added a good working group would be Network Rail, Transport Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland with collaboration to discuss capital investment.
- 8.3. Fundraising in 2018 including abseils and Barnardos Tower top Trips raised £630,000 for charitable causes. The most successful year to date. Barnardos event will likely go ahead in September 2019. CB added that abseils may be opened up to other charities.

**9. AOB**

9.1. KG asked for ongoing dialogue with Fife Council, ensure the best person is attending to represent. SMS completed role as Chair for Tourism Project group. HG thanked SMS for all her work on this and SMS will likely continue to work with the Forum.

**10. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 10am – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.