The Ferry News

Issue 100
Feb 2022

North Queensferry Local Action Plan (NQLAP)

A very happy new year to all North Queensferry residents.

Throughout the latter part of 2021 a wide ranging and inclusive community consultation was carried out in North Queensferry. The reason for the consultation was to develop a Local Action Plan to assist a more cohesive, multi-agency approach to future service delivery for and with the residents of North Queensferry.

Fife Council Communities and Neighbourhood staff, along with Housing Services staff and a local steering group made up of various community group representatives, visited every household in North Queensferry, giving every resident the opportunity to participate in the community consultation. Each family had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire on their thoughts and ideas on what the Local Action Plan should contain. In September, 4 workshops were arranged and delivered to focus on all the information from the completed questionnaires.

With support from Fife Council's Strategy and Policy team, the first draft of the NQLAP is now complete.

The next stage in the process is to agree the style, layout and content of the Local Action Plan with the NQLAP steering group.

After the Local Action Plan layout is agreed with the steering group members it will be presented to the March meeting of the South West Fife Area Committee for authorisation and agreement. The Local Action Plan will then become a live and fluid document to enable Fife Council and partner agencies to work with the North Queensferry community to work towards the delivery of the outcomes in the Local Action Plan.

Fife Council Communities and Neighbourhood staff will work with steering group members and the wider community to establish a NQLAP forum. This forum will be the voice of the local community and lead organisation on the delivery of the NQLAP. Local events will be arranged to assist the development of the NQLAP forum. These events will be widely advertised and will acknowledge Scottish Government guidelines on the current Covid 19 pandemic.

For more information on the NQLAP please contact David Manderson, Community Education Worker by emailing :-

David.Manderson@fife.gov.uk



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Flowers for the Ferry .. The Floral Enhancement Scheme
How it started .. 20 years ago.

It is lovely to see the tubs and flowers that beautify the village and our thanks go to the band of volunteers who give so much of their time and expertise to achieve this.

At the beginning February 2002, Dunfermline District Council offered a Floral Enhancement Grant of £500 to local Community Councils to help provide floral displays in their area, and this could be applied for annually.

The North Queensferry Community Council accepted this offer and a sub committee was formed of five CC members and twelve residents.

They decided that: the floral benefits should be spread throughout the village; that the three village entrances were important, (the station and the two roadways); that walkways should not be obstructed; that there was too much wind for hanging baskets and that there should be community involvement. For a longer term effect, it was agreed that spring bulbs were desirable and good value for money. This has proved so, flowering every spring for twenty years!

Committee decisions were then made as to where tubs/planters could be placed and how many we could afford; from where to buy the tubs, the compost and plants and who would do the transporting and the physical work! Some members sourced the materials and costs and suitable plants, while others offered to sow and/or 'bring on' plants at home. We started with planting eight tubs and this has increased over the years to more than forty! Wall hanging troughs have also been added.

Villagers living near to tubs volunteered, or were asked, to be 'carers' for watering and weeding, which has been a great benefit. Initially, planting concentrated on summer displays, but today, many tubs have been planted for all year round interest, which is lovely.

In the autumn of 2002, the bulbs, ordered via Peter Howden of Dunfermline District Council were delivered; 3,500 daffodils of early, mid and late flowering varieties, (Dutch Master, Standard Value and Sempre Advanti); and Crocus, 600 each of purple, yellow and white. The suggested planting areas had been identified and discussed with DDC in order that the spring grass mowing could be delayed. Over three autumns, thirty or more villagers, together with the Boys Brigade, planted,10,000 daffodils and a similar number of Crocus.

The daffodils have been a joy every spring, but less so the crocus, as the majority of them were destroyed by mice or birds. The one good colourful display of crocus was lost during the construction of the Queensferry Crossing. Although the company replanted, it has not been a success.

The continued Floral Enhancement of the village could not have happened without the support, dedicated planning and physical work of many people. Some have been fully involved every year for all of the twenty years since the beginning of the scheme. …. And we remember helpers who are no longer with us.

I am sure that I speak for everyone as I say;

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

Volunteers will be made very welcome; just give Eileen a call on 01383 412874.

Anne Monteith

Ferry Birds 1998-2021

Issue 29 of the Ferry News, which appeared in October 1998, included a piece that began “North Queensferry and its surrounds support a wealth of bird life”. Since then John Done’s articles have become a staple of the newsletter. We know from feedback that they’re much anticipated and appreciated.

Unfortunately, John has told us that he’s no longer able to contribute, so we’d like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole Ferry News readership, to say a big thank you to John for the pleasure he’s given over 20+ years.

The Ferry News Team

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Community Council

A belated but sincere 'Happy New Year' to you all. May 2022 turn out to be a good year for you and the village. Let's hope that during 2022 there will be significant progress made to secure the Albert as a community venue, a public house/café/ restaurant; something is done to alleviate the nightly sound and nuisance of racing cars – particularly heard at the bottom of the village; work on the Forth Bridge is complete and the village's public toilet issue becomes a thing of the past.

In the last Ferry News, we had hoped that a decision would be made at the October council meeting to recommence face to face meetings at the Community Centre, however this was not to happen. While Zoom has encouraged more people to attend and take part in discussions there is now a growing hankering to get back to face to face meetings. Your council is looking into purchasing equipment to enable residents to continue to contribute to meetings from their homes when face to face meetings resume in the community centre. The purchase of such equipment is expected to be part of Network Rail's community payback. Such equipment will also be used by the Community Centre for other events/educational sessions.

Network Rail and Balfour Beatty continue to meet representatives from your community council every Wednesday morning to consider and make decisions on such issues as noise, dust, working hours, avoiding and repairing damage to vehicles and the all important need for communication with the village. Weekly Community updates on Bridge works are posted on the three village notice boards. Network Rail is working to put in place educational activities with both the primary and secondary schools once COVID permits. Cleaning the tiled mural at the station is also on the agenda. Each week there are interesting photographs of the Bridge works which can be seen on the website https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/forth-bridge.and on the notice board in Battery Road car park - the three village notice boards do not have room to display them.

The fate of the Albert continues to dominate the village and so also your community council . The second application for planning permission for change of use had the same number of objections as the first although not all the objectors were the same. As a statutory consultee your Council made an objection in addition to individual councillors like other residents. We now need to wait to see the next step in the Albert saga.

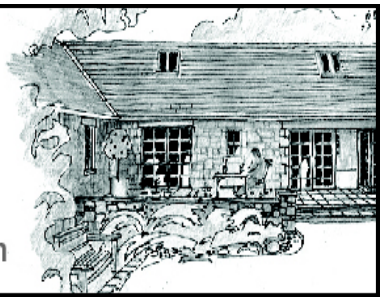
As reported in the last Ferry News it has been difficult to meet the Police throughout the pandemic. There has not been any chance for the Police to expand on the concerns in their monthly reports and for your council to be able to highlight community issues. The Police are not been able to use Zoom and of course there have not been any face to face meetings. Do please contact us with any police issues- no matter how small- as we hope to have a meeting in the near future. We were all aware of less 'racing' and anti- social behaviour during COP 26 when there was a larger police presence in the village, due to the use by many police of the Doubletree as a base. However now we need to look more to our own resources as well as those of the local Police to reduce antisocial behaviour by 'visitors' to North Queensferry. For Police support to help solve the problems caused by this unsociable behaviour it is imperative that we phone 101 when the problem occurs.

Your community council has decided to seriously look at village communications and publicity: how we can support the Signage Strategy for the Forth Bridges which includes both North and South Queensferries and, importantly, how NQCC can improve its relationship and its communications with all residents. Some people will remember that the Signage Strategy was originally initiated some years ago, and, finally, there seems to be finance to back some of the ideas including new signs with a common design across the area. The Forth Bridges Area Tourism Strategy Manager attended our January meeting and was able to report that signage procurement is progressing and the Bridges social media accounts are active again, This year is the 'Year of Stories' and Visit Scotland would welcome stories, particularly anything which publicises the bridges.

Your community council is currently reflecting on its image and communication: we are all aware that NQCC could be improved in many ways: its image and makeup and how it communicates to name just two issues. If any reader has ideas about how we can achieve this or would consider joining us please contact the Secretary (nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk) or any village community councillor.

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A Circular Library on the Fife Circle

There is something new in the waiting-room of our North Queensferry Heritage Trust railway station. It's a "book swap" – like a book-shop, but free.

There is a small bookcase in the corner of the waiting-room with a selection of all sorts of paperback books. The "book swap" notice invites people to take a look, and, if they find a book that looks interesting, to take it away with them. There are books for all ages, including some books full of pictures for young children, and some on the bottom shelf for very young readers.

They are free to pass on to someone else, to keep, or to return. Even better, put another book in its place. That would help to make it into a circulating library on the Fife Circle line!

If you are going to the station to catch a train, or just passing, take a look. You might find a book that makes your day, of even changes your view of the world. Books can do that. And if you have a spare paperback or two that someone else might enjoy, why not add them to the circulating stock in the book-case.

We can swap books among ourselves in the village via the "book swap". And we can make North Queensferry a more welcoming place to the many visitors who come to walk on the coastal path, to see the Forth Bridge, or take their children to Deep Sea World.

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet." Jhumpa Lahiri

VILLAGE

COFFEE MORNING

IN

NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH

ON ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS



10.30 TO 12 NOON

ALL AGES WELCOME

2022 Dates are:

February	**2**	**16**	
March	**2**	**16**	**30**
April	**13**	**27**	
May	**11**	**25**	
June	**8**	**22**	

Contributions

for the next issue of the Ferry News

are to be with us by

Friday 10th June 2022

to:

7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

Your Community Council meets on Zoom at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month.

Minutes of the previous meeting are on the village notice boards and on the Council's website: http: www.nqcc.co.uk.

For the Zoom link to the monthly meeting contact one of your community councillors or the Secretary nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk

Everyone is very welcome to attend

To become a member and for further information about the Community Trust please contact-

http://www.nqcommunitytrust.org.uk/

Activities at the North Queensferry Community Complex

Dog training

Dog Trainer, Saffi Rowan has been working with dogs in North Queensferry since she was 13. Google Fife Dog Training to find Saffi on Facebook or through her website to access a registration form

Yoga

We have 3 yoga classes a week in our Small Hall

Mondays & Wednesdays 7 to 8.30 with Nacho email downwardfacingdog@protonmail.com

Friday 9.30 to 10.30 am with Anne Guilloton email anneyoga4everybody@gmail.com

Toddlers

Our Parent and Toddler group meet every Thursday at 930 until 1130 in our small hall.

This is a great place to meet other young families in the village, and a chance for little ones to create bonds with their age mates that may endure throughout their nursery and school years and beyond.

Arts and Crafts

We have an Arts and Crafts group running on Thursday nights from 7 until 930.

The group has been going for many years now and if you would like to join them contact Jill Brown on 0976 133701 or email jill.ebe@talktalk.net

Youth Club

We would love to see new members for our youth club which meets on Thusrday evenings in our Main Hall.

There are a number of awards that our young ones can train for at the Youth Club and these can count towards their academic qualifications.

p4 to p7 pupils meet in our Main Hall from 6.15 to 7.30

s1 and above meet 7.45 to 9.15

Ukulele

We have had a block of ukulele classes running through September/October. The teacher, Ivy Partridge, is great fun and the lessons superb. We would like to have her back again but need more people to join.

Ukulele was introduced into schools a few years ago as a replacement for recorder lessons, and it is this that has led to a huge uptake in adult players throughout the UK

Social Cafe

We have a social cafe running on Wednesdays from 10 until 1230. If you are over 65 and wish to register for this just come along any Wednesday.

If you would like to book a space within the Community Centre or the Multi Use Games Area, please email at nq.community.centre@gmail.com.

Alternatively you are welcome to pop in on a Thursday morning to make inquiries in person or to pick up food waste bags from our front lobby.

KarenTrotter (Facilities' Supervisor/artist in residence)

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