



QUEENSFERRY HERITAGE TRUST

Newsletter October 2020

Dear Members,

As you know the Covid 19 restrictions have meant that we have had to postpone our talks programme. Polling of members suggested that most members preferred to wait until restrictions are lifted and we can meet safely, rather than participate in virtual talks. We will continue to keep this under review. Meanwhile, your committee has continued to meet virtually, and we have decided to go ahead and hold a virtual AGM in November. Further details on this, together with other news, is given below.

1. Annual General Meeting

Our AGM postponed from 29th April will be held at **7.30pm on Wednesday 4th November 2020**. This meeting will be held virtually by Zoom to comply with current restrictions. Joining instructions will be sent out to members in advance together with the agenda, the Chairman's Report and the QHT Report & Accounts.

2. Projects

2 new projects are underway:

Queensferry under lockdown – We have launched a series of blogs to build a picture of an extraordinary time. The first of these are now published on our website and we would be delighted to receive additional contributions. Please email these to Jenni Calder jenni.calder@gmail.com To view contributions please click [here](#).

Digital Queensferry – We plan to create a digital repository of documents and photos relating to the heritage of Queensferry for researchers, schools and members of the community. We are currently testing software options, identifying key documents and determining copyright protocols.

3. High Street Refurbishment

QHT has had representation on Edinburgh Council's Steering Group for this project since its inception in November 2016 when we were invited by the Council to attend a meeting of what was then the 'Queensferry Infrastructure Improvement Group'.

The first Steering Group meeting with Council officials, the Consultant designer Ironside Farrar, representatives of QDCC and two Councillors, took place in March 2018. After four public consultation events, which resulted in opinion being divided equally three ways between Pedestrianisation / one-way traffic / two-way traffic, the decision was taken to retain

a two-way traffic flow but with a narrower roadway. Traffic lights at the Loan junction and a complete replacement of all surface materials as well as restrictions to the hours of delivery and heavy vehicles. Any other option would have possibly meant an objection delaying the project and losing the Government's 'City Centre' funding. The scheme went to tender in December 2019 with only one contractor returning a price that was £1m above the £2.1m budget, with no room for negotiation.



Then along came Covid 19 and with it a £5m grant allocation to Edinburgh Council to implement a city – wide 'Spaces for People' project. This temporary infrastructure programme, managed jointly by Sustrans (Sustainable Travel) and Atkins (see www.sustrans.org) was introduced to make walking and cycling safer in our streets. The plan for Queensferry High St (from the Loan to the Seals Craig) is to introduce a 3m wide pavement where possible. This initially involved removing all parking spaces. However, after discussion and a walk through on 26th August with Council engineers, reps from QDCC and the Businesses, it was agreed that various sections of pavement could be widened, and all existing parking remain. We still await the final plan and a date for its implementation.

Virtual meetings of the Steering Group were held on 16th July,

11th August and 9th September to discuss both the 'Spaces for People' project and the original design scheme. It was proposed that there was now an opportunity to base the design on a one-way system (west to east, 3m wide roadway) and that this could be trialled during the 'Places for People' programme.

QHT and QDCC's views on the matters under discussion have generally been the same. We have also had the benefit of occasional guidance and expert advice from Ian Spence,

Architect and Urban Designer (who gave a talk on 11th Dec last year on ‘Urban Places, People and Spaces’).

While the original design appears not to have changed significantly, the introduction of a 1.5m to 2m east to west cycle route through the High Street is clearly intended to allow Sustrans to make a financial contribution to the project to meet the cost of the new scheme which looks like this - Council funding £1m or more, Gov. ‘City Centre’ fund £1m, and Sustrans perhaps £0.5m. Design change cost reductions may still be necessary.

The original plan at the beginning of the year was to re-tender at the end of this year for the work to be done in 2021-22. With both the concerns expressed strongly by the High St businesses and the necessity for ‘Spaces for people’ works, the actual programme is not really been considered. What was discussed at the last meeting was the issue of parking space and the Traffic Management and parking report prepared by Halcrow in 2013 which highlighted opportunities to increase provision at the Binks along with enhanced landscaping, and also at the Gallondean (west end of Longcraig road).

We look forward to being advised when the next meeting of the Steering Group will be scheduled

QHT would be delighted to hear your views on the current proposals. Please email Mike McDowall - mgmcdowall@btinternet.com

4. Provost’s Lamp, Villa Road.



Following a concern by one of our members regarding the deterioration of the Burgh Insignia on the four glass panels of the Provost’s lamp, QHT, with the co-operation of City of Edinburgh Lighting Department, set about getting the panels replaced in January this year. The Department provided us with a dimensioned drawing which we took to Easter Road Plastics who provided us with the four panes of 3mm clear acrylic cut to size. (£41.69) Then along to Jenny Smith of the Edinburgh Laser Studio in Leith. We had already provided her with an image of the Burgh Insignia, so it was a matter of letting her get on with the engraving work (£150). Finally, we delivered the finished panels to the Lighting Dept at Sighthill and within the week they were installed in the lamp.