

Queensferry Business Association

Annual General Meeting

at The Two Bridges
7.30pm, Thursday 24 November 2011

Chairman's Annual Report from Douglas Flett

This AGM marks the twelfth anniversary of the formation of the Queensferry Business Association and, as the only remaining member from that first committee in 1999, I am stepping down with the satisfaction that the QBA has had a beneficial effect on the cohesion and development of local business and of the community as a whole. We have -

- lobbied Government and Transport Scotland on the Forth Replacement Crossing
- provided information for businesses to obtain contracts with contractors
- raised some of the issues of seven years of construction disruption and opportunity
- provided regular business networking information
- provided regular City Council news on developments, planning and cruise liners
- work closely with the Community Council
- working relationship with the City Council
- gave City of Edinburgh Councillors and officials a Forth cruise in 2001
- helped stimulate a vision of Port Edgar as a thriving tourism centre and marina
- proposed the FRB office site as a Scottish Engineering Museum & Visitor Centre

over the years QBA has –

- arranged Summer Balls and Christmas Dinners
- handed out Schools Awards for four years
- published Essential Queensferry – still in use!
- investigated a regular Farmers Market
- pioneered Christmas in Queensferry (handed over to an independent committee)
- pioneered an Urban Framework for Queensferry (passed to Queensferry Ambition)
- pioneered the idea of a Business Improvement District (passed to QA BIDs in 2010)

Chamber of Commerce: We switched our QBA group membership from the Edinburgh Chamber to West Lothian. The latter has events better suited to our majority of SMEs and these are more convenient to reach – since the ongoing Edinburgh Tram debacle renders the city centre as a no-go area except for the determined traveller. The West Lothian Chamber of Commerce provides a range of benefits to QBA members and regular e-news from the Chamber is posted regularly on our QBA website. Have you benefited from this link? Have you attended any of the many events put on by the Chamber? Let us know.

Members Meetings: We had two members meetings this year – one hosted by the Dakota Hotel and the other by Hopetoun House. As well as thanking these hosts we thank The Two Bridges for hosting our AGM. These events give opportunity to meet other local businesses.

Treasurer & Accounts: This has been difficult over the year with changes in Treasurer until Moira Cunningham took the responsibility. We will have copies of the accounts available to members for year ending 31 October 2011.

Website: Thanks to Fiona Christie for keeping the website updated. Fiona posts regular Chamber News, Cruise Ship and other news. Fiona has plans to enhance the website.

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Tourism & Visitors: The visitor leaflet is being followed up by Queensferry BIDs. We had the highest number of Cruise Ship visits this year at 24. This is an untapped revenue source for the town. Passengers who do not go on excursions need to know where to go and what to see in Queensferry.

Community Council: Diane Brown, the new Project Manager for Q-BIDs, has taken over from Fiona Christie as our link on the Community Council. We continue to enjoy the successful links across the town, with QDCC playing its prominent and fulcrum role.

Parking & Traffic: High Street congestion is still with us. Its now a year since QDCC and QBA met with Dave Anderson and other CEC officials. CEC appointed one of its transport engineer officers to carrying out a study of traffic and parking options. Over the year, Wil Tunnell and Douglas Flett had meetings with the Council reps on this matter. Our beautiful **High Street** needs better traffic management and our tourism businesses need more the boost that would come from more and accessible car parks. Traffic congestion and a lack of Car Parking remain the two major complaints we hear and the main factors that restrain business development in the town centre.

Committee: We have been thin in numbers over 2011, but **Fiona Grant** stepped in during the course of the year to take on as **Membership Secretary** as well as her role as QBA Secretary. We are very appreciative of Fiona for all that work.

Suggestions:

1. We need more members on the QBA committee (monthly meeting, 5.30-7pm)
2. We set up two ad hoc Task Groups
 - a. A team to look into improving High Street and Tourism
 - b. A team to cover issues of the Bridge construction.

Committee who have served in 2011 –

Fiona Christie	(standing for 2012 – as webmaster / non attending)
Fiona Grant	(standing for 2012)
Karen Grant	(standing for 2012 – joined the committee during 2011)
Ed Kelly	(standing for 2012)
Andrew Bourke	(standing for 2012)
Diane Brown	(standing for 2012 – link to BIDs and QDCC)
Douglas Flett	(standing down after 4 years as Chairman)
Wil Tunnell	(standing down after several years as Planning rep)
Moira Cunningham	(standing down after several years, inc Treasurer)
Graeme Pearson	(stepped down during 2011)

Thanks to the 2011 team – and all the best to the Queensferry Business Association for future in networking, informing, encouraging, championing and supporting local business.

Since 1999 - Chairpersons Peter McKinney, Charles Fletcher, Dawn Carvisiglia and Paul Hart, all contributed to the business community, as did committee members over the years – Jean Bryden, Calmyn Lamb, Jim Anderson, Josie Bonnar, Colin Hart, Jimmy Liddell, Alex Lauder, Kate Gibb, Fraser Kerr, Donald Ford, Colin Aston, Janette Anderson, Charles Blackwell, Lucy Scillitoe, Joanne McDonald, Kirsty Hodge, Kay Blair, Rona Martin, Gerardine Durkin and Graeme Pearson

QBA is all about **PUTTING SOMETHING BACK** into the community. QBA serves local business and enables the business community **to put something back into the town**. We hope to promote business and make Queensferry a better place to live and work.