



Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 31

16 April 2019

Meeting Room, Administration Centre, Forth Road Bridge

MINUTE

Attendees

Hugh Gillies (HG)	Transport Scotland
Ian Heigh (IH)	Network Rail
Caroline Warburton (CW)	Visit Scotland
Lawrence Shackman (LS)	Transport Scotland
Rose Tweedale (RT)	Transport Scotland
Michael Dineen (MD)	Transport Scotland
Mark Arndt (MA)	Amey
Jim Galloway (JG)	CEC
Miles Oglethorpe (MO)	HES
Ken Gourlay (KG)	Fife Council
Natasha Wyse (Secretariat)	Amey

1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. HG welcomed all attendees to Meeting 31 of the Forth Bridges Forum.
- 1.2. Introductions were done.

2. Apologies, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Actions

- 2.1. Apologies received from: - Mark Dunlop, Scott Lees – Transport Scotland, Chris Waite, Ewan Angus – Amey, Sandra Montador-Stewart – Fife Council
- 2.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 16 January 2019 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
- Action 30.1 - Complete
- Action 30.2 - Ongoing
- Action 30.3 - 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 MD gave an update. Meeting with organisation CEO'S planned for 17th April 2019 to discuss the tourism strategy delivery vehicle.
- 2.6. Action 23.4 Rose Tweedale provided an update. Transport Scotland to receive business case week commencing 29th April 2019.
- 2.7. Action 29.1 HG advised that there have been no more requests from QDCC and North Queensferry Community Council regarding a seat on the Forum.

3. Tourism Project Group Update

- 3.1. MD updated the group, stating that the Tourism Strategy will be launched on 24th April 2019 by MSP Fiona Hyslop at the Hilton Hotel in North Queensferry. MD reported that weather permitting, the plan is to then move to the Harbour Light Tower after the launch for media interviews and photo opportunities.
- 3.2. MO and CW suggested videos which could be played at the launch including the 'Scotland is now' campaign video and the 'Year of Coast and Waters' video, MD advised that he would consider these.
- 3.3. MA recommended using the Forth Road Bridge VR model during the launch.
- 3.4. An update was also provided on trademarks with MD confirming that all European trademarks have been confirmed, however only one of five American trademarks confirmed to date.
Post meeting note: All five trademarks for USA have now been confirmed.
- 3.5. Merchandise sales are steadily progressing. MD advised that there was a challenge surrounding merchandise due to items being stocked at the end of tourist season. A Forth Bridges calendar and family organiser is currently being developed and will potentially be on shelves in the coming weeks. MD explained that The Calendar Club have placed a pre-order for these and will not stock any other calendars of the Forth Bridges.

ACTION – MA to organise VR model set up for Tourism Strategy launch.

4. World Heritage Management Group Update

- 4.1. MO advised the group of a UNESCO themed event that was held at the science museum. There were 8,000 pre-bookings for this event where HES offered a 3D experience of the Forth Bridge. This event was successful and thoroughly enjoyed by the public.
- 4.2. MO reported that World Heritage Day takes place on 18th April 2019. The group was informed of an event that was being held in the Contact and Education Centre between 2pm and 7pm, this involved activities, talks and historical displays. HG suggested details about this is put on the Forum website.

- 4.3. MO provided an updated on the World Heritage Co-ordinator role. MO advised that he is due to meet Ben Hall from Network Rail to discuss. JG questioned how this would be resourced, to which MO advised that there is potential funding available to contribute to the cost of the post.
- 4.4. CW asked if there were plans to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Forth Bridge on 4th March 2020. It was confirmed that Transport Scotland, Visit Scotland and Network Rail will explore the possibility of a celebration.

5. Forth Bridges Forum Update – Provided by HG

- 5.1. HG suggested the five-point Forum remit should remain, given the rationale for its existence and its functions will continue long after the completion of snagging issues on Queensferry Crossing.. The live issues that the snagging works brings ensure regular discussion meetings with Transport Scotland and Amey (FBOC).
- 5.2. HG provided an update of the Forum Public Meeting held on 19th March 2019, deeming it a success. It was noted that the meeting was well attended and was very useful to the public.
- 5.3. MD spoke about a concern he received from the owner of the Bistro restaurant about high street improvements. JG advised that there has been public consultation surrounding this.
- 5.4. HG spoke about the new Tourism Strategy Group, advising that it will be co-chaired by Fife Council and City of Edinburgh Council. Discussion was held on the importance of appointing Manager to take forward actions emanating from the Tourism Strategy. KG questioned how this post would be funded, and assumed that income from the merchandising could in time assist with making it more sustainable. MD stated that merchandise money is presently being held in Transport Scotland accounts, but but will be some time before it is in profitprofit this. The group confirmed that they were content with this revenue being held by Transport Scotland.

6. Queensferry Crossing

- 6.1. An update was given by MD on behalf of Scott Lees (SL). The group was informed that the viaduct platform had now been installed so remedial painting works were able to continue. MD stated that SL is currently working closely with FCBC to ensure it follows Code of Construction.
- 6.2. HG advised that weekly checks are being carried out to push FCBC on timescales of works.
- 6.3. MD reported that work is ongoing for the activation of the ITS system.

ACTION – MD to forward on Scott's update to JG.

7. Communications Group

- 7.1. MA provided an update in the absence of Chris Waite. MA advised that website and social media engagement has been quiet primarily because of the a mild winter.
- 7.2. MO asked about media reaction to the reports of falling ice on the Queensferry Crossing. MA confirmed that there had been comparatively little news coverage.
- 7.3. HG advised that a study into the incident is currently underway to investigate the cause and how to monitor ice formation on the Queensferry Crossing. MA reported that Amey is able to adapt the weather forecasting to include the risk of ice forming. When asked if a similar incident had ever occurred on the Forth Road Bridge, MA confirmed that it had not.
- 7.4. Next Communications group meeting organised for 18th April 2019.

8. Network Rail

- 8.1. Forth Bridge Experience (Bridge Walk) – Network Rail continue to develop the business case for Transport Scotland, with positive engagement continuing with consultants Arup. IH stated that the proposals had been well received by Edinburgh Council and will soon be ready for submission to UNESCO and public consultation,. It was noted that full application of GRIP 4 is expected to commence in August 2019.
- 8.2. IH reported on potential plans to develop a walkway between Dalmeny and the Forth Bridge with comments received from Edinburgh Council on the case. RT advised that Transport Scotland will work closely with Network Rail on this and will review the business case as quickly as possible.

9. AOB

- 9.1. LS asked about plans for the public transport working group, if it was intended to continue running the group. MO argued that co-ordinated public transport is a major issue that will be faced when developing the new tourism strategy and that it therefore continues to fall under the remit of the Forum.
- 9.2. MD reported that the bike-share scheme proposal had been withdrawn by CoMoUK because of Fife/Edinburgh border issue, but that CEC are working with Transport Scotland and investigating the possibility of alternative ways of taking the scheme forward.
- 9.3. MA advised that discussions are being held with Princes Trust about the possibility of organising a zip wire event from the Forth Road Bridge

10. Date of next meeting – Thursday 27th June 2019 10am – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.