

**Queensferry Business Association
Annual General Meeting.
Thursday 19th November 2009**

QBA Chairman, Douglas Flett welcomed members and declared the meeting open.

Chairman's report:

Well, this was the year of the much heralded 'Homecoming Scotland 2009', but like the rest of the year – fell short of expectations. At least we in QBA did not make a loss as did the Clan Gathering. So what has happened this year

Queensferry Ambition – a sister organisation, seeded in QBA back in 2001, and making slow progress in 2009. Its just had its 2nd AGM and is looking to QBA to help with setting up a BIDs project in Queensferry (Business Improvement District). This could be a real injection of funds, ideas and projects for the town.

Wil Tunnel, a local architect and QBA committee member is helping to develop a 20 year vision for the town, with an urban framework plan. QA will also look at traffic & parking, core pathways, signage, tourism and community and visitor facilities across the town.

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce We have been group members for just over a year now. This growing Chamber provides a range of benefits to QBA members, regular e-mailings from the Chamber have been sent to members. Have you benefited from this link? Have you attended any of the many events put on by the Chamber?

Members Meetings We had a successful members meeting this year. We met, in the Boat House in April, and heard from Duncan Walker, owner of the award winning accountancy firm, on banks and small business. These are excellent events to network, make social contacts and provide an opportunity to meet other local business people you would not normally meet in the course of your business.

Treasurers Accounts – thanks to Ceri Yule who has served as Treasurer for the past year and we wish her well in her business in the future as she steps down. Copies of the accounts are available to members for year ending 31 October 2009 - a credit balance!

Website – thanks to Fiona Christie for looking after the website and updates and member notices in 2009. We are looking for news, ideas and content to feed to Fiona for the site.

Visitor Booklet - We spoke last year about publishing another 'Essential Queensferry', visitor booklet. But we were beaten to it by the Dunfermline Press who produced, with our help, a new magazine called 'Connect – South Queensferry'. Next issue in January.

Community Council business was covered by regular reports by Kay Blair and then later in the year she was assisted by Fiona Christie. There continues to be excellent links with the QDCC and other local groups on a range of local issues.

News Letters 2009 saw several email news to members sent out by Charles Blackwell.

Cruise Ships – We had eleven cruise liners visit Queensferry this year. This continues as a mostly untapped revenue source for the town. Visitors who stay in the town are not sure where to go or what to see or how to get there.

Roads, Parking & Traffic - There were stirrings about High Street congestion in the summer and the QDCC has brought the matter back as an issue that we, the community and especially the business community, do not want to drop until quality changes are made to a beautiful Street. Comments welcome. Tom Martin has prepared a sheet of options for discussion and responses.

Jacob's Ladder is finally fixed. From our initial contacts 3 years ago, the City Council finally arranged the improvements and the leaning tree has been felled.

Planning liaison continues with QDCC, CoEC & others on AWG / Dundas, Ferrymuir, Port Edgar and Agilent; mainly thanks to Wil Tunnell who covers Planning matters for QBA.

Forth Crossing We continue to lobby Transport Scotland on behalf of local interests and with their consultants Jacobs and Ove Arup. Early objections in the summer has seen fruit in that the construction site is likely to be moved away from the back of Clufflats to the west side of the new road. We continue to lobby regarding the road configuration, landscaping, pollution, noise and other issues. Just this week Transport Scotland has released its "Code of Construction Practice" which covers things like which roads in Queensferry are to be closed to construction HGVs & staff cars. We will keep you posted.

Chairman's Suggestions:

1. Maintain £45 membership fee, which includes group membership of ECC.
2. We have two or three Members Meetings in 2010 including another successful Business Breakfast.
3. Maintain the strong links with QA, CoEC and the Community Council.
4. We set up three ad hoc Task Group
 - a. A group to look into improving / stimulating the **High Street & Tourism**
 - b. A group to cover issues of **Planning & the Bridge** construction impact.
 - c. A group to help work-up a **BIDs** bid for Queensferry
 - d. The meeting suggested a fourth group to run membership development.

Committee who have served in 2009 –

Charles Blackwell, (standing)
Kay Blair, (stepping down – but ...)
Ben Brogan (stepped down earlier)
Fiona Christie (standing)
Gerardine Durkin (stepping down – but..)
Ceri Edwards (stepping down)
Douglas Flett (standing)
Fiona Grant (standing)
Rona Martin (stepping down)
Wil Tunnell (standing)

Thanks to the 08 - 09 team – Thanks for the contribution from those leaving – Rona Martin who has served on the membership for several years – many thanks Rona; Ceri Yule, who was Treasurer. Thanks also to Kay Blair who has also served for a number of years and been the QDCC link. Also thanks to Gerardine Durkin who has found out that two children and more than twice the work of one.

Thanks also to those prepared to help and stay on for a further year - Charles Blackwell, Fiona Christie, Fiona Grant and Wil Tunnell. And thanks to Ben Brogan who helped during the earlier part of the year.

1. Treasurer's Report:

The accounts were presented on behalf of Ceri Yule, Treasurer. Copies are available to members for year ending 31 October 2009. The year finished with a credit balance.

2. Election of Committee Members for 2009 – 2010

Thanks were expressed to those who served on the committee during the past year. The present committee stepped down and Joanne McDonald chaired the election of a new committee for the coming year.

Nominations were received for all the outgoing committee who have made themselves available for re-election. This was accepted by the meeting and the following were unanimously voted in.

Charles Blackwell,
Fiona Christie
Douglas Flett
Fiona Grant
Wil Tunnell

Others nominated were Ed Kelly (proposed, seconded) and Graeme Pearson (proposed, seconded). Both were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

3. AOB:

There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed **BIDS** application. The membership requires more information on this topic.

Edinburgh Chamber. Only one member present had attended a Chamber event. Some members are also individual / full members of the Chamber.

Community Council: Kay Blair and Fiona Christie were thanked for their attendance at CC meetings. Fiona Christie will continue as the QBA representative on QDCC.

Cruise Ships. Members would like more information on who to contact with regard to organising events for Cruise Ship visitors.

Car Parking: Members expressed the wish to see further parking provision at The Binks and at other sites close to the High Street. A possible tourist road train was discussed.

New Bridge Construction: Opportunities for local businesses need to be explored.

Magazine: It was suggested QBA sponsor the new Queensferry Connect magazine.

QBA direction: there was a long discussion about what the QBA can do for local businesses. Sub Groups to be set up and a leaflet to go out to every household in January incorporating a Queensferry Business Directory.

The Chairman expressed warm thanks Paul Steward and staff of The Boat House for their hospitality for the AGM.

Date of first meeting of the new committee to be Thurs 10th Dec 2009, 5.45pm at the High Street, offices of Edward Jones.