



The Ferry News

Issue 97

February 2021

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Ferry Birds – Sept 2020 to Jan 2021

My bird watching has been somewhat curtailed recently, but the usual waders and gulls have been seen regularly in West Bay. The redshank are the star attraction. There are about 50 using the floating mooring at high tide when they can no longer feed on the mud. They are joined by 1 or 2 curlew, a few turnstone and dunlin and the occasional oystercatcher. The latter prefer searching the seaweed covered rocks near Pierhead buildings so are not constrained as much by the state of the tide. A rock pipit can often be heard feeding in the same place.

Other birds that I have seen in and around West Bay have included a few cormorants, a pair of mallard and 3 shelducks in the middle of January. Other sea birds have been a bit scarce but now is the time to spot the fulmars on Inchgarvie making flying visits to check up the Inch is still there! I forgot to mention last time the black-headed gulls which took over West Bay in late spring and June. I reckoned there were often up to 100 scattered around the bay. I don't remember seeing anywhere near this number in the bay before. There are a few still around but a handful at the most.

Other birds I have been told about have included a male blackcap and a treecreeper in a garden overlooking West Bay. The latter are a resident species but blackcaps used to be very uncommon

in winter as they prefer warmer climates and consequently flew to Africa for the winter. A consequence of global warming perhaps!

The commoner resident birds have been noted around the village with house sparrows seen and heard near the station and in the beech hedge at Carlingnose. There have also been a few starlings on the school and also at Pierhead buildings. I heard a mistle thrush near the station in December and a song thrush at the bottom of The Brae at the beginning of the year and there are also plenty of blackbirds, crows and magpies around.

As usual a plea to leave some areas in your garden wild so that our resident birds and winter visitors have good places where they can scavenge for food in relative safety.

John Done

Contributions

for the next issue

of the Ferry News

are to be with us by

Friday 28th May 2021

to:

7 Carlingnose Park

E: mary@ferrynews.org.uk

Community Council

Whatever happened to 2020....time seems to be vanishing for many people and your community councillors are no exception. The actions and decisions of one Community Council meeting seem to blend into the next, or is it that some village issues are difficult to solve and are so long standing, such as the antisocial behaviour in the lower part of the village and the fate of the Albert which we all sorely miss? There are, however, always new and more positive issues to consider such as developing cycling activities around the village (please see separate article) and the good news is that a solution to another issue which has plagued the village for some years is in sight. Fife Council is actively considering a public toilet for the village in the Battery Road car park. Finance is set aside and it is now just a matter of settling on a design suitable for a position so near the World Heritage Forth Bridge.

Possibly because of the pandemic, this year saw your councillors actively promoting the festive season by initiating, supporting and acting on several festive projects in addition to supplying the Christmas tree which was displayed beside the War Memorial. Local children enjoyed a virtual party, local residents helped light up the village by taking part in a campaign 'North Queensferry: Village of Light'; the Community Council helped supply names to the Wee Restaurant to provide Christmas lunch for local residents living on their own and we actively sought funds and worked with

'Shield' (a local food distribution network) to support local people in difficulties due to the pandemic. It is worth noting that Shield intends to continue its activities in the village – please see separate article.

Your Community Council continues to hold its monthly meetings albeit on Zoom and we continue to look at and try to solve community concerns. A benefit of these Zoom meetings is that many more village residents link in to the meetings, express their views and highlight specific issues. An example of this is the public concern expressed over what appears to be Network Rail's cavalier attitude to communication with residents particularly about working hours, noise and safety. The Community Council is in communication with Network Rail and are working with Fife Council and local Members of Parliament to solve these issues.

The antisocial behaviour of young 'visitors' to the village has plagued North Queensferry for some years. Loud cars with enhanced engines break the peace of the evening/night as vehicle occupants disregard local residents by providing loud music, revving engines and possibly taking drugs. The Community Council is currently trying to organise a meeting of affected residents with the appropriate public bodies to try and solve this unsolvable longlasting situation but all is on hold at the moment until we can meet face to face. It is worth noting that while the Police try to have a presence in the village they are much overstretched with minimal staff and are only able to act when contacted by the public. The Police

receive very few phone calls from the village compared to other areas in South West Fife, so the latter receive priority. If you want to help solve this unsociable matter please phone 101. The racing screaming cars are often heard around 11pm so if you may be reluctant to phone at that time, so please phone in the morning.

The agenda for each monthly Community Council meeting regularly takes note of village planning applications received by Fife Council; always has receipt of and discussions on the monthly Police report and considers reports from our four very supportive local Fife Councillors who regularly take forward our questions and concerns to Fife Council officers. The activities of the Floral Enhancement Group always have a place on the agenda: this group undertakes gardening actions on behalf of the Council and is currently flourishing as many more villagers have spare time to help and additionally the Community Council have just agreed to provide finance for replacement and new tubs for plants around the village.

Councillors in your Community Council are involved with Edinburgh Airport and the intended new flight paths: over the next few weeks a survey will be released regarding Edinburgh Airport Noise Action Board. There is a current open application from Edinburgh Airport to the Civil Aviation Authority requesting new flight paths directly over North Queensferry which if granted will result in **very significant increase in flights over the village with an increase of noise, which**

could have an impact on the quality of our daily lives.

Please respond to this survey: it is a good and timely opportunity for you to express your opinion. More details will follow in the Ferry News and the Community Council's Facebook pages and website with the Minutes. For more information please contact the Council's secretary:

nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk

If you are wanting to comment on any aircraft noise please see the useful email addresses below:-

Edinburgh Airport Noise Complaints Report to 0800 731 3397

noise@edinburghairport.com

For military aircraft report to MoD Low Flying Complaints 01780 417 558 / SWK-lowflying@mod.gov.uk

Also <https://www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/Make-a-report-or-complaint/Use-of-UK-airspace/>

By using www.flightradar24.com you can see what is going on – it includes the track that the aircraft that has used. It's also available as an App.

Finally the coastal path and the Coast Forum need to be mentioned. The Forum involves organisations and people in Aberdour, Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing and North Queensferry . It is looking at various aspects of the coastal path including a new walk and cycle path beside the old paper mill which will skirt Inverkeithing town. At its meeting at

Continued overleaf...

Continued ...

the end of last year the Forum particularly expressed public concern about the increase in the amount of litter (cans, bottles and paper packaging) and dog fouling not only along the coastal path but also especially on Ferry Hills and St Margaret's Marsh. Fife Council is aware of the situation and has issued posters stating the fine of £80 for owners of 'guilty' dogs.

For further information or to let us know of any issues affecting the village please speak to a councillor or email the secretary: nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk

The Community Council are pleased to advise a very positive response to the Covid19 Christmas fundraiser. A total of £1040 was received by bank transfer and approx £26.50 from a cash collection box at the shop. Thank you to all who contributed.

We have been working with a local charity based in Dunfermline, SHIELD who donated approximately 70 food and gift boxes which were distributed by the CC

to village residents and the CC propose to make a donation to this charity with some of the funds raised and we will continue working with SHIELD who are prepared to provide ongoing support with food parcels and also a distribution of excess food from supermarkets. A further tranche of funds will be for distribution of small cash grants to any who are in need in the village due to Covid restrictions. Anyone interested in this can contact in confidence 07973839751.

Please look out on NQCC Facebook page for details of food distribution which will be held in the Community Centre Car Park on Sundays on an ad hoc basis dependent on availability.

Your Community Council meets on Zoom at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Please look at the village notice boards for further details. The next meeting is on Thursday 11 February Everyone is welcome

Fed up with pot holes?

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03451 550011

or

report to:

online.fifedirect.org.uk/lagan/roadfault

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Olivier James: Builder

Mobile Phone: 07815029249

Email: ferrypropertymaintenanceservices@outlook.com



Cycling around North Queensferry

Last summer saw a multitude of people out and about North Queensferry enjoying the beautiful village we are so lucky to live in. North Queensferry is exceptionally well placed for the National Cycle Network with routes around the Forth, into Edinburgh, to St Andrews, Perth and beyond. Currently we are seeing many more walkers, runners and cyclists sharing the routes around the village.

Fife Council consider that North Queensferry would benefit from the development of a Local Action Plan which would highlight the short, medium and long-term priorities of the village. As we head into 2021, this is an ideal time to get any ideas you may have into a co-ordinated action plan.

There are many opportunities for improving cycling routes around the village and making them safer for walkers and cyclist to enjoy together. Adding a cycle 'slipway' on both lots of steps by the Road Bridge would link the lower and upper parts of the village. Reducing the speed limit on Ferryhills Road and the road (B981) out of the village, past the hotel (DoubleTree by Hilton) would make it safer for all. Asking the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust to cut back and widen the Coastal Path would make sharing the paths easier and safer. The Community Centre could benefit from dedicated cycling racks for the users of the Centre and the MUGA. Further afield there have been proposals suggesting turning the railway from Inverkeithing to Rosyth into a walking/cycle path.

Hopefully village residents will come up with many more ideas ,and not just limited to cycling either! Consultation for the Local Action Plan is launching soon so please contribute where you can. Until the more formal routes into the plan are set up the Community Council will co-ordinate and consolidate any responses. Please email:

nqccsecretary@livingwater.org.uk.

Patient Participation Group (PPG) of Inverkeithing Medical Group

Covid-19 Vaccination For Patients Aged 80 Years Plus

Our Admin Staff are currently contacting patients by telephone to offer them appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Please note that the number we will be calling you from to arrange appointments is 01383 413234.

To keep our phone lines free to deal with other services, please do not call us as we will call you.

To date, we have already offered appointments to 200 patients and we are working very hard to appoint more patients as vaccine supplies are received.

Lung Cancer

Although it is the second most common cancer for both men and women, we only ever seem to talk about lung cancer in the context of smoking. It is true that this is the most common cause, but 6000 people who have never smoked die from this disease each year. Breathing in certain chemicals, passive smoking and even air pollution may increase the risk of a non- smoker getting lung cancer. If you are a smoker, you can reduce both your own risk of cancer as well as the risk of those around you, by quitting.

This article is reproduced by kind permission of Dr Sarah Jarvis.

If you have comments or suggestions for the PPG group please contact us by leaving a note in the suggestions box at the surgery or emailing on fife-uhb.img@nhs.net. (Please do not use this email for medical matters.)

Dear Resident,

North Queensferry Local Action Plan (NQLAP)

Fife Council's South and West Fife Community Development Team are working in partnership with various Fife Council and partner agencies to develop and deliver an area wide consultation to assist the development of a NQLAP.

Timescales for the consultation will be from late January, through to July 2021, where we have been tasked with having a draft plan ready.

While in the middle of a global pandemic we aim to utilise the use of online and social media platforms to engage with local people. We hope to engage directly with resident's face to face where all social distancing guidance will be followed.

Most community groups and voluntary organisations have been contacted by letter to make them aware of the NQLAP Consultation and asked to pass on to their wider networks.

The NQLAP will focus on raising the profile of North Queensferry, in particular the World Heritage UNESCO site; the fantastic Forth and Queensferry Crossing Bridges, raising awareness of the tourism opportunities, develop the local economy and to ask local groups and residents what they would like to see improved or established in the North Queensferry Area.

Officers from Fife Council and partner agencies will work directly with local community groups and individuals to gather

all **your** thoughts and ideas on what the NQLAP should contain.

The NQLAP will be a fluid document that contains short, medium- and long-term outcomes. Officers are very keen to hear about what the North Queensferry community would like to see or do in their neighbourhood. What community initiatives would **you** like to see in the development of the NQLAP.

The article in the Local Ferry News is one of a number of communication strategies to assist contacting local groups, schools, churches and most importantly local residents who wish to participate in the NQLAP Consultation.

If you wish to participate in the exciting process of developing an Action Plan for **your** area, please contact Fife Council designated Community Learning and Development staff directly by email. The officers are;

David Manderson:-

david.manderson@fife.gov.uk

Lisa Hemphill:- lisa.hemphill@fife.gov.uk

Or fill in the slip opposite and hand in to:-
Wrights, Brock St, North Queensferry, KY11 1JF

or

Rankin's Café, 4 Main St, North Queensferry, KY11 1JG

David Manderson/Lisa Hemphill

South West Fife Community Learning and Development Team



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adrian@1st-architects.com 1st-architects.com



Please fill in all your contact details and David or Lisa will contact you directly.

I would like to participate in the North Queensferry Local Action Plan Consultation.

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone number:

Please tick the box below if you are interested in becoming a member of the NQLAP steering group. Group members would be an active part of drawing all the ideas/thoughts together from all residents in the consultation.

Tick here if you wish to join the steering group

Many thanks,

David Manderson/Lisa Hemphill

South West Fife Community Learning and Development Team

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Creative containers

North Queensferry Maker-Space? A Repair Shop for the village? A place to get on with some sewing with a friend? Workbench space for your wood work project? North Queensferry Community Trust has planning permission to place five shipping containers in the old Balfour Beatty car park, in the fenced off area to the north of the old Railway Pier, towards the defunct railway tunnel. The plan is to use three of them to create community workshop spaces and tool libraries for anyone needing somewhere for their activities and crafts such as metalwork, electronics, sewing, yarn crafts, glass making - the list is endless. A fourth container is intended for storage of tools, equipment and individuals' or groups' works-in-progress while the fifth will be used by the Lothian Sea Kayak club to store kayaks. The Trust has also placed two donated boats in this area of land: both could be made sea-worthy and then either used as community owned boats for sailing or sold to fund new Trust projects.

Ideas and details for this project are in the process of being worked out. There is still some flexibility so if you have an idea that would work in these spaces please get in touch. Plans are at a very early stage of development, meanwhile the Trust is putting together a budget to start looking at funding opportunities and to decide, for instance, whether the fitting out of the containers with windows, doors, power, insulation and cladding will be carried out by volunteers, contractors or a mixture of both. Besides individual use, these containers could be valuable spaces for drop-in sessions to learn and share skills or perhaps to use as bookable venues for a weekend activities including taught courses.

If you would like to find out more, have a say in the types of facilities provided, get involved in creating these spaces and/or you would be interested in using them, Please email

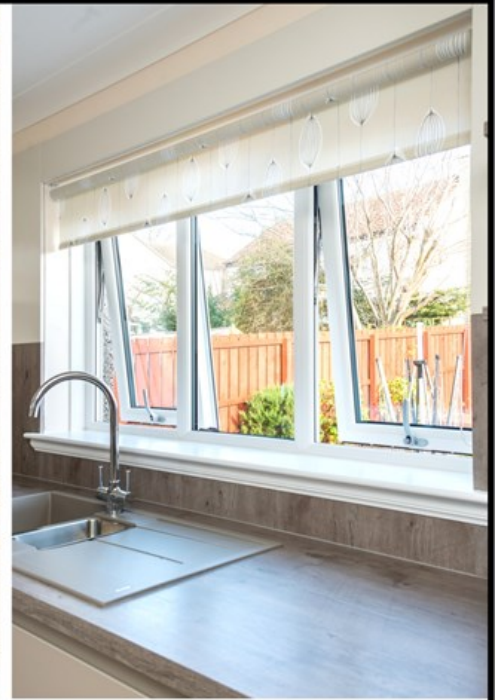
nq.community.trust@gmail.com or by leaving a note in the orange NQCT letterbox in the blue shed at the Marina for the Trust to contact you.

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