

Queensferry Heritage Trust

Placemaking and Queensferry

Will Garrett



Planning's purpose is to create better places

Scottish Planning Policy 2014

“Placemaking is the process through which we **work together** to shape our public spaces.”

“Placemaking is a creative, **collaborative** process that includes design, development, renewal or regeneration of our urban or rural built environments.”

“Placemaking inspires people to **collectively** reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community.”

“Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of **creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well being.**”

'place' :

- the environment in which we live



- the people that inhabit these spaces



- the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings



Creating Places

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality

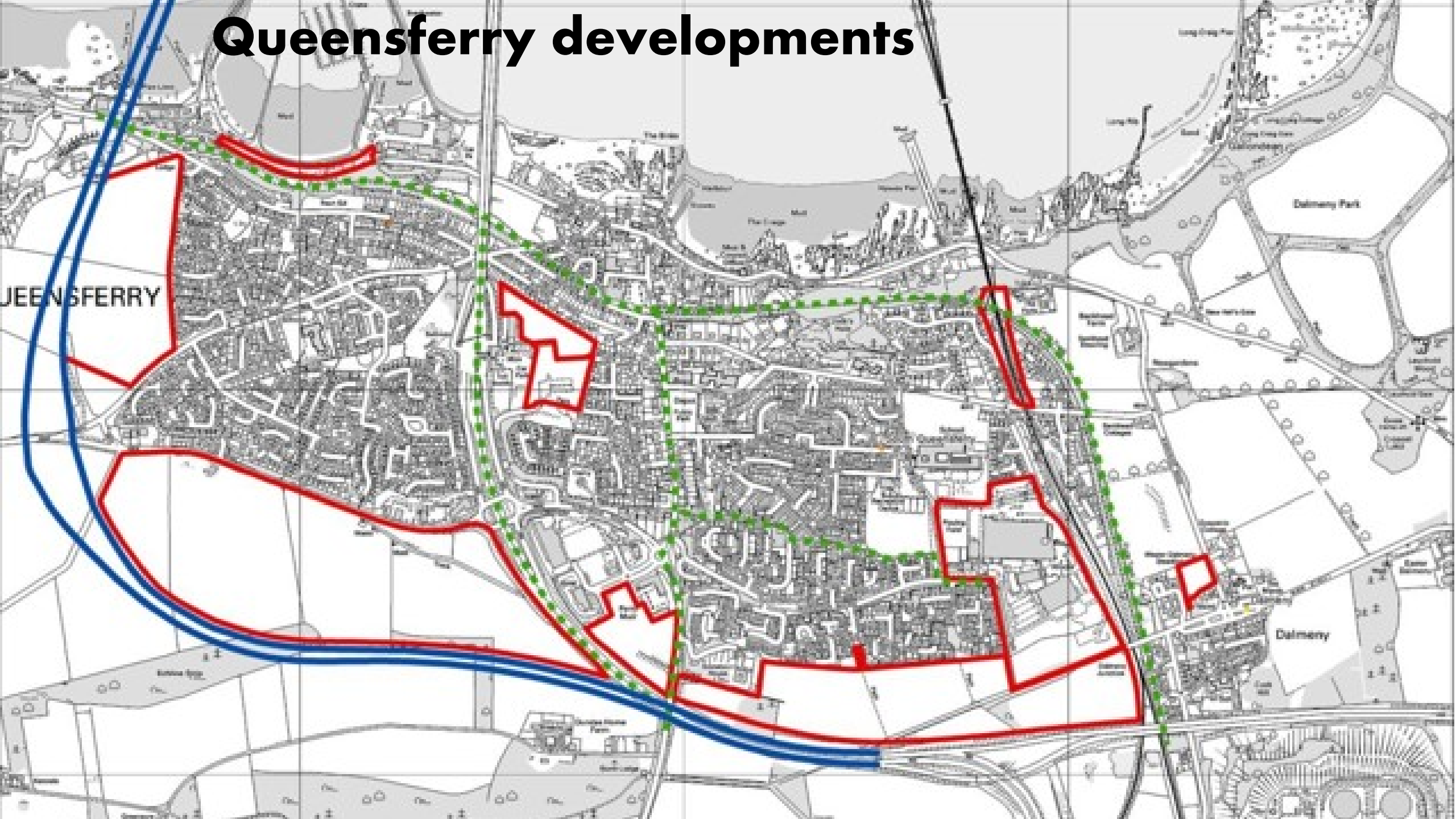
Estimates put the cost of obesity to Scotland in 2030 at up to £3 billion.

Preventing Overweight and Obesity In Scotland, Scottish Gov, 2010

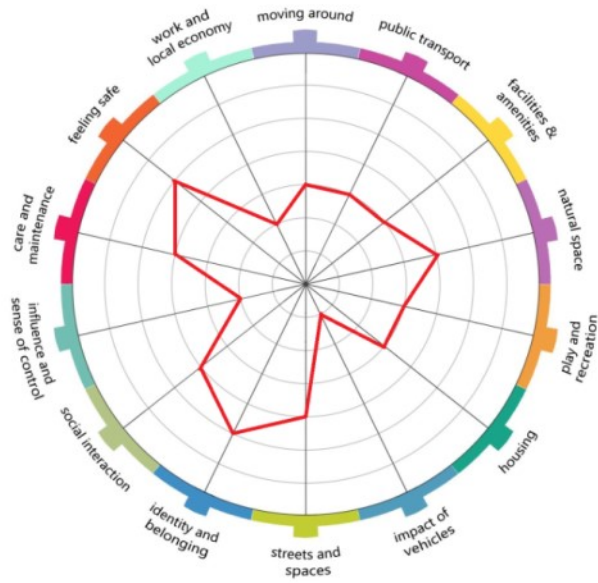


Image: Paddy Patterson

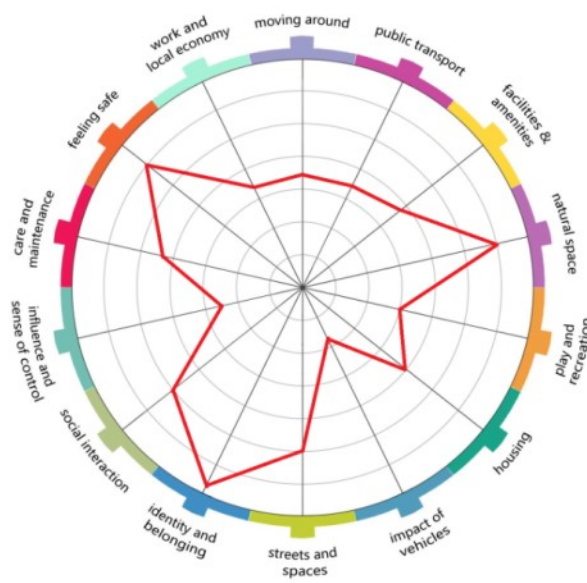
Queensferry developments



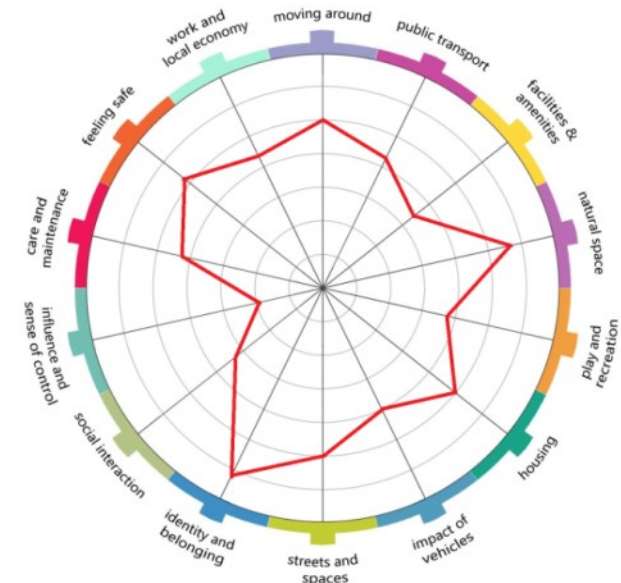
Queensferry Place Standard results



Public responses (Aug 2015)



Public responses (Oct 2015)



Student responses (Oct 2015)

Feeling Safe

- General feeling that Queensferry is a safe place to live and travel around.
- However, the lack of a visible police presence was raised by a number of respondents, and seen as a concern with the rising population.
- The recent spate of burglaries was mentioned a number of times.

Care and Maintenance

- Buildings are generally well maintained.
- There are problems with litter, dog fouling and graffiti in streets and parks.
- Gritting in winter can be selective
- Issues with cobbles on the High Street

Social Interaction

- Queensferry offers a lot of clubs and organisations.
- Some felt there was a lack of facilities for these organisations, e.g. no dedicated community centre.
- Others identified the High School as a good space for such activities.

Work and Local Economy

- The overwhelming view was that Queensferry is a dormitory town for Edinburgh and other settlements, and that access to work in these places is good – if you have a car.
- There is an active local economy, but it is centred on the tourist trade and service sector roles – restaurants, hotels, Tesco etc.
- A number of respondents highlighted the lack of 'professional'-type jobs locally, and how big employers (eg Hewlett Packard) previously located there had left.

Influence and Sense of Control

- Many respondents felt their opinions were lost within the system.
- There was a view that public involvement in important issues has been lacking in the past, and where their views would not make a difference.
- Generally respondents felt they had little control or influence over events (particularly young people).

Identity and Belonging

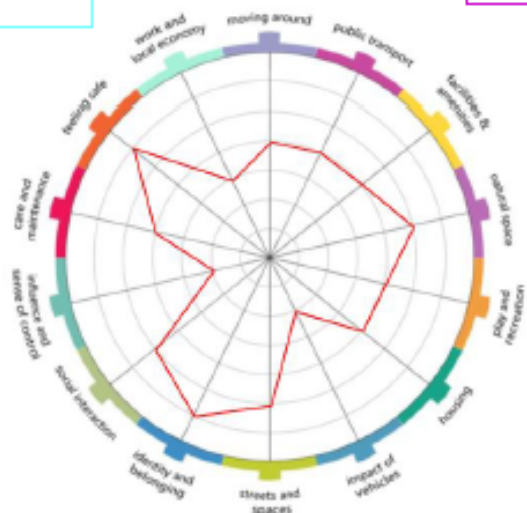
- Queensferry is seen as having a strong community identity, separate from Edinburgh.
- However, some respondents felt this was more tied to their local area than Queensferry as a whole.
- There is a fear this sense may be lost with the new housing developments.

Streets and Spaces

- Queensferry has a number of quality historic buildings, making it pleasant to walk around.
- However, the signage is quite poor in the centre, and should be improved to assist tourists with finding their way around.
- The poor quality of pavements and roads (e.g. potholes) was raised.

Moving Around

- General feeling Queensferry is easy to move around on foot.
- Most groups mentioned the poor state of the High Street.
- Views on cycle paths were mixed – some commented on their increased quality due to recent improvements and others commented on they are not well connected.



Public Transport

- Generally the bus services are seen as poor, both within Queensferry and for connections to other places. Comments centred on their prices, irregularity, and the withdrawal of services into Fife and West Lothian.
- There was also a view that some areas in Queensferry are much better serviced than others.
- Train services are viewed more positively, but are seen as expensive and overcrowded.

Natural Space

- Although there are few natural spaces within the town, Queensferry benefits from being surrounded by publicly accessible estates.
- However, access to these is dependent on having a car.
- There is concern that access to a lot of these will be lost with the new housing developments.

Impact of Vehicles

- Traffic congestion is seen as a problem across the town, especially along the High Street and the schools along Station Road. This is increased when there is an incident on the Forth Road Bridge.
- The High Street needs better traffic management, as it is constantly blocked by delivery trucks and tourist coaches.
- There is a lack of parking along the Waterfront.

Housing

- The existing housing mix caters mainly for families, and there is a lack of smaller 1 or 2 bedroom properties for those seeking either an affordable first home or to downsize.
- Lack of a care home and sheltered accommodation.
- There was a general concern that the new housing sites will not cater towards these needs and provide more large and expensive family housing.

Facilities and Amenities

- Concern over the capacity of existing school and medical facilities being reached.
- Leisure facilities are limited, and those available (e.g. the pool at Queensferry High School) are in poor condition. Facilities are available in surrounding settlements, but usage depends on access to a car.
- The town has a fair number of shops, but they are seen as catering more towards tourists than residents.

Play and Recreation

- While there are play parks within Queensferry, they are not distributed evenly. Some families have trouble accessing them.
- There is a general lack of recreational facilities (e.g. bowling alley, quality swimming pool, cinema).
- Teenagers and younger people are poorly catered for in terms of activities.

Place plans

where **Top Down**



meets **Bottom Up**

Queensferry High Street





“I have never experienced this number of Council Services around one table talking about Queensferry and don’t just welcome it, I am inspired by it”

Keith Giblet, Queensferry & District Community Council

