



Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 32

27 June 2019

Room 1.15, Contact and Education Centre

MINUTE

Attendees

Scott Lees (SL)	Transport Scotland
Michael Dineen (MD)	Transport Scotland
Keavy O'Neill (KO)	Transport Scotland
Miles Oglethorpe (MO)	HES
Rebecca Jones (RJ)	HES
Chris Waite (CW)	Amey
John Russell (JR)	Amey
John Andrew (JA)	ICE Consultant/ Transport Scotland
Jim Galloway (JG)	CEC
Graeme Malcolm (GM)	West Lothian Council
Ken Gourlay (KG)	Fife Council
Natasha Wyse (Secretariat)	Amey

1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. SL welcomed all attendees to Meeting 32 of the Forth Bridges Forum.
- 1.2. Introductions were done.

2. Apologies, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Actions

- 2.1. Apologies received from: - Hugh Gillies, Mark Dunlop, Lawrence Shackman – Transport Scotland, Caroline Warburton – Visit Scotland
- 2.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 16 April 2019 were agreed and subsequently published.
- 2.3. Action points were reviewed and updated as follows:

- Action 21.2 – Open action
- Action 22.4 – Complete
- Action 23.4 – Complete
- Action 30.2 - Complete
- Action 30.3 – Ongoing
- Action 31.1 – Complete
- Action 31.2 - Complete

- 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. Charity events should be added.
- 2.5. Action 22.4 MD gave an update. CEC and West Lothian Council have only confirmed funding for the first year.
- 2.6. Action 23.4 Business case sent to Transport Scotland and is currently being reviewed.
- 2.7. Action 30.2 Network Rail have agreed to be the employer for this role.
- 2.8. Action 30.3 SL to speak with David Leslie.
- 2.9. Action 31.1 VR model was used at Tourism Launch
- 2.10. Action 31.2 Update sent

3. Tourism Project Group Update

- 3.1. MD updated the group, stating that the Tourism Strategy was launched in April 2019 with the event being deemed a success. MD advised that a new Tourism Delivery Group has been created, members being stakeholder CEO's. Three stakeholders have confirmed contributions for the coming years with other anticipated soon.
- 3.2. MD told the group that he met with tourism related businesses in South Queensferry who had advised they were unaware of the Tourism Strategy and had concerns surrounding the document. Businesses appeared concerned that proposals would take away from the local area however MD reassured that actions stated in the Strategy were proposals and are only being considered. The group questioned what businesses were initially consulted by GL Hearn.
Post meeting note: MD has provided list of those businesses consulted to those he has met with to date, i.e Honeypot, ForthBridgeTours and Maid of the Forth.
- 3.3. RJ advised of a delay to the confirmation of funding from HES for the Tourism Strategy and advised that a service-level agreement would need to be in place. MD explained that Fife Council have compiled a draft Terms of Reference that will be signed off soon.
- 3.4. MO asked if MD could provide a breakdown of how the funding is going to be spent.
- 3.5. MD reported that all 'The Forth Bridges' trademarks were approved in Europe and USA.
- 3.6. It was noted that the Viewpoint kiosk was due to open this coming Monday.
Post meeting note: Picnic have now opened the Kiosk.

- 3.7. MD stated that he is currently liaising with Barnardos regarding possibly selling Forth Bridges merchandise at the Forth Bridge event in September 2019.

ACTION – MD to investigate what Queensferry businesses GL Hearn liaised with.

ACTION – MD to provide HES with breakdown of how funding will be spent.

ACTION – RJ to send MD template for service level agreement.

4. World Heritage Management Group Update

- 4.1. MO advised that HES are planning to co-ordinate a campaign with Network Rail to celebrate the 130th Forth Bridge anniversary. MO explained there were hopes to name a locomotive after the Forth Bridge. It was agreed that celebration organisations should focus on building from the brand created for the 125th anniversary.
- 4.2. MO commented on the lack of representation at the Forum from Network Rail. JA suggested liaising with David Boyce who has agreed to act as an interim until the co-ordinator role is filled.
- 4.3. MO advised that World Heritage Day was not as successful as initially hoped therefore plans for following years is to hold events in a central location.

5. Forth Bridges Forum Update – Provided by SL

- 5.1. SL advised of Keith Giblett's report suggesting the site opposite the Contact and Education Centre is utilised for a hotel. The group agreed that this does not fall under the remit of the Forum and JG suggested contacting David Leslie, the principal planning officer at Edinburgh Council
- 5.2. CW advised that FRB lift towers are now in operations and Amey are hoping to offer trips to raise funds for charity. CW explained that there are plans to self-raffle these in order to measure its impact on the local community.
- 5.3. The group was told of a Prince's Trust abseil and zip wire event that is currently being organised. It is hoped to hold this in May 2020.

6. Queensferry Crossing

- 6.1. An update was given by JR on behalf of Billy Minto. Snagging works and underdeck painting is continuing on the main spans and South Approach Viaduct. Access platforms are now in place for underdeck painting to commence at the North Approach Viaduct.
- 6.2. Contractual issues have been highlighted by the ice fall incident. Amey agreed to administer third party claims for damages. EDT memo for these incidents has been produced.
- 6.3. JG questioned when the snagging works will be finished. JR advised that closures are planned to the end of September 2019 with the hopes of December 2019 as a final completion date.

7. Communications Group

- 7.1. Communications Group meeting held on 20th June 2019.
- 7.2. The group was told of the plan to hold a Public Meeting towards the end of August 2019. Plans are to provide an update on the Forth Road Bridge, Queensferry Crossing, the Network Rail experience and the Tourism Strategy.
- 7.3. CW advised that website and social media interaction remains consistent following a quiet winter. Complaint levels regarding congestion have fallen.

8. Network Rail

- 8.1. KO provided an update, explaining that the business case has received comments from Transport Scotland and is currently being updated for resubmission next month.
- 8.2. KO advised that the next public engagement meeting is expected to take place on the 18th July '19. The previous meeting was very successful, bringing in 150 attendees.

9. AOB

- 9.1. JG advised of the acceleration of resurfacing works on Queensferry High Street which will take one year to complete. JG suggested contacting Dave Sinclair from CEC for any further information on this.
- 9.2. JG also advised that he will be leaving CEC in the near future and wished the Forum well.
- 9.3. RJ reported of a management event she attended on the effects of climate change on World Heritage sites. RJ advised that future measurements may need to be taken to protect the Forth Bridge.

10. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 29th October 2019 10am – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.