

Queensferry Business Association

Annual General Meeting

held on Monday 15 November 2010
at Dundas Castle, South Queensferry

QBA Chairman, Douglas Flett welcomed members and declared the meeting open. Tom Martin was confirmed as Chairman for the Election part of the evening.

1.0 Business at Dundas Castle: Lucy Sillitoe, Commercial Director at Dundas Castle, gave a stimulating talk on the history of Dundas Castle and Estate. She described the challenges of making the house and estate economically successful, which they accomplish by hosting over 150 events a year, most of which are weddings. In the current economic climate there are added challenges to maintain the high standards expected at the high end of the market.

2.0 Chairman's report: Douglas Flett presented his Chairman's report. Several matters were covered - A Year of Big Changes: QBA spent much of 2010 representing Queensferry businesses on three fronts.

- a. We regularly lobbied government and Transport Scotland on the proposals for the Replacement Crossing. It is vital for QBA members to provide their ideas on how to maximise the potential for business growth and minimize the threats presented during construction of the third bridge.
- b. There have been several meetings between QBA, QDCC and Dave Anderson, Head of City Development at CEC. We have been asked by CEC to provide proposals for Port Edgar, having already lobbied hard to improve the ridiculous lease arrangements imposed by the Council (one month). Tom Martin, former Chairman of QDCC, then gave a brief overview of other matters such as the development of the Agilent site and the old Corus hotel sites.
- c. BIDs – Ed Kelly gave an update on progress to date on possible Business Improvement District status.

2.1 Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce: We continue as group members and are pressing ECC to host some of their many events in South Queensferry.

2.2 Members meetings: there have been 2 meetings this year which have not been as well attended as in the previous years – let us know your thoughts on that.

2.3 Website: Thanks again to Fiona Christie for maintaining the website. There was discussion about a Queensferry website that would incorporate all local organisations. Fiona prepared a proposal earlier this year of how this community site could be done.

2.4 Visitor Booklet: This would be useful to hand out to visiting cruise ships; there will be 10 more visits in 2011. There was discussion on the negative effect of the cruise ships, such as buses filling the Promenade car park for most of the day, thus discouraging visitors.

2.5 Community council: Fiona Christie is stepping down as the committee member who attends QDCC meetings. We need someone to fill this position.

2.6 Newsletters: This is a useful medium for communicating news and information about QBA but also for member businesses – so let us know your news – new products, special events, change of address or any newsworthy item.

2.7 Parking & traffic: A visit is planned in January 2011 with a CEC parking specialist, regarding a study of traffic and parking. Tom Martin is also to conduct a survey of businesses on the High Street on this issue.

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2.8 Thanks: Thanks were given to Wil Tunnell who handles planning matters for the QBA. There continues to be liaison between QBA, QDCC, CEC and other bodies on Ferrymuir, Port Edgar and the Agilent site. Thanks also to Ed Kelly and Moira Cunningham for stepping in and taking on the roles as Membership Secretary and Treasurer during the year. Charles Blackwell stepped down due to business relocation. More members are needed for the committee. Fiona Grant has done a great job as Secretary throughout the year and Graeme Pearson produced a new QBA leaflet and logo for us and kept us up-to-date with developments at the Leisure Centre.

2.9 Chairman's Suggestions: i) Maintain membership fee at £45 ii) Gain more committee members iii) Set up two ad hoc Task groups by a) A group to look into improving/stimulating the **High Street and Tourism**, and b) A group to cover issues of **Planning and the Bridge construction impact**

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Moira Cunningham presented the account balances: Standard Business a/c £464.99; Cash management a/c £1150.86. Details available on request by members.

4.0 Election of Committee Members for 2010-11

Tom Martin chaired this portion of the meeting. Nominations were received for all the outgoing committee who made themselves available for re-election. This was accepted by the meeting and the following were unanimously voted in.

Fiona Christie
Moira Cunningham
Douglas Flett
Fiona Grant
Ed Kelly
Graeme Pearson
Wil Tunnell

Others proposed and seconded were Andrew Bourke and Karen Grant. Both were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Offices will be decided at the first meeting of the new committee.

5.0 AOB/suggestions:

There was further discussion regarding **cruise ships**; a suggestion of marketing SQ as unique in having three historic estates. Lucy Sillitoe noted that Dundas was not open to the public. Tom Martin suggested capitalising on two aspects of SQ, its history and its many walks. This led onto discussion on the lack of signage and it was noted by Moira Cunningham that a publication "Walk the Ferry" was available several years ago and that it was produced by the local history group. It might be useful to reinstate.

6.0 QBA direction: There was discussion regarding promotion of QBA to local businesses, some of which are not aware of the organisation or what it does. This matter is to be discussed by the new committee.

Wil Tunnell proposed that, in the year ahead, QBA establishes member action teams that take responsibility for activities like, High Street retailing, Visitor attractions and facilities, Contacting local businesses that work from home in SQ, Port Edgar, and other such groupings.

7.0 Date of first meeting of the new committee

.... to be held on Wed 8 Dec 2010, 5.45pm at JW Physiotherapy Clinic, 27 High Street, South Queensferry

The Chairman expressed warm thanks
to Lucy Sillitoe and the staff at Dundas Castle

for their warm hospitality and sumptuous surroundings
for the QBA AGM of 2010.