The Ferry News

Issue 106
February
2024

North Queensferry Buses

The North Queensferry Local Action Plan (NQLAP) that was drawn up a while back called for smaller buses in the village. Since then, we've had some success. The no 88, aka the Inverkeithing Town Bus, now takes in the lower part of the village and there are generally more services than previously. However, we still suffer from oversize buses clogging up NQ.

To some extent, that's inevitable. Large numbers of kids travel across Fife to school, requiring large buses, and those buses can't just be left idle the rest of the time. But, before going back to Fife Council to see what more can be done, it would be useful to know just where bus passengers are trying to get to.

Bus services in Fife are either 'commercial' or 'subsidised'. The commercial services run on the main routes such as into Edinburgh; the subsidised (by Fife Council) services tend to follow convoluted routes, serving areas like NQ that wouldn't otherwise be viable. This prompts the question of whether passengers on those routes are looking to travel on the one bus or whether they would prefer to switch en route to a more direct service. To find out, I'm asking bus users to let me know how they use our buses and how they might operate better. In particular: would you prefer to go to Ferrytoll and switch?

Can I invite you to email me at cllr.dave.dempsey@fife.gov.uk, message me on Facebook, phone **07585 112996** (leaving a message if I'm out) or drop a note into Wright's. You're not restricted to one reply – the more information, the better. Nor do you need to say who you are, though I'd be happy to have a more detailed conversation with anyone who wants.

The questions I'm seeking answers to are:-

A) What NQ bus service do you use?
B) Where do you board the bus?
C) Where roughly are you trying to get to?
D) Does that bus take you there or do you switch? If switching, where?

Forth Bridges Trail tourist signs

Planning consent has been received for a second phase of tourism signs for the Forth Bridges Trail. In North Queensferry, this will involve replacing some old interpretation signs in Deep Sea World car park and by the Albert Hotel bus stop; as well as adding new ones in locations such as Battery Road Car Park and Battery Point Picnic Area. Some directional signs are included in this phase around either end of the Forth Road Bridge. It is expected that installation will take place towards the end of March.

Funding has also been secured for a final phase in the new financial year which will be more focussed on directional signs.

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The focus of this article is a reminder of some of the monitoring and screening tests available to patients from the Practice. Although we send reminders out, we find patients often do not respond, perhaps because they are unsure of the need.

Cervical screening is offered to anyone with a cervix aged between 25 and 64 years and is done at the Practice. The cervical screening test (also known as a smear test) takes a sample of cells from the cervix (neck of the womb) and checks it for human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer. Around six women in Scotland are diagnosed with cervical cancer every week.

Practice health checks cover patients on long term chronic diseases and those taking certain medications. These monitoring checks are initiated by the Practice.

The main checks for respiratory conditions are Asthma and COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). Both are a minimum of annual checks at the Practice.

Cardiovascular checks are recommended for anyone with:

Type 2 Diabetes – 6 monthly blood and BP checks with a full review annually. Type 1 diabetics are reviewed in the hospital diabetic department. All diabetic patients should also have an eye check (retinopathy) and foot check (neuropathy) to ensure their diabetic condition is not causing any problems.

Chronic Kidney Disease, Heart Failure, post stroke monitoring are all annual checks that require a blood test, BP check and review with one of our Practice Nurses.

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a blood test and BP check every 18 months if stable.

Patients taking certain medications for Arthritis, commonly known as DMARDs, are Methotrexate, Sulfasalazine, Azathioprine and Leflunomide. These drugs are started by specialists in hospital with the Practice asked to perform regular blood checks to check drug toxicity and adjust medication if required.

All patients in any of the categories of health mentioned above are strongly recommended to take up the offer of the screening and monitoring checks when offered.

Finally, an unrelated but important piece of information. This is a reminder that the Practice phones will be diverted to the Out of Hours service for the Easter period of Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April. We will be open for some pre-booked routine appointments only. Urgent medical care will be covered by the Out of Hours

Postage Stamps Christmas saw bumper donations of postage stamps placed at Wright's shop.. Your stamps are sent to the Royal National Institute for the Blind where they provide a valuable means of fundraising. Please see the website: www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal.



Thank you for continuing to collect.

Brock Street Play Park Refurbishment---Update

Firstly, the good news—
In December 2023, we received a Conditional Grant of £30K from Fife Environmental Trust (FET) and an approval of £10K from the 2024 Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB).
So, we are off to a good start on the fund raising journey.
One of the important conditions of the FET grant is that we have to raise at least 10% of the award locally. In other words, we have to raise in excess of £3K from local fund raising and donations.
To date, we have the following from our Just Giving / Crowd Funding page:

Initial crowd funding page	**£619.00**
Current crowd funding page	**£2,162.00**
Total to date	**£2,781.00**

So, with a small push we should reach and hopefully exceed this target. If you wish to make a donation, no matter how small, please log on to:-
https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/david-neill-3
Our web page has a picture of the Forth Rail Bridge (surprise, surprise!!
Easier still is to use the QR code:

We await the outcome of our application to Fife Council, which is critical, as along with substantial funding, the Council will ultimately carry out the co-ordination and project management of the refurbishment of the play park.

Will keep you posted on this front.

The site survey is complete, the equipment has been chosen and the layout confirmed, so it's only the funding that remains outstanding.
(Ha, easy, in these challenging times. It's only the funding!)

The Project Group will continue to look at other sources of funding from local business and sources out with the village.

Would you like to increase your business?

Why not advertise in the Ferry News?

Information about your business will reach every house in North Queensferry three times a year.

North Queensferry Local Action Plan Community Forum

The North Queensferry Local Action Plan 2021 – 2024 was the culmination of a village wide community consultation.

504 Questionnaires, one for every household in North Queensferry, gave every resident/family the opportunity to participate in the development of the North Queensferry Local Action Plan (NQLAP). The NQLAP was recommended for implementation at the South & West Fife Area Committee.

Along with the implementation of the Local Action Plan, a village Community Forum was established. The Community Forum is made up of members of community groups and voluntary organisations across North Queensferry and is the Lead voice for the community on progressing the Local Action Plan Outcomes.

The Community Forum held an "Open Evening" at North Queensferry Community Centre on Tuesday 30th January, 6.00 – 8.00pm, to enable all residents to hear about the work the Community Forum has been doing over the last year. 5 local residents attended along with 5 members of the NQLAP Community Forum.

There was a lot of positive discussion at the open evening and Forum Members wish to repeat the exercise of inviting local residents along to hear about the Community Forum progressing the Outcomes in the North Queensferry Local Action Plan. The anticipated date of the next open evening at the Community Centre is April/May time. There has been interest from some residents to join the community forum, these residents will be notified of the next community forum meeting.

One of the Forum Members is working closely with the Primary School and Fife Councils Parks & Open Spaces Service to refurbish the Brock Street Playpark. The playpark group are in the process of exploring funding to assist with the playpark refurbishment. The engagement and involvement of the school pupils is significantly contributing to the playpark design.

For any more information on the North Queensferry Local Action Plan, please contact David Manderson, Community Education Worker on **01383 411865** or email **david.manderson@fife.gov.uk**

Forth Road Bridge 60th Anniversary 3 September 2024

The Forth Road Bridge will reach its 60th anniversary since it opened in 1964. A group has been formed by Transport Scotland to put a plan of activity together to mark the occasion and further details will follow.

The first event to be scheduled is the Forth Road Bridge Supernova! This is described by the organisers: "On Saturday, 2nd November 2024, the iconic Forth Road Bridge will be completely closed for you to walk, jog or run 5k. Celebrate its 60th anniversary in a magical, immersive evening of light and colour, as we change thousands of lives for the better."

There is a ballot open on their website to apply for a place:
2024 Supernova Forth Road Bridge - Saturday 2nd Nov 2024 (supernovarun.com)

K6 Telephone Kiosk - Before and after…

HERITAGE TRUST members already know that the Trust acquired from British Telecom the K6 Telephone Kiosk-grade B listed-located on Main Road for the princely sum of £1. Since we acquired it, it has been carefully refurbed to its current state… yes, a far cry from the tired phone box, we took over.

It is now a working Information Kiosk, with a book swap for children's books - hence the Giraffe Bookshelf, but it has now developed into a more general books/Cd/tapes swap facility. The Heritage Trust checks it every week and we are pleased to see it is largely self maintained, although occasionally we do have to tidy it up. We are also pleased that some thoughtful folks leave a donation which is much appreciated. Wall to wall shelfing would improve the "service" so donations will help to make this happen.

The Heritage Trust is a registered non-profit charity and donations is our main source of income. To those of you who have used the facility for donating or swapping books, our thanks and to those of you who have helped with a donation - thank you.

To Donate
Please Scan Me

Heritage Trust

PS Check out the station's Book Swap area too!





North Queensferry Walking Group 2024

The meeting point is NQ Church car park every alternate Wednesday at 10.00am. Volunteer drivers will take other walkers to minimise the use of cars.

In most cases, there will be the opportunity for a coffee or light lunch. For further information please contact **Eileen Donaldson on 01383 412874.**

DATE	WALK	DISTANCE	DETAILS
06 March 2024 L	Aberdour Silver Sands to Burntisland	4 miles	Part of the Fife Coastal Path taking you along the foreshore with terrific views over the Firth of Forth.
20 March 2024 L	Blackness to Carriden	2-3 miles	From Blackness village we head West along the foreshore to Carriden The aspect is open although the path is unsurfaced and narrow in places.
03 April 2024	Dalgety Bay to Braefoot	3 miles	Daffodil walk on very good paths. Starting at St. Bridget's Kirk to Braefoot Bay. All on good paths.
17 April 2024 L	Water of Leith, Edinburgh	2-5miles	A lovely walk passing through Dean Village and Stockbridge incorporating the Gallery of Modern Art. Transport from NQ church to Ferrytoll Park and Ride provided. Public transport thereafter.
01 May 2024 C	Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness	1.5-4.5 miles	Short and long walks. Some on tarmac paths others on gravel taking in James Watt's cottage, Kinneil House Kinneil Church and the Roman Antonine Wall. The longer walk takes in the nature reserve.
15 May 2023 C	Torry Bay and Crombie Point	3 miles	Mostly on surfaced paths, this walk includes Craigflower House, the ruins of the Old Crombie Parish Church and Crombie Point House. Part of the Walk is on the Fife Coastal Path.
29 May 2024 L/C	Loch Leven	2-5 miles	Starting from the car park at Loch Leven's Larder, there are various walks to suit all with fantastic views over the loch. Eventually having a light lunch and possibly a bit of shopping.
12 June 2024 C	Duloch Park / Calais Muir Woods	3-4 miles	Starting at the entrance to Duloch Park there are various options and paths progressing through Calais Muir Woods.

Key: C—circular walk L-linear walk

The Albert Herald

Sixth Edition February 2023

STORM-BATTERED ALBERT SHOWING ITS AGE IN 200TH YEAR - PICTURES



A sorry slate of affairs: Dislodged, broken slates were among the damage to The Albert observed after storm Isha - ***Continued on page 2***

Recent negotiation with the The Albert's owners, on a sensible purchase price, failed to reach agreement. As such, the team is proceeding with the official Right to Buy process.

The North Queensferry Community Trust (NQCT) submitted a formal Community Right to Buy (CRtB) application in October 2023.

The process involved sending the application to the owners (The Trustees of Festival Inns Ltd SSAS), the bank responsible for a loan on the property, and other parties. These interested parties were given until 31 st December to respond to the application.

NQCT have been sent the responses and now have until 6th March to provide any further comments. We intend to reply in a much shorter timescale and hope that the Community Land Team will make a decision on independent valuation and whether or not the ownership should be transferred to The Albert Community Group Ltd. for purchase and sustainable restoration. It is possible that The Albert may be the first building to be acquired by a community group under this new legislation.

Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Application

If the CRtB application proceeds, we will begin fundraising to purchase and restore the building. Our application for a grant to assist with purchase has receive Stage 1 approval from the Scottish Land Fund. Beyond purchase, we would plan to fundraise from community shares and application for grants to appropriate funding bodies.

All of this takes painstaking application and time, and we share the frustration expressed by some that there are no visible signs of progress towards saving the building now in its 200th year.

Concern about the state of the building



We do of course have concerns about the length of time involved in this CRtB process, as the building has been exposed to another winter of bad weather without any care or repair.

The following images were taken after recent storm Isha.



Slates are moving and falling, gutters are leaking and stonework is becoming eroded.



The Albert deserves better than this, and we will continue to fight for its preservation.

For now, all we can do is document the damage.



Credit and thanks to Garry Irvine for these photographs.

North Queensferry Walking Group—continued

26 June 2024 C	Craigencalt / Kinghorn Loch	4 miles	From the centre of Kinghorn, walk up through the golf course and take in the views over the Forth. Then continue over farmland to Kinghorn Loch, Craigencalt Farm and the Ecology Centre for a well-earned break at the cafe.
03 July 20'24 C	Powmill to Rumbling Brig.	4 miles	Starting at the Milk Bar and along a quiet road, then down between open fields to the Crook of Devon with views of the Ochil Hills. Follow the River Devon to Rumbling Bridge and return. All mainly on good paths.
17 July 2024 C	Preston Island	4 miles	Originally an island but now joined to the mainland with the ash residue from Longannet Power Station. Remains of the salt pan industry is now a nature reserve. All walks on good paths.



www.theweerestaurant.co.uk

North Queensferry Harbour:

North Queensferry (NQ) Harbour and the Old Railway Pier is managed by NQ Community Trust. Boat owners pay facility fees to store their boats and the money is used for maintenance and improvements to the area. Everything is run by volunteers. The area is home to NQ Boat Club, NQ Coastal Rowing Club and Lothian Sea Kayak Club so there are lots of opportunities to get out on the water and enjoy the views. In 2023 two very large, abandoned boats were taken apart and disposed of to keep everyone safe, to tidy up the area and to create new boat storage space. Volunteers from NQ Boat Club have taken the prow of one of the boats and created a wee 'sitootery' looking out to the bridges. At the back of the harbour, in the old Balfour Beatty carpark, there are now two community workshop spaces where everyone is welcome to come and learn new skills, use the equipment and materials and get on with their own projects or join in with shared activities.

The Arts and Crafts Workshop :This is a space for children's activities and general arts and crafts such as sewing, knitting, crochet and papercrafts. There are children's activities every summer and regular sessions for anyone to drop into throughout the year:

Mondays 9.30am-11.30am: Knitting and crochet.
Tuesdays 9.30am -11.30am: Sewing
Tuesday 6.30pm-9.30pm: General drop-in for all crafts

There are lots of sewing machines, a knitting machine and lots of equipment and materials for yarncrafts, jewellery, papercrafts etc. At Christmas we had a pompom party and created pompoms up to a foot wide out of donated yarn!

If you would like to know more:
Website: www.nqcommunitytrust.org.uk
Facebook and Instagram: @nq.community.trust
Email: nq.community.trust@gmail.com

The Engineering Workshop at NQ Harbour Yard Managed by the Rosyth Men's Shed
The Engineering Workshop exists to allow folk to get involved in woodworking and metalworking and working with resin. It is currently being run by the Rosyth Men's Shed, a very friendly and knowledgeable group of men. So, who are the Rosyth Men's Shed and what are they all about? The Men's Shed movement exists to promote general wellbeing, continuing education and a healthy lifestyle for all men both retired and in employment. The aims are to: provide a safe space for men to enjoy each other's company, indulge in a range of activities, be creative and learn new skills.; meet and chat with other men over tea and coffee and put the world to rights.; boost a feeling of self-worth through contributing to community projects, working in partnership with other local organisations, assisting each other and enjoying fun and friendship.

Although Men's Sheds are predominantly aimed at men, women may also join and take part in shared sessions.

The Rosyth Men's Shed were originally formed in 2020, just a few weeks before the first COVID, lock-down. We had over a hundred men come to that meeting, so we knew there was a real enthusiasm for it to happen. Then along came COVID lockdowns and this devastated our ambitions. It took a tremendous effort to restart everything after the pandemic measures were finally lifted in 2021. We were totally homeless as a group but managed to secure permission from the Eats Rosyth Centenary Orchard and Gardens to base ourselves there. We hold meetings in the Orchard Classroom on a Thursday between 12:00 and 14:00. We did have a shared area in a small workshop at the Orchard but we have certainly outgrown that workshop. If anyone wishes to join us at the Orchard on a Thursday, please do not hesitate to come along.

During 2022 we carried out many projects in the Rosyth local community culminating in the preparation work in the repurposing of the old Clydesdale Bank into a Community Hub. Our major achievement was the removal of 3 very large safes left by the Clydesdale Bank. It took six men, average age 66, to shift 7.8 tons of safe out of the building. We were knackered after that wee job!

Early in 2023 we were approached by the North Queensferry Trust to convert a large Portakabin space into a functioning workshop. It took us a few months to get there but it is now a going concern and has helped us complete a number of projects within the community.

You can catch up with all our exploits through our Facebook Page - **@RosythMensShed.**

One of the ambitions of this workshop project is to have folk from North Queensferry come join us there and take part. We are open on a Saturday morning between 10:00 and 12:30. We offer woodworking, metalworking and resin working facilities. We also have a well-stocked tea bar so why not come along?

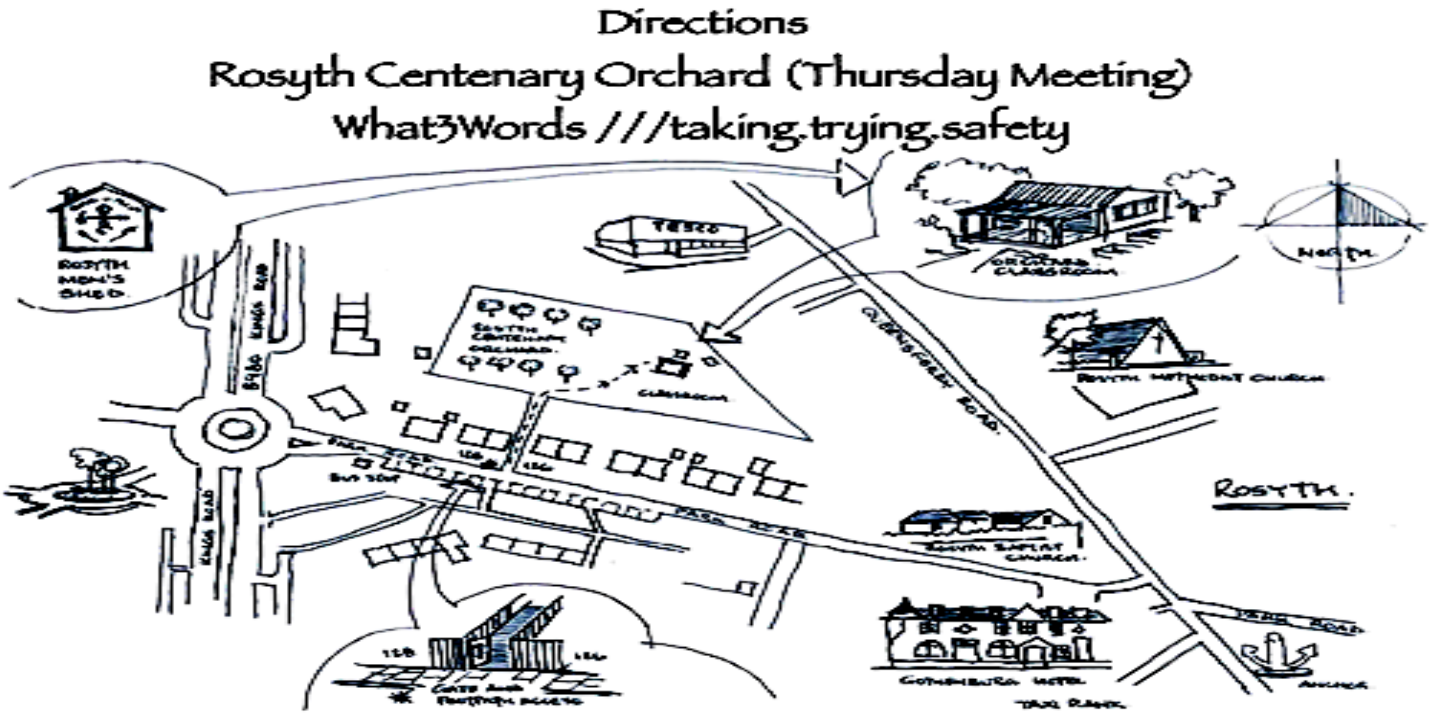
North Queensferry Harbour continued

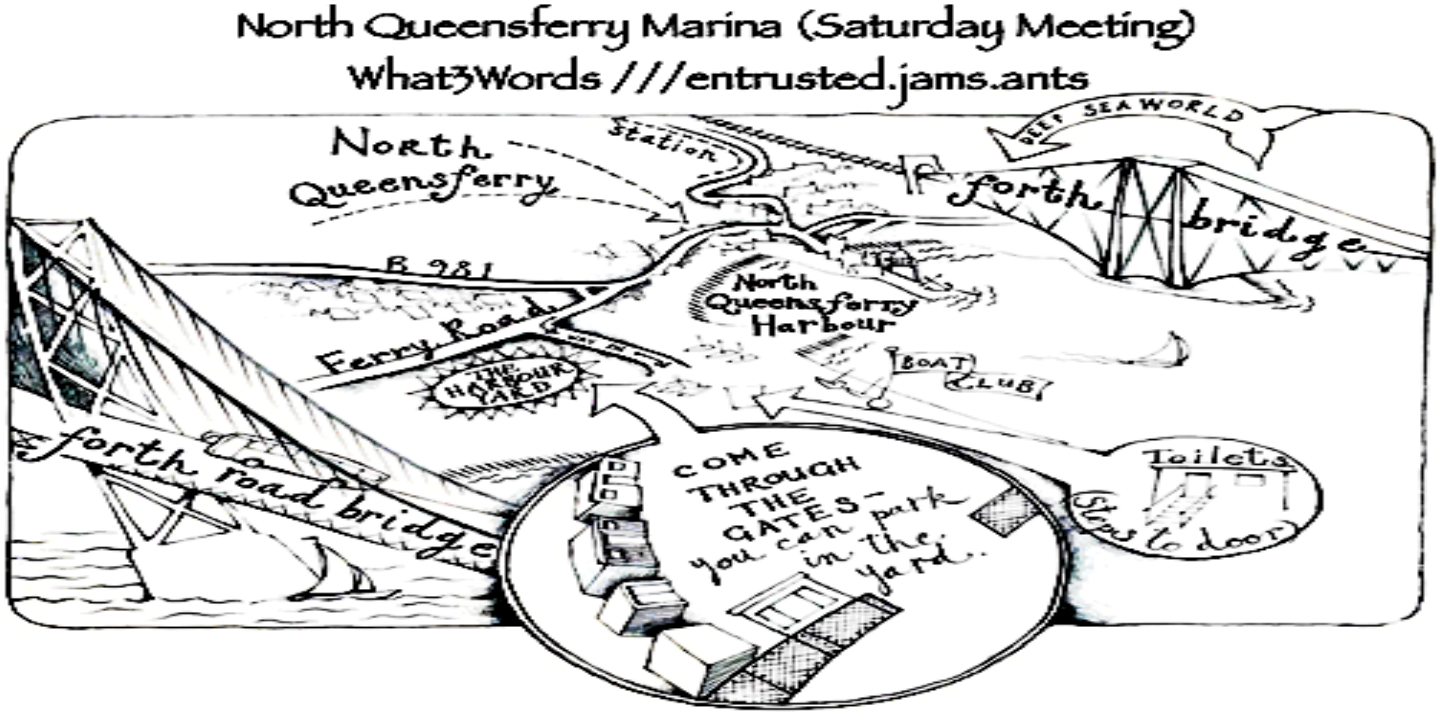
We would be very keen to meet you and hope you wish to get involved. For Health and Safety and Insurance purposes it is necessary for those of you who wish to use machinery in the workshop to become members of the Rosyth Men's Shed. This is a pretty painless process limited to a small bit of form filling (2 pages, easy questions!).

As for the future. The Rosyth Men's Shed are currently in the process of acquiring land to build a complete Shed for ourselves in Rosyth. We are in the early stages of the planning process with Fife Council so it will be a while before our new Shed comes to fruition. While we are in North Queensferry, we hope to bring residents onboard so that when we do leave, you have a functioning and lively Shed of your own. Don't worry, we will always be available to help out in North Queensferry, it is something we owe your community for helping our community out.

Many thanks and hope to see you soon.

How to find us





Transforming North Queensferry into North Greenferry

Want to do something about the climate or nature emergencies? Want to find out how we can make the transition to green energy and reduce our energy consumption? So far more than thirty of us have been identifying issues, and beginning to develop a community action programme. A second meeting took place on 10th January in the Community Complex.

Around the tables there were large sheets of paper each with a different heading. Everyone was invited to move around, find the topics that most interested or concerned them, and talk with others around those topics. There were pens and Post-its for people to post their questions, concerns, suggestions and ideas. Some of the sheets are completely covered by-Post-its and writing!

What did people want to know about? What should we be doing?

- To make homes, transport more energy efficient and how to change to renewable energy. Can we find out about how to have more option like: e-bikes, e-cars and e-public transport?

- What could the village do to generate its own energy? Can this help bring income to the village?

- How much do things cost, what grants are there, how do we work out if it is a good choice for us? Are there some problems that we could better resolve by working together?

- Can we learn more about how to talk about climate change with others? To prepare for unavoidable climate change, to do things in the village to increasebiodiversity or grow food.

It is a great time to join in the action!

Some people are already starting to look at:

green energy generation, low carbon homes, electric transport opportunities and biodiversity. There is plenty of time to bring other ideas. The next meeting is 7:30 pm on Wednesday 13 March in Community Complex. Come and put in your ideas, join a group, find out something new to do. If you are interested, then you can help by joining or co-ordinating a group.

This project will only work if the village works together. You certainly won't be alone. We are fortunate to have people locally with knowledge and experience that they are happy to share.

This is a community venture. To be successful it needs people like you to step up and get involved. Come and help to find out how we can make things happen. This could get exciting if we can get things moving. In March we plan to bring in an expert speaker to help us develop action plans.

Getting the project started: Jane Hesketh, Trevor Watkins and Hugh Muschamp.

Email: nq.community.energy@gmail.com

Resources

There is a lot of help out there already. Both Fife Council and the Scottish Government have set up and funded agencies for the purpose of advising, helping and funding groups like ours.

Fife Climate Hub (https://fccan.org.uk/resources/) is the local Fife resource for us. The staff of the hub manage an online community network through which we can get advice and help. We can find groups that are further ahead with their projects and learn from their experience. There are dozens of established groups across Fife who are well ahead of us, and from whom we can learn. We can be part of something bigger.

Local Energy Scotland (https://localenergy.scot/) is set up by the Scottish Government to take care of its Community and Renewable Energy Schemes.

(CARES). A scheme supporting communities to engage with the task of making the energy transition to net zero emissions. There is masses of information on their web-site.

Transforming North Queensferry into North Greenferry—continued

And there is an additional online resource, **Adaptation Scotland**. Their mission is 'to help communities to understand what climate change will mean across Scotland, and identify the best way for them to plan for the impact – taking the opportunities and preparing for the risks."'Check them out at **https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/.**

Forthview Church

The new parish has been named Fife: Forthview Church of Scotland and Fergus Duncan, who was previously interim moderator of Aberdour: St Fillans, has been appointed interim moderator of the new charge until a permanent ministry team is in place.
Dr Duncan, who will support the new united kirk session and congregation, commented: "It is an exciting time for the local church in the area, and a real opportunity to continue to build on the previous ministries, but also to look to the future and where we can see God at work in our local communities.
"Fife: Forthview is a place and space for all, where each and every person is welcome."
The local parish churches united as a single congregation on January 1 2024.
The next step will be to begin the process of calling the ministry team of three full-time ministers of Word and Sacrament, who will work across the five communities.

While the parish is united under the name Fife: Forthview, the five worshipping communities will each retain their local name to identify the building and area, for example Fife: Forthview - North Queensferry.
Dr Duncan explained that this will help ensure that local people know where to go for particular groups and events, but will also serve as a reminder that worship, pastoral care, funerals, weddings, and baptisms continue in the areas of the previous parishes.
Worship in the five communities will continue to be provided by the associate minister, locum ministers and pulpit supply, alongside the provision of pastoral care.
Anyone who needs to access the services of a minister can contact the office based at the Dalgety building, either by email at office@Dalgety-church.co.uk or by phone on 01383 824 092. Calls will be directed to the ministers covering the parish.

Contributions for the next issue of the Ferry News are to be with us by

Friday 28 June

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