



‘A SENSE OF PLACE’

Thursday 26th April 2018

Presentation links & summary of discussion

Mike McDowall, Queensferry Heritage Trust, opened the discussion and provided a short introduction to the history and development of Queensferry in terms of its built environment. [See full illustrated text on our [website](#)]

Will Garrett, Built Environment and Placemaking Manager at Edinburgh City Council, explained the Place Making concept and shared the results of the exercise commissioned by Queensferry Ambition in 2014. Queensferry was one of 4 areas in Edinburgh to pilot this consultative approach. [see full presentation on our [website](#)].

Paul Hogarth, Director of the Paul Hogarth Company, explained the background and recommendations from the 2015 Orientation & Signage Strategy for North & South Queensferry. This exercise built on previous work by the Company in 1999 when the original High Street improvement works were undertaken. The work to produce a guided walk and the current interpretation boards were carried out with considerable involvement from the History Group. The latest, more wide-ranging proposals have yet to be implemented – despite the successful nomination of the Forth Bridge as a UNESCO world heritage site in 2015. [see full report on our [website](#)].

Wil Tunnell, Principal Architect at WT Architecture, provided more detail on the results of the Queensferry place making exercise. Whilst much of this consultative exercise is still relevant and should not be lost, we need to acknowledge that since 2014, development in Queensferry has accelerated at a staggering pace.

The discussion highlighted several issues including:

- Queensferry High Street is disconnected from the majority of Queensferry residents
- The High Street refurbishment programme is welcome, despite the delays, but needs to be viewed in the context of a larger vision for the development of Queensferry
- Report after report have highlighted the issues of traffic congestion, parking, lack of connectivity, pinch points and practical problems such as pedestrian crossing on The Loan
- With housing development continuing rapidly and an anticipated increase in tourism, there is an urgent need for a big picture, joined up strategy for the development of Queensferry
- Will Garrett suggested that a new initiative from Edinburgh Council on “Place Plans” could act as a catalyst and encouraged Queensferry to be at the forefront of this and submit specific proposals

Queensferry Heritage Trust believe that resolution of these issues is important to the community and will continue to provide a public platform for discussion and to lobby elected officials and Edinburgh Council for action.