



Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 33

29 October 2019

Room 1.15, Contact and Education Centre, South Queensferry

MINUTE

Attendees

Hugh Gillies (HG) - Chair	Transport Scotland
Michael Dineen (MD)	Transport Scotland
Miles Oglethorpe (MO)	HES
Rebecca Jones (RJ)	HES
Mark Arndt (MA)	Amey
Chris Waite (CW)	Amey
John Andrew (JA)	ICE Consultant/ Transport Scotland
Ian Heigh (IH)	Network Rail
Caroline Warburton (CWar)	Visit Scotland
Graeme Malcolm (GM)	West Lothian Council
Ken Gourlay (KG)	Fife Council
Gillian Laurie (Secretariat)	Amey

1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. HG welcomed all attendees to Meeting 33 of the Forth Bridges Forum.
- 1.2. Introductions were done.
- 1.3. Jim Galloway has left CEC, clarify CEC representative for forum.

2. Apologies, Minutes of Previous Meeting and Actions

- 2.1. Apologies received from: - Scott Lees, Mark Dunlop, Lawrence Shackman – Transport Scotland, Ewan Kennedy - CEC, Sally Abdelraziq – Network Rail
- 2.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 27 June 2019 were agreed and subsequently published.
- 2.3. Action points were reviewed and updated as follows:
 - Action 21.2 – Open action
 - Action 32.1 – Ongoing
 - Action 32.2 – Ongoing
 - Action 32.3 - Ongoing

- 2.4. Action 21.2 Forth Bridges Event planner to be updated with 2020 events. GL to email forum and subgroup members to request event details. Charity events should be added.
- 2.5. Action 32.1 - MD provided an update. GL Hearn report tables one to one meetings with local businesses. MD has requested list of businesses from the online business survey and will forward list to the group.
Post meeting note: GL Hearn provided a list that does not include all businesses we know to have been engaged with. GL undertaking further investigations.
- 2.6. Action 32.2 – RJ to send MD HES template of Memorandum of understanding for details of remit and future spend.
- 2.7. Action 32.3 – RJ will send Service Level Agreement template to MD.

3. Tourism Project Group Update – MD provided update

- 3.1. Appointment of Tourism Project Manager is proving difficult. Next interviews planned before Christmas with successful appointment from March 2020. Employer will be Fife Council. Role will be temporary for 3 years with potential for permanent post. RJ asked for advert to be circulated to HES. MD will send.
- 3.2. Merchandise sold very well during Forth Bridge Barnardos event. £8k of goods sold over the 6 day event. Members agreed that this should be sold more widely via websites i.e eBay, Etsy.
- 3.3. MO asked for clarity over the Tourism Management Group. HG advised that the new Tourism group have met, this will be formalised and become clearer following the appointment of the Tourism Project Manager. MD will send the minute of agreement to MO.

4. World Heritage Management Group Update

- 4.1. 130th Forth Bridge Anniversary – IH and JA are leading on this. Meetings have been held with Sally Abdelraziq. IH will produce a paper showing what has been done. The next WHMG meeting is on 12th November '19 where further plans/ideas will be discussed. CEC exhibition room has been booked for 130th events w/c 2nd March 2020. Members agreed that building from the brand created for the 125th anniversary would be quickest and most cost effective. CW added social media and websites will be used to promote the event(s). CWar added that Visit Scotland can feed into all this. Local community are planning some kind of celebration and have approached MD to ask if they can join with Forum led events. RJ suggested a parliamentary reception. MO suggested Railway Magazines (front covers) IH and JA will approach contacts.

Action: HG will contact Alex Hynes on thoughts to take this forward.

- 4.2. IH talked about a Forth Bridge brand. A proposal is looking at branding and website with costing and funding to be considered.

- 4.3. World Heritage Coordinator Role - MO advised that the Management plan expires in 2 months. It is currently being worked on by a number of people however this should be a job for a World Heritage Coordinator. RJ has advised Scottish Government that there has been no progress with this and UNESCO will have to be informed. A meeting must be held to take the issue forward and to discuss funding. MO will arrange a meeting with Dave Boyce and Sally Abdelraziq. IH wishes to be invited. Transport Scotland will also attend. Likely that this meeting will be held in Glasgow and ideally before the next WHMG meeting on 12th November '19.

Action: MO arrange WH Coordinator meeting as a matter of urgency

- 4.4. Edinburgh Science Festival will be showcasing Forth Bridge.
- 4.5. The Tron may be considered as the best location for the next World Heritage Day.

5. Forth Bridges Forum Update

- 5.1. Events register to be updated with 2020 events.
- 5.2. Forum Public meeting date will be discussed. MO suggested there may be an expectation for a meeting towards the end of the year as a look back, look forward.

6. Queensferry Crossing – MD provided an update

- 6.1. Snagging – Underdeck painting / tower concrete repairs going well. On course for completion this year.
- 6.2. Mechanical and Electrical - Revised programme received from contractor. Progress moving in right direction.
- 6.3. Intelligent Transport Systems - Ramp metering now working. Improvements noted at Queensferry Junction (also helped by road markings). Next significant development will be the introduction of Variable Mandatory Speed Limits (i.e. enforcement of speed roundels). Date of introduction approximately early 2020 (final date yet to be confirmed). Appropriate media plan has been developed to support launch.
- 6.4. FRB public transport corridor - Working OK despite restriction for Main Expansion Joint Contract. Misuse last recorded at 3%. Some complaints received about Queensferry Crossing congestion at peak periods.

7. Communications Group – Update by CW

- 7.1. Communications Group meeting held on 24th October 2019.
- 7.2. CW produced the quarterly website report. Usage has remained steady in the quarter May to July 2019. Expect figures to rise over winter months. CW added there have been less complaints through Forth Bridges Social Media from this time last year.

8. Network Rail – Update by IH

- 8.1. Forth Bridge Experience - Public meetings went well with an additional meeting held with Ashburnham Loan residents. Planning application has had strong support from local businesses but of objections, 95% are from Ashburnham Loan Residents. Main areas of concern from the residents are parking, noise, being overlooked and environmental concerns over the felling of trees. A meeting is to be held with planners to go over all these concerns. Planning will go to committee at CEC on 7th December '19 with decision January/February 2020.
- 8.2. HG asked that IH continues to liaise with the local residents to relay fears and hopefully have objections withdrawn. IH will keep FBF group involved/informed.
- 8.3. RJ advised UNESCO are well aware of the plans and have no concerns.
- 8.4. CW will meet with Sally, regarding dedicated page for FB Experience from Forth Bridges website. Sally will be made editor to control content. CW will provide support. CW reiterated the importance of social media to engage the public.

9. AOB

- 9.1. HG advised the group of COF 26, UN Climate change conference which is being held in Glasgow from 9th to 19th November 2020. This will be the largest event ever hosted in Scotland with major planning underway. Security will be unprecedented. This event will affect public transport and the roads network significantly.
 - 9.2. HG advised that Transport Scotland are close to concluding the operating company contracts for SE and SW Scotland. SE and FB contracts will be run together.
 - 9.3. RJ advised there is strong support from UNESCO for the Tourism trail of 13 sites including bio parks. Scotland would be the first country to do this. A Business Case has been made and announced as part of programme for Government.
- 10. Date of next meeting – TBC – January 2020 – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.**