The Ferry News



Issue 64

Feb - May 2010

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Community Council

To quote from the guidance issued by Fife Council, "the general purpose of a Community Council is to ascertain, co-ordinate and express ... to public authorities, the views of the community it represents" and "to take such action in the interest of the community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable". Amongst the actions taken on behalf of North Queensferry residents since previous edition of Ferry News are:

Continuing liaison with Transport Scotland regarding the Replacement Forth Crossing.
Monitoring of planning applications.
Liaison and regular meetings with Fife Constabulary.
Opposition to Tarmac's application to extend workings at Cruicks quarry by three years.
Continued investment in the floral enhancement of the village.
Maintaining pressure on Fife Council to properly maintain roads, verges and pathways, in concert with our elected Fife Councillors.
Ensuring that Scottish Water properly restores the area of the Waste Water Treatment Works following its replacement.
Representing a perceived concern regarding the shortage of good quality pre-school provision in the village.

In order that it may continue to properly fulfil its remit, it is vital that residents let the Community Council what they think and the best method of achieving this by attendance at its meetings. These are open to all and are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Community Centre commencing at 7.30 p.m. A flavour of matters discussed can be obtained from the Minutes which are posted on the two village notice boards and on the North Queensferry Community Council website (www.nqcc.co.uk), which also contains a list of Community Councillors. It can also be accessed through a link on the Ferry News website (www.ferrynews.co.uk).

Finally, if anyone wishes to join the Community Council or wishes to know more, please get in touch with me (417429) or with any of the other members.

Brian Armstrong, Secretary

Community Centre

The Community Centre AGM was held on 15 October where the following were elected to the Management Committee: Iain Whyte (Chair), Jill Brown (Vice-Chair), Brian Armstrong (Secretary) Christina Mackenzie (Treasurer), Greta Dyce, Lucy Macaulay. Jimmy Dyce had felt it necessary to stand down after many years of service on the Committee. At the November meeting of the Management Committee warm thanks were expressed to Jimmy for his immense contribution to the Centre from its beginning. It is hoped that a suitable occasion to mark this would be found in the near future.

As this issue goes to press the annual Burns Ceilidh on 30 January will be taking place and all the indications are that this popular occasion will again be a 'sell out.' The Community Centre continues to be well used, with an increase in private bookings and a variety of local groups spanning all ages. New equipment has recently been purchased and further plans for upgrading facilities are 'in the melting pot.' As always the dedication and willing help of Phil our caretaker ensures that things run smoothly and well.

This is YOUR Community Centre! The Management Committee would very much welcome new members. We meet normally on the third Thursday of the month. If anyone is interested and free for no more than an hour or two per month please contact Brian on 417429 or any other member of the Committee.

Iain Whyte

Transition Initiative

Everyone's noticed all the news about dwindling global oil supplies, changing climate and increasing food prices but it's not all doom and gloom. A new global movement has emerged to help tackle these issues called the Transition Network. It provides a set of ideas for local communities who want to become more energy-wise and resilient to whatever surprises lie around the corner.

A group of locals here in NQ were inspired by transition ideas and decided to get together to form our very own transition group and call it 'North Queensferry Transition Initiative' or NQTI. Galvanising our village to embrace change and, above all, to enjoy pulling together as a community.

Perhaps you helped fill in the Food-Growing map of NQ at the Village Show, attended the Apple Day event at the community centre in November , or perhaps you and the kids decorated willow Christmas wands at the School Christmas Fair. All these activities were run by NQTI and there'll be many more events over the next year.

NQTI have come a long way since their first meeting in August. They have become a constituted voluntary organisation, and are in the process of applying for funding with the aim of employing 2 full-time members of staff and 2 part-time Energy Advisors, securing office-space in the Community Centre and developing several Community Gardens.

The group meets every month and anyone is welcome to come along to share ideas and find out more. And don't worry, you don't need to be a vegan, tree-hugger to join. NQTI is for everyone, no matter what your credentials!

NQTI's next event will be 'Adopt A Tyre' in April. We'll be making instant mini raised beds out of tyres with free compost and seeds available. So come along and start your own veggie patch. Watch this space for more details and events throughout the year...let's get it growing!

For more info contact us at:-
nqtransition@googlemail.com
tel 01383 414407 Andrew Jones (Chairperson)

log onto

https://sites.google.com/site/northqueensferrytransition

To find out more about the Transition Town Initiative check out;

Transition Network - http://transitiontowns.org/

Transition Culture - http://transitionculture.org/

Lynda Cattanach

North Queensferry Sailing Club

The NEW North Queensferry Sailing Club is getting ready for the coming summer

Make use of, have fun on and be safe with North Queensferry's best playground!



Interested in having a go but no boat? No problem! Join in with our

- *Try Sailing days*
- *Learn to sail courses for kids and adults*
- *Courses for more advanced sailors*
- *Boat Hire*

Join us and have fun this summer on and around the water with BBQs, Fun Days, Sailing courses and Racing for the more competitive. Or enjoy seeing new places and meeting new people on organised cruises up and down the Forth.

For information or to join call Paul Tucker on 416385 or Simon Tate on 411080
Or email info@northqueensferrysc.co.uk

Ferry Birds - Sept 09 to Jan 10

The recent spell of real winter weather has meant some good bird watching around the village. Frozen or snow-covered fields means feeding for many birds becomes difficult. Many of our resident garden birds benefit from the food we put out, but others have to move and find food and the shore line around the North Queensferry peninsula has proven to be a good feeding area for several species. One of the best spots seems to be Draught Beach just behind the Albert Hotel. The star attraction has been a male **stonechat**. I first saw it on the 4th of January perched on the large tree trunk stranded on the beach. It is an attractive bird with a dark head, pale collar and orange-red breast. It is quite bold and perches on any prominent bit of vegetation or other vantage point looking out for its next snack. It normally feeds on insects and was probably feeding on the small invertebrates hiding in the seaweed on the strand line. It was not alone when I first saw it as there were 2 or 3 **lapwings,** a **curlew,** several **oystercatchers** and a few **redshanks** also busily searching for food.

A few **redwings** were also feeding on the beach. This bird is a winter visitor from Iceland and Scandinavia to the UK. There have been lots of them around the village recently along with **fieldfares** and a few **mistle thrushes**. There has been a particularly friendly **fieldfare** by the play area near Pierhead Buildings. All these thrushes have quite distinct calls so now is a good chance to learn them. The **mistle thrush** is easiest sounding like a wooden rattle. The **fieldfare**'s call is described as tchak-tchak-tchak and the **redwing**'s defining call is a see-ip. This last call is so distinctive that they are often heard overhead as they migrate at night.

Other birds which have come to the seaside in search of food which I have seen in the village or from the coastal path have included a **reed bunting** at Port Laing on the 5th of January and a **woodcock** which flew up from a garden on The Brae on the same day. **Woodcock** are elusive birds, widespread breeders in the UK, which are joined in winter by many more continental birds. They feed in damp woodlands on worms and other invertebrates which they find in the soil and leaf litter. With the ground frozen and covered with snow this becomes a problem so they have to try and find softer ground which means getting closer to the sea.

The resident **eiders** along our shore are joined by **goldeneyes** and other ducks during the winter. The males of both these ducks are now in resplendent breeding plumage and the **goldeneyes** in particular are displaying by calling as they throw their heads back. **Goldeneyes** breed in small numbers in Scotland mainly in the Spey Valley, but the majority leave for Iceland and Scandinavia in April. This winter these ducks have been joined by some **red-breasted mergansers**, a few **great-crested grebes and little grebes**. More unusually about 8 female **common scoters** and a female **long-tailed duck** have been just off shore between Port Laing and Cruickness Point. Female **common scoters** are smaller than the **eiders** and dark brown in colour with pale cheeks. Like **goldeneyes**, a few pairs (about 50) of **common scoters** breed in the north and east of Scotland, but the majority of those that winter in the Firth breed in Finland and Arctic Russia. Scotland seems to be a favoured wintering area for ducks which breed in Northern Europe!

Our more usual wintering birds have been in West Bay throughout the winter. **Redshanks** are the commonest. I counted 60 on the 14th of January feeding at the edge of the receding tide. There were also 9 **dunlin** and several **oystercatchers**. There were more **oystercatchers** roosting on the rocks on the east side of West Bay and a single **turnstone** was busily searching for food amongst the seaweed. Three **shelducks** have been in residence in West Bay since Christmas and a pair of **mute swans** are commuting between there and Draught Beach.

The more unusual birds I have seen around the village include a **grey wagtail** on the rocks by the play area near Pierhead buildings and also on The Brae near the Jubilee Well, a **red-throated diver** near Cruickness Point at the beginning of January and one or two **rock pipits** on Draught Beach. I have also saw the **peregrine** perched in one of the local quarries in the autumn and the male disturbed the waders in West Bay on the 12th of January before making a bee-line for the Rail Bridge to harry the **feral pigeons**. I didn't get the impression that he was that hungry, he was, perhaps just having quick fly past to keep the **pigeons** on their toes!

The bird walk on the 9th of January was, despite the snow, a limited but reasonable success. Draught Beach had the **stonechat** and **redwings** and a **great-crested grebe** was spotted swimming in the mouth of West Bay. The snow became much heavier as we walked the coastal path towards Port Laing and, as we could hardly see the derelict pier from the path we decided to call it a day.

The stop press news is that there were **fulmars** flying around Inchgarvie on the 18th of January. They breed on the island and always seem to come back for the odd few days in January and February to check out that everything is OK before settling down to breed in April. Is this the first sign of spring?

As a slight divergence from the birds of North Queensferry I have seen seals in the sea from the coastal path and hauled out on Beamer rock on several occasions and in November I saw a hedgehog just off Ferryhills road near Carlingnose Way and then one on The Brae later in the month.

John Done

Gala News

It`s full steam ahead for the Gala Committee as we have begun fundraising for 2010.

Our first event was a Race Night, which was great fun and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone - a whopping £650 was raised! A HUGE thank you to all who supported the event and made it a success. Thank you for your dedication towards supporting the Gala fundraisers.

As with all fundraisers, support from local businesses plays a very big part in adding to the kitty.

Our Race Night sponsors were; Costorphine MoT Centre, The Albert Hotel, Peter The Painter, Wright's Licensed Grocer, Queensferry Hotel, Allan Robertson Builders, ACR Electrical Systems and ThyssenKrupp Palmers.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the support we received for the race night which helps to ensure the survival of the Gala.

Last, but certainly not least, a massive thank you to YOU, the community of our beautiful village of North Queensferry. Thank you for your continued support of the Gala Fundraising events, without whose contributions, there would be no Gala for our children and families alike.

As those of you who have participated in Gala week and in a fun Gala Day would know, it not only brings such joy to the kids but brings us all together as a community.

We all need to ensure that the Gala tradition is continued and this can only be achieved through your continued support and contributions.

Our next fundraising event will be a Casino night with live music in the Albert Hotel on Saturday 24th April. Free Entry! Watch out for further details

We would love to see as many people come along to the Casino night as possible, and we have decided to have free entry to encourage a good turnout. The fundraisers are a great way to come together as a village and have some fun - and of course raise some money for our annual Gala day. The money we raise goes towards offering a free family day out.

Gala Day is Saturday 19th June - more details will follow on the Gala week events.

Pilates Classes

SIMPLY PILATES

Pilates consists of a series of exercises to rebalance the body, achieve better posture and improve movement & body strength.
6 week block booking, booked in advance.

Cost £45.

Suitable for all fitness levels.

Pilates Class Timetable

Tuesday	10.30-11.30am	SQ Rosebery Hall
Wednesday	7.00-8.00pm	NQ Community Centre
Wednesday	8.00-9.00pm	NQ Community Centre
Thursday	10.30-11.30am	Dalgety Parish Church
Friday	10.30-11.30am	NQ Community Centre

Contact:
Amanda Johnstone
Fully Qualified Mat Level 3 Pilates Instructor(REPS)
Tel: 07787 321571
Email: JohAman@aol.com

One to One consultations also available

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

IN NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH
ON ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS
10.30 TO 12 NOON
ALL AGES WELCOME
Dates as follows:

February 10, 24
March 10, 24
April 7, 21
May 5, 19
June 2, 16, 30

Baby and Toddler Group

The North Queensferry Baby and Toddler group meet every Thursday morning in the Community Centre from 9:30 – 11:30am. We are an active group and always welcome new members.

We have a number of events planned for the next few months, the first being a Baby Disco fundraising event on Thursday 25th February, 9:30-11:00am at the Community Centre. The cost is £5 per family and that includes food and drink for the children. We are also holding a new mums drop-in morning on Thursday 4th March.

We are currently planning Easter themed events and a swimming trip so we have a fun and busy session ahead!

Please contact Emma McLachlan (Secretary) 01383 415 315 for any further information.

School Days

It is reputed that the first village school in North Queensferry, was set up by the 'Sailors Society' on the site of 'Melinkie Cottage' in Helen Lane in 1769.

Only boys of the village had the privilege of education at that time. Later, about 1827, the school on the Brae was built for the increasing population as well as the advancement in education for both boys and girls of the Victorian era. If you gaze up from the foot of the Brae when the sun is low in the morning or evening, you can see the words “Built by Subscription, AD 1827” engraved on the lintel which carries the old school bell.



When the present primary school at Brock Street was built in 1914, the old school on the Brae continued to serve the village community as the Institute for another sixty years.



It would appear that one thing never changes down through generations of schoolchildren. There comes a time when playing truant seems more fun than going to class. Jenny MacIntosh remembers the time when she and her friends played truant. "There was an old railway coach sat behind the station when we were young. When we wanted to play on the beach instead of going to school we would put our books in the coach and collect them again when it was time to go home. Well, one day, when we went to collect our books, the coach was no longer there. The next day when we went to school, we were sent for by the headmaster. As we lined up before his desk, we saw our books laid out on it. The old coach had been sent to the repair yard and the stationmaster had found our books and taken them to the school. Well, I can tell you we did not play truant again for some time after that."

The day of the first air raid in 1939 was a day when John Taylor and the then headmaster's son had played truant to go fishing. When the bombs began dropping the boys rowed for the shore as fast as they could, and learned their lesson from that experience.

Mary Valentine (Burns) remembers the time she was caught cheating, having copied homework from a friend. "I was not very good at arithmetic," recalls Mary "and my friend May Colquhoun was the best in the class. I had forgotten to do my homework this day and asked May to let me copy her work. I got full marks that day but Mr. Wilson called me out to the blackboard and, handing me the chalk, told me to show the class how to work the answers out. Of course I couldn't do them so I was found out and I had to write out 100 line of 'I must not cheat and copy homework'" Mary laughs, and says "It's a good job I was better at writing than arithmetic."

Mary is very proud that her great grandson David Greer, is now the fourth generation of her family attending North Queensferry Primary School.

When World War II was declared, North Queensferry Primary school was taken over by the military and, from 28th August 1939 until it reopened on 9th November 1942, all the 'Ferry children' attended Inverkeithing School on a part-time basis. The register shows that 110 children were re-enrolled on that momentous day in November, their ages ranging from 5 years old to 12 years old. The following year of 1943 saw the exodus of 43 of these moving on to higher grade schools.

The Heritage Trust is asking for your help in locating some good stories, traveller’s tales or just reminiscences of yesteryear which may be archived and shared in the village.

In 1990 for the centenary of the opening of the Forth Bridge the Heritage Trust published a booklet of many of these stories with the following contents.

Making our Own Entertainment
Working for a Living
Village Characters
A Busy Wee Place
The Ferry’s end
A Village at War
School Days
A Different Kind of War

Twenty years on, war stories are fading from some memories. The Ferry ceased running 46 years ago. Are there now any ‘Village Characters’?

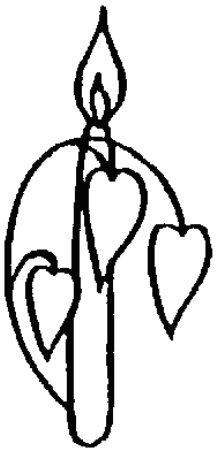
The Trust is keen to hear of any stories you think worthy of publication. An example of the type of story we have in mind is ‘School Days’ reprinted from the 1990 publication.

Please submit your story onto the forum section of our website www.nqht.org and click on the forum page.

Chernobyl Children Life Line

You may have seen "our" Chernobyl children in the village last summer, with their red hats and smiling faces. They were Ukrainian, all living within 35 miles of the disastrous Chernobyl reactor. They came at the invitation of a group of local people—the Dunfermline and West Fife Link, part of the Chernobyl Children Life Line.

The month's respite holiday was possible only through the generosity of many people. The visits to North Queensferry were no exception. Deep Sea World kindly invited the children, arranged a private Creature Encounter and gave goody bags. In the afternoon, (with a short break on the school's Trim Trail), we prepared for our coffee evening and short concert for supporters who do not usually meet the children. The village church hosted this. Church members, as always, gave a huge amount of support. Our only regret was that we could not invite more people. And Jennifer Foster set aside a whole day to give hair-does to all—and all were delighted. Interestingly, the boys were even more excited than the girls.



Now the children are safely at home and we have assessed the visit. All the children benefited—their parents were taken aback at the airport by how fit they looked. (One mother burst into tears because she had never seen her son looking so well.) The innovations we introduced worked well and we will repeat them in July 2010. First, we offered hosting for two weeks. Before 2009 we had asked hosts to take children for the full four week visit. Last summer some children stayed with two hosts families: a fortnight with one, then a fortnight with another. This made it possible for more families to take children and this, in turn, made it possible for us to invite more children. Second, we ran a week's "camp" at Dalgety Bay Scout Hall. The troop provided accommodation and equipment and encouraged scouts to lend a hand. The children loved the arrangement. It helped hosts because during the camp week they could avoid taking annual leave or they could take a break, and it gave everyone a change of pace.

So, THANK YOU, NORTH QUEENSFERRY, FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE. There are now ten healthier and happier Chernobyl children than there were at the start of the summer! There are many ways to support the children and all help is much appreciated. For more information, please speak to Carol Dean (01383-418781) or visit www.ccll.org.uk

T. A. Wood

Funeral Directors

&

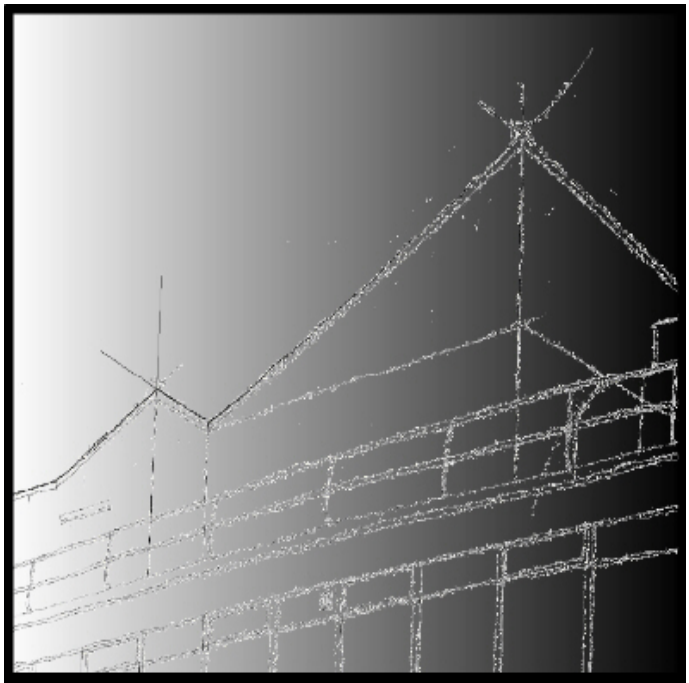
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NORTH QUEENSFERRY WALKING GROUP

February 17	Vane Hill and Loch Leven – linear – 4 miles
March 3	Hopetoun to Abercorn – linear – 4 miles
March 17	Rumbling Bridge – circular – 4 miles
March 31	Paths near Falkland – circular – 4 miles
April 14	Roslin Glen – circular – 5 miles
April 28	East Lomond – circular – 4 miles
May 12	Saline Hill – circular – 4 miles
May 26	Day Walk – part of East Neuk coastal path
June 9	John Knox Pulpit, Lomonds – linear – 3 ½ miles
June 23	Hillend Trail (using ski lift) – circular – 4 miles

Walkers meet in the Church car park at the Church at 10.00am where transport is organised. You do not need to be a driver – there is always spare capacity. You need approriate footwear and clothing for the weather and also a snack. Including travel time we are normally back around 1pm. New walkers are always welcome. Telephone Janet on 416734 if you have any queries.

A Fond Farewell

We are writing to say a fond and sad farewell to all our many friends in North Queensferry. We are moving to Wivenhoe in Essex to be nearer family and work. We will treasure our memories of village life and the interesting people (and dogs!) that we have met. We welcome visits and hope to offer B&B in the future, when we have sorted out our new home. Wivenhoe is a lovely old riverside village, with friendly inhabitants, surrounded by countryside and only just over an hour from London: maybe we could twin it with NQ? We will be coming back to visit our family in Glasgow and will detour to NQ to see our friends (and a certain beloved donkey...) So it's au revoir rather than goodbye to all. Best wishes for 2010 and beyond. Good health and good cheer. Charmaine, George and Juni Mckissock.

We can be contacted on gmckissock@aol.com.

Over 60s Five-A-Side Football

I am interested in organising a weekly pool of retirees (over 60) for a weekly (gentle!) game of Five-A-Side Football in the Rosyth/Dunfermline area during a weekday.

Anyone interested please get in touch with Iain Whyte 410732 or iain@whytes28.fsnet.co.uk. Costs should be under £5 p.w. if we get a regular pool of a dozen

Contributions for the next issue

are to be with us by
Friday 7th May 2010
to
7 Carlingnose Park
or
mary@ferrynews.co.uk.



Scottish Country Dancing

Ladies Social Class
Commences 6th January 2010

Wednesday Evenings
7.30 – 8.45 pm

B.P.Hall
Hope Street
Inverkeithing

Beginners welcome.
Just come along or
Phone 414169

Cllr Douglas Chapman's Report

The Brae

The water leak that we experienced at the top of The Brae has now been fixed by Scottish Water and the newly resurfaced road restored.

Harbour / West Bay / Boat Club

Discussions took place prior to Christmas regarding the future of the West Bay and how the community could gain maximum benefit from this area. I have asked our Locality Manager to arrange a workshop where the community can begin to plan what we want from this area and to help us identify a lead organisation to take this forward. A neutral and skilled facilitator will be brought in for the day to help this process along and ensure that all interested voices are heard and recognised as part of the on-going plan. I am hoping that we can also learn from other villages where a community trust has been established to deliver this kind of project.

The workshop is likely to take place on a Saturday morning towards the end of February / mid March. Recognised organisations will be written to and the wider community informed once the workshop arrangements have been confirmed.

Deep Sea World overspill car park

The removal of the overspill car park is in Transport Scotland's plans for the new Forth Bridge and I know its removal will cause additional parking problems in the village on DSW's busy days . We are probably at least a good year or so away from any action being taken by Transport Scotland, however in that time we need to work towards finding an alternative car park solution to alleviate any additional parking pressure being put onto the village.

As an aside, but on the same issue of the new Bridge, we are also working towards improving the junction at the Inverkeithing end of Ferryhills Road to allow Ferry traffic to easily access the bridge both during the construction phase and following the new bridge becoming operational.

Discussions continue on both issues.

Winter Weather

There is an ongoing review of how Fife Council handled the recent and protracted spell of really bad winter weather. The focus was on keeping main routes clear, gritted and safe during this time and looking at TV coverage from around the UK, it seemed to me that Fife was no worse than anywhere else. However, this is an opportunity to take stock of how Fife handled this exceptionally cold period and for North Queensferry, issues like where grit bins are placed and how often they are replenished. Please let me know if we have any places where a grit bin would be essential should we experience such winter weather conditions again.

NQ Primary

One piece of really good news to end on...in January Fife's Education Committee decided that as from August 2010 the catchment area for North Queensferry children will change from Woodmill HS to Inverkeithing HS. The majority of children already attended Inverkeithing. However as IHS wasn't their catchment school parents had to pay travel costs. This decision now means that NQ children will be able to go to Inverkeithing and as it is now their catchment school, transport costs will be paid for by Fife Council.

cllr.douglas.chapman@fife.gov.uk 0798 491 5700

Rotary Club – Sponsored Walk

The Rotary Club of Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay, which also operates in Aberdour and North Queensferry, reports that, with sponsorship donations now in, over £5,000 was raised from its seventh annual charity walk on Saturday 12 September 2009. The walk, from the Ballast Bank in Inverkeithing to the Silver Sands at Aberdour, attracted more than 100 walkers. The proceeds of sponsorship are to be distributed to Maggies Centres in Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh and a number of local charities. Maggies Centres provide much needed support for those suffering from, and affected by, cancer and are entirely dependent on charitable income. Since the club's first charity walk in 2003 the Rotary Club has raised more than £25,000 for local charities, with the largest share going to the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland.

The Rotary walk is now well established as a major fund raising event in West Fife. Participants enjoy a pleasant day out on the attractive, six mile stretch of coastal path and a barbecue is provided at the finish on the Silver Sands at Aberdour. Walkers also receive a certificate that confirms their participation.

A, by now, well established practice is for local organisations and clubs to join the walk as a group and raise sponsorship that is divided between the Rotary Club's chosen charity and participating clubs' own funds. This has proved to be an effective way for local clubs and organisations to both raise funds for themselves and contribute to other deserving causes. It means, too, that all of the organisation is done by the Rotary Club and participants don't need to consider health and safety issues, stewarding or publicity. The walk usually gets good coverage in the local press.

This year's walk will be on Sunday 12 September and individuals or organisations that would like to participate, or would like more information on the walk, should get in touch with John Taddei on 01383 860456 or the Rotary Club secretary, Ian Wilkinson, on 01383 727803.

Community Engagement Model

Background

The Community Engagement Model is currently being delivered in the Levenmouth Policing Area and is based upon a policing model from Chicago, USA. The model is complimentary to existing structures and has provided the Force and community partners with an opportunity to build upon good practices and become more efficient and effective in the way in which it engages with local residents to tackle and resolve community issues.

The intention of the model is to match Policing Services to community needs through closer engagement with local residents allowing them to prioritise the issues that affect their community the most.

Since the introduction of the Community Engagement Model in Levenmouth the number of recorded crimes and offences has reduced significantly. Early feedback suggests greater community satisfaction with policing. By example, during April to October 2009 there were 462 less crimes than in same 2008 period, meaning an 11% fall. Crimes of violence were down 42%, theft from vehicles down 57% and crimes of dishonesty down 17%.

Objectives

i. To engage closely with members of the community on a one-to-one basis to collectively identify issues that they feel affect them the most
ii. To develop effective problem solving community planning partnerships to meaningfully resolve localised problems
iii. To support delivery of the Force Policing Plan

Structure and Processes

Tackling and reducing the fear of crime and building safer neighbourhoods is achieved by listening to and understanding needs and expectations of local communities. This engagement is primarily achieved through a Community Consultation Meeting Structure and associated processes where the public, police and partners decide the priorities and act accordingly to deliver a meaningful, sustainable response.

As a by-product of this process (as evidenced at Levenmouth) relationships with partner agencies have been enhanced, increasing the achievement of common goals in relation to increased levels of satisfaction regarding delivery of service to the public, improved public perception on crime and its effects on the communities and increased performance on crime reduction and detection.

Feedback on use of the model in Levenmouth has been excellent, with communities being encouraged by the police and partner responses and openly commenting on the success at public forums, through their elected members and through the media.

As a result of the evaluation of the model in Levenmouth it has been decided to roll-out the model across the whole of Fife.

The overall benefits envisaged from introducing and developing the Community Engagement Model across Fife, accordingly, are: -

i. a more representative view of the community's policing priorities;
ii. increased levels of public satisfaction regarding service delivery and their perception of crime in their local area;
iii. enhanced relationships with partner agencies;
iv. increased achievement of common goals;
v. and increased performance regarding crime reduction and detection.

The roll out will see 40 police officers redeployed to community policing roles. These officers have already been identified and will be trained for their new roles from early January. Community Policing teams throughout Fife will then be fully deployed in the 60 identified "Beat" areas actively going out to meet with the public and encouraging participation in the community consultation structure.

North Queensferry and Inverkeithing have been identified as one of the identified "Beat" areas and as such there will be no change locally, with two community officers continuing to work the area, namely PC Brian Smith and PC Paul Dykes.

The initial community consultation meeting for the area will be held from **7-8 pm on Tuesday 2nd February 2010** within Dining Hall no. 1 at Inverkeithing High School, which is adjacent to the main school car park. Thereafter a rolling 2 monthly cycle of meetings will be implemented as follows: -

Tuesday 2nd March 2010
Tuesday 4th May 2010
Tuesday 6th July 2010
Tuesday 7th September 2010
Tuesday 2nd November 2010

Whilst the redeployment of officers to community duties will reduce the numbers of police officers directly allocated to response teams, the number of officers available for front line policing in Fife will not reduce. Indeed, community officers will be deployed at times and on duties, which the public identify as a local priority. The Force response to priority and routine calls will be monitored closely to ensure sustained performance.

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