



## Forth Bridges Forum - Meeting 34

28 January 2020

Room 1.15, Contact and Education Centre, South Queensferry

### MINUTE

#### Attendees

Scott Lees – (SL) Vice Chair	Transport Scotland
Michael Dineen (MD)	Transport Scotland
Miles Oglethorpe (MO)	HES
Allan Watt (AW)	Fife Council
Mark Arndt (MA)	Amey
Chris Waite (CW)	Amey
John Andrew (JA)	ICE Consultant/ Transport Scotland
Ian Heigh (IH)	Network Rail
Graeme Malcolm (GM)	West Lothian Council
Ken Gourlay (KG)	Fife Council
Gillian Laurie (Secretariat)	Amey

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1. SL welcomed all attendees to Meeting 34 of the Forth Bridges Forum.
- 1.2. Introductions were done. Allan Watt welcomed as new Forth Bridges Area Tourism Strategy Manager.

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

- 2.1. Apologies received from: - Hugh Gillies, Mark Dunlop, Lawrence Shackman, Keavy O'Neil – Transport Scotland, Paul Lawrence, Frank Little - CEC, Sally Abdelraziq – Network Rail; Rebecca Jones - HES, Caroline Warburton, Janice MacGregor – Visit Scotland
- 2.2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 29 October 2019 were agreed and subsequently published.
- 2.3. Action points were reviewed and updated as follows:
  - Action 21.2 – Open action
  - Action 32.1 – Closed
  - Action 32.2 and 32.3 – Ongoing
  - Action 33.1 – Closed
  - Action 33.2 - Ongoing

- 2.4. Action 32.1 - MD provided an update. GL Hearn was unable to provide a list of all individual businesses consulted.
- 2.5. Action 32.2 and 32.3 – RJ to send MD the HES template of Memorandum of understanding for details of remit and future spend.
- 2.6. Action 33.2 – World Heritage Coordinator meetings have been held, discussions on position are ongoing.

### **3. Tourism Project Group Update**

- 3.1. Allan Watt is appointed as Forth Bridges Area Tourism Strategy Manager. AW gave an overview of previous experience including 9 years as Project Director on Dundee Waterfront Project.
- 3.2. AW commenced new role on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, working 3 days per week. AW has identified early wins and longer-term goals. The longer-term goal is for a visitor centre. AW identified 2 routes to funding visitor centre, Scottish Government and private sector.  
Early immediate wins include the signage strategy. MD added that Paul Hogarth's final signage strategy will be ready next week. Cost approx. £250,000 includes north and south
- 3.3. SL considers there to be a disjoint with Forth Bridges Forum, Scottish Government Tourism Officials and Visit Scotland. He would like to see closer working relationships. This was discussed at high level tourism meeting.
- 3.4. Land adjacent to CEC - QDCC have written to various people. As previously discussed, this forum has no ability to purchase land. Planning permission for this site has been reapplied for.
- 3.5. MD gave an update on Merchandise. Sale of bridges calendars has been disappointing. This trial has now reached a full year. Some items have done well, others not. SL asked MD to consider the trial complete and to report on each item's performance at the next forum meeting.

### **4. World Heritage Management Group Update**

- 4.1. 130<sup>th</sup> Forth Bridge Anniversary – JA gave an update. Initial plans are using exhibition area in CEC on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Schools have been asked to design a birthday card. School children from North Queensferry Primary will take the train over Forth Bridge to Dalmeny and meet representatives from the four South Queensferry Primary Schools. Elaine Barry has received positive responses so far from three out of five schools.
- 4.2. Four events will take place for the children. Enhanced collections display, Go Forth Digital Experience, Cantilever Chair and Briggers Rivet demonstrations.
- 4.3. Photo call with school children, VIP's, giant birthday card and birthday cake (3D) at Hawes pier form part of the plan.
- 4.4. Afternoon activities encouraging local community groups to attend to participate in the four events listed above.

- 4.5. Evening presentations will be held to include Briggers talk, Restoration project, World Heritage and Bridge Climb.
- 4.6. JA has requested ICE involvement. MD has written to QDCC and NQCC advising of plans and inviting involvement. JA has had support from K Giblett who has advised will promote this event on social media.
- 4.7. MO added he is trying to persuade the launch of the new polymer £20 note featuring Forth Bridge to be on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 however the launch plan is one week before. CW added a launch prior to the event may help generate publicity.
- 4.8. JA asked members to consider who else should be invited to event.

**Action: Members to confirm who within their organisation should be invited to this. Pass names to MD by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.**

- 4.9. MO advised the next WHMG meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Continuing to work with Network Rail to fill the WH Coordinator role. Management Plan will not progress until role is filled. Network Rail is preparing the business case for this role.

## **5. Forth Bridges Forum Update**

- 5.1. Public meeting – SL explained public meetings to AW. Agenda for next meeting could include CAV trial. CW added that it would be helpful to explain autonomous vehicles and the benefits to the public in advance. Consider April for next public meeting.
- 5.2. SL drew attention to function 5 of the Forth Bridges Forum – To develop and support schemes and measures to encourage an increase in cross forth active travel and sustainable public transport. H Gillies has asked SL to reinforce this objective.
- 5.3. SL advised that there are 19 interventions agreed on public transport strategy. 9 delivered, 10 outstanding. SL to share list of interventions with group and asked for consideration to be given as to how to support these.

**Action: SL share list of interventions. All members to consider and pass comments to SL.**

- 5.4. Discussion about Ferrytoll park and ride being used by holiday makers as long stay parking. This issue is to be addressed.
- 5.5. MO added that HES climate change team could assist with the sustainable public transport strategy.
- 5.6. MO added that a tourism rail map of Scotland is needed.
- 5.7. SL asked members to consider function 1 of the forum – To establish and oversee a strategic approach to the operation and maintenance of the Forth

Bridges. H Gillies asks if we are doing enough to reinforce this function following recent MSP question.

- 5.8. KG, GM and CW said that any complaints about Queenferry Crossing were lower in recent months.
- 5.9. SL added that the latest criticism is the delay in the one year evaluation and he expects a disconnect, mismatch of expectations on what the report will provide.
- 5.10. CW added that the negativity received with FRB is absent, i.e high winds causing HSV diversions, HSV overturning, breakdowns causing delays. CW asked how we might compare the previous problems experienced. Convey to the public what situation would be like now if QC had not been built.

## **6. Queensferry Crossing – SL provided an update**

- 6.1. All works largely complete. Lifts operational. Traffic Management finished. Currently demobilising. Records are being handed over. Official handover date is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
- 6.2. Operational benefits are gantry signs and ramp metering. Road marking improvements at Queensferry Junction. Speed limit enforcements active summer 2020.
- 6.3. Less complaints received on low level lighting. SL confirmed brightness can be dimmed when control of the system is passed over.
- 6.4. GM asked about signage on QC for breakdowns. MA stated that signage is not required as the road is continually monitored by control room.

## **7. Communications Group – Update by CW**

- 7.1. CW is the chair for the Forth Bridges Forum Communications Group. Last meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
- 7.2. CW advised members that the communications group will be reviewing the communications strategy for the forum. This will tie in with the renewal of the Forth Bridges Operating Company contract in summer 2020. An annual communications plan will include work currently taking place, i.e tourism project, Forth Bridge experience.
- 7.3. There is an opportunity for the Comms group to promote who we are, what we do and to reach out to a wider website audience.
- 7.4. CW produced the quarterly website report. Usage is consistent. One spike during QC closure to HSV in September 2019.
- 7.5. SL asked CW about attendance at FB communications meetings. Committed attendance from all parties is required.
- 7.6. MD added that the Tourism section of Forth Bridges Website needs updating. CW to speak with MD following this meeting.

## **8. Network Rail – Update by IH**

- 8.1. Forth Bridge Experience – Public hearing to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, IH expects the likely focus to be on Ashburnham Loan which was subject of majority of objections. Vote should be on 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- 8.2. CW asked about next steps should planning be agreed. IH advised that Network Rail are prepared to go out to tender.
- 8.3. IH will continue to keep FB groups informed.
- 8.4. IH informed the group that Network Rail comms team have suggested a Forth Bridge branding. Keavy O’Neil, Sally Abdelraziq and Dave Boyce are in discussions. SL will ask K O’Neil for an update.

## **9. AOB**

- 9.1. MO asked if an agenda item can be added to forum meetings for charitable events. SL agreed and proposed the following are included in the next Forum agenda: Merchandise trial, MOU and fundraising.
- 9.2. SL asked that any papers are forwarded to members prior to future meetings.

## **10. Date of next meeting – 28 April 2020 – Contact & Education Centre, South Queensferry.**