

# Queensferry Business Association

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website [www.qba.org.uk](http://www.qba.org.uk)

## Members News and Update

Welcome to the second QBA newsletter of 2008.

Welcome to the second edition of what will also be a regular email newsletter to all members of the QBA. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements, additions and content. Contact details are at the end. (In the hope that you might read the bits in between!)

### 1. QUEENSFERRY AMBITION

is, as its name implies, an ambitious project to produce a 20 year plan and vision for Queensferry and Dalmeny. Business owners in the area have a crucial role to play in the formulation and implementation of this plan. Register your interest TODAY! We need members, non-members: in fact everyone in Queensferry to register their interest in the Queensferry Ambition initiative. Once registered you will receive news and updates - email [enquiries@GoddardandSocha.com](mailto:enquiries@GoddardandSocha.com) or visit [www.GoddardandSocha.com](http://www.GoddardandSocha.com)

### 2. PORT EDGAR:

A meeting with City Council representative was called by the Queensferry and District Community Council. Tom Martin reported, "Disquiet was expressed with the way the planners had decided the layout of the development, and were driving the whole process without considering the marina/housing interface." The QDCC and QBA are pressing the Council for better and earlier consultation on this project which directly impacts several local businesses and which, if got right, will be a major asset to the whole community.

### 3. AGILENT:

Another significant Planning matter in Queensferry is being addressed by Keith Giblett of QDCC and receiving our QBA support. Once again, efforts are focussed on bringing the City Planners to better and earlier community consultation. Consultation after key decisions are made is no consultation at all.

### 4. MEMBERS NETWORKING:

On Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March from 7.00 to 9.00pm, your Committee has organised the first of a series of Networking Opportunities. Members are invited to gather in the convivial surroundings of the upstairs lounge at Bella Vista to hear a short talk from Laura Sexton on the subject of BIDs. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles and learn more about your fellow business owners. (Peter Homan from Rothco Mortgage Brokers and Anne Cross, Nutritional Therapist will briefly introduce their businesses. The bar will also be open for those who live within walking distance. Please email Joanne McDonald [info@luma-interiors.co.uk](mailto:info@luma-interiors.co.uk) to allow us to plan numbers.

### 5. PROMENADE:

There is hardly a week goes by when QBA is not approached by a Promenade business about their loss of trade and inconvenience over this past year. A Council improvement scheme has been soured with a 14 week contract to be finished last Spring, not completed until September. A summer of lost trade - and who is accountable for that loss? Are the business rates lowered... no! The businesses and users of the Promenade are the losers. We are pressing for a) regular and sensitive communications with the Council, b) better accountability by Council Officials and c) better understanding of community needs.

Other matters your Committee have been concerning themselves with in recent weeks:

#### **6. Weak Bridge Reconstruction at Station Road.**

This project has started as this newsletter was being written (18th Feb.) and is likely to cause disruption. However, thanks to extensive lobbying by the QBA and other organisations, total closure of the road has been avoided.

#### **7. Cruise Ship Visits for 2008.**

Your Committee are considering options to make the visitors from the many cruise ships feel more welcome. We need your help and suggestions on this. For a list of ships and dates, Visit [http://www.qba.org.uk/cruise\\_liners.php](http://www.qba.org.uk/cruise_liners.php) Additionally, the Round Britain Boat Race stops at Port Edgar - 45 power boats leave Portsmouth on the 21st and arrive here on 27 June and re-start on the morning of the 28th.

#### **8. Empty Properties in the High Street.**

Queensferry badly needs good, niche retail outlets to bring footfall into the village. At the moment we have 17 choices of places to eat and 13 retail outlets between the bridges! The QBA committee has been lobbying landlords to try and redress this balance.

#### **9. Forth Crossing.**

Now that the decision to build a bridge has been taken, the Committee is pressing Transport Scotland for news, plans and a timeline for the new bridge. Our focus is on minimising the impact on businesses in the community with particular reference to traffic management and, as always, parking.

#### **10. Other News**

Your Committee has begun to establish wider contacts and recent meetings have taken place with West Lothian Chamber of Commerce and Linlithgow Business Association. More on this in future Newsletters.

#### **11. Echline Primary 5 Cookbook**

Primary 5 pupils are designing an International Cookbook to sell as part of their Enterprise Project. In order to fund the cookbook they are selling advertising space costing £10. If you are interested you must reply by Wednesday 12 March 2008 enclosing a cheque made payable to Echline Primary School and a business card which they will photocopy as your advert.

If you want to sponsor but not advertise you will be mentioned in the cookbook.

## **12. Fair Trade**

Gwenneth Williamson, of the FT committee members involved in the organisation of events and our group would like to extend a warm invitation to all our members to attend the Declaration of Queensferry as a Fairtrade Royal Burgh (the first in Scotland) on Saturday 1st March, 10am on The Binks.

- Friday 29 Feb - Tasting stall in Scotmid, The Loan, featuring all the Fairtrade products available instore.
- 10am - 4pm Saturday 1 March - The declaration of Queensferry as a Fairtrade Royal Burgh, on The Binks, followed by 10am refreshments in the Priory Church. All welcome.
- Saturday 1 March - Fairtrade 'Open Cafe' with a Fairtrade stall, including tastings in the Priory Church. 10.30am - 12noon Come and celebrate with us!
- Saturday 1 March - 'Fairtrade Folk' with Robin Hill and musical friends in the Priory Church. 7.30pm tickets/Admission £2, includes first drink. Refreshments.
- Sunday 9 March - Film Night with a showing of 'Black Gold'. Coffee tasting and refreshments. 7.15pm for 7.30pm Free admission

**This is your newsletter. If you would like to submit articles for possible inclusion in future editions, please send them to : [charles.blackwell@edwardjones.com](mailto:charles.blackwell@edwardjones.com) . The QBA Committee reserves the right to accept or reject submissions. In addition, we would like to feature one local business in each edition. First come, first served! Email as above.**