

Forth Replacement Crossing

# project update

October 2017



## Bathed in light:

a spectacular light show on Monday 28th August launched a week of celebrations to mark the completion and opening of the Queensferry Crossing.



## Project Directors' Update

With the Queensferry Crossing now complete and having been officially declared open by Her Majesty The Queen, it's time to say a sincere thank you and a fond farewell to the local communities.

**Page 2**

## Community Liaison

A round-up of the latest community events and some future communications initiatives designed to keep you up to speed with matters relating to the Forth Bridges.

**Page 3**

## Photo Update

Bringing you photos of the latest construction activities and, of course, all the special events surrounding the Official Opening of the bridge.

**Centre Pages**



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## Thank you and farewell

Welcome to the final Queensferry Crossing “Project Update”, a series of quarterly newsletters for local communities which was launched in 2008, three years before construction work on the Queensferry Crossing even began. Since then, we have published over 30 Project Updates which we hope have entertained and informed our readers and kept them up to speed with developments on-site.



Michael Martin & David Climie.

We begin with a sincere thank you. On behalf of all the staff who have worked on the design and construction of the new bridge and its approach roads, we thank the local communities on both sides of the Forth for their help to us all in so many ways over the past six years. To all the shops, hotels, restaurants, pubs, residential accommodation companies, taxi companies, boat and minibus hire companies, print and design companies, catering firms, construction sub-contractors and many, many other suppliers who have made our lives that bit easier, we say thank you. We trust that we have made a positive contribution to the local economy. You have certainly made a positive contribution to our endeavours and your welcome to us and your interest in the Queensferry Crossing is greatly appreciated.

We also thank local residents for their great goodwill shown to us for which we are very grateful. We deeply appreciate the patience and understanding shown to us throughout. Having such an immense structure built in your midst has, we know, been a matter of concern to many and we hope we have achieved our aim of conducting ourselves in line with the very best practice in the construction industry. Receiving five Gold Stars in a row from the industry-wide Considerate Constructors Scheme suggests that we did most things right.

We were all delighted that Her Majesty The Queen accepted the invitation to come and declare the bridge officially open. This reflects the importance of the Queensferry Crossing not just as a vital new piece of transport infrastructure, but as a globally significant advance in bridge design and civil engineering capabilities. The Official Opening Ceremony on 4<sup>th</sup> September (the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the opening – also by the Queen – of the Forth Road Bridge) capped off a week of events marking the completion of the bridge including a spectacular light show, the start of traffic flowing over the Crossing and playing host to over 60,000 people from all over the country as well as from local communities lucky enough to have won tickets to walk across the bridge. Turn to the centre pages for some photographs of all the Opening celebrations.



Since the last issue, we have, of course, finished laying the road surface across the bridge. With none of the road-level joints so characteristic of the Forth Road Bridge, the smooth drive from end to end is perhaps the most notable feature of the new bridge as far as drivers and passengers are concerned. Also complete is the installation of the many kilometres of windshielding panels on both carriageways designed to protect vehicles in stormy conditions and help keep the bridge open in winds up to 115mph which, even in the exposed Firth of Forth, is a very rare occurrence.

With the removal of the temporary caissons at the base of the North and South Towers, and the Central Tower cofferdam, the bridge's three towers now rise elegantly straight out of the sea as the design intended. Inside the deck sections and the towers, work is on-going on the final commissioning of various specialist electrical systems such as the marine navigation and aviation warning lights and the array of architectural lighting which will floodlight the towers and road deck edges at night for many years to come.

All trunk and local road tie-ins have also been completed and are now operational. The temporary speed limit will stay in force on the bridge and approaches for a few more weeks yet before the introduction of full motorway status is achieved when the limit will rise to 70mph.

For the past six years and more, all of us involved in the construction works have referred to the Queensferry Crossing as “our” bridge. Such has been the privilege we all feel at having worked on the Project, in our hearts it will always remain “our” bridge. But now that it is complete, it becomes “your” bridge.

We are delighted to be handing over this beautiful bridge to AMEY who, in addition to the Forth Road Bridge, will be responsible for its operation, care and maintenance in the years ahead. We know that the Queensferry Crossing will be cherished by local people for generations to come, just as its illustrious neighbours are. It is a unique location for bridges: nowhere else in the world can you find three significant bridges from three different centuries, each representing the highest standards of civil engineering of their age. We are proud of what has been achieved and will always remember fondly the time we spent in this special area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Martin'.

**Michael Martin**  
FCBC Project Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Climie'.

**David Climie**  
Transport Scotland Project Director



Something worth celebrating – the completion of the Queensferry Crossing.

## Queensferry Crossing Schools & Community Day

On 5<sup>th</sup> September – the day after the Royal Opening – 10,000 lucky local residents, charity volunteers, school and nursery pupils from the vicinity of the Queensferry Crossing were given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk on the bridge. In all, 6,500 pupils, staff and helpers from two local high schools and nine local primary schools had their chance to see close up the cables, wind shielding, towers and sheer breathtaking scale of this enormous structure. Later, 3,500 local residents from the six local Community Council areas enjoyed some late summer sunshine as they walked along the bridge, marvelled at the structure and were 'wowed' by the spectacular views across the Forth and the other iconic Forth Bridges.

What a fantastic and appropriate way to bring to a close all the celebrations marking the completion of Scotland's latest, magnificent bridge!



Some of the 6,500 school pupils taking a close-up look at the new bridge.

## Thank you to all our Neighbours

The Project's Community Liaison Team would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your input, patience and good humour over the past six years. The communities on both sides of the Forth have played a key role in the process of building the Queensferry Crossing and your co-operation and understanding have been invaluable. From everybody on the Project, thank you each and all.

### NEW COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

#### Engaging with Communities Booklet

Transport Scotland will publish a new booklet – "Engaging with Communities – Forth Bridges Operation and Maintenance" – in October. The booklet will set out our on-going commitment to pro-active communication with local people as the bridge operation phase beds in. It will also detail the procedures we have in place to ensure communities and road users are kept fully informed and know who to contact with any enquiries or feedback.

#### Road Users' Guide and Cycling & Walking Guide

The "Queensferry Crossing and Forth Road Bridge Road Users' Guide" and the "Cycling & Walking Guide" will also be published during the autumn before the new bridge becomes part of the M90 and once the final tie-in works have been completed on the Forth Road Bridge.

#### For the Record – 83,000 visitors!

Readers may be interested to know that, since the Contact & Education Centre opened its doors in 2013, a total of over 83,000 people – including 25,000 school pupils – have visited the building to see the Project Exhibition, listen to presentations by Project staff or take part in a variety of construction and engineering skills challenges.

# Queensferry Crossing Photo Collage

- 1 In her speech, the Queen hailed the Queensferry Crossing as a "remarkable achievement" and paid tribute to the thousands of men and women involved in its design and construction.
- 2 Her Majesty cuts the ribbon, watched by the First Minister, and declares the Queensferry Crossing officially open.
- 3 FCBC Project Director, Michael Martin, introduces the Queen to members of the design and construction team.
- 4 A moment to live long in the memory: local school children meet the Queen.
- 5 The Queen unveils the plaque.
- 6 In North & South Queensferry, Transport Scotland organised tea parties for local residents where they could watch the Opening Ceremony from a live feed.



1 Nowhere else in the world will you find three major bridges spanning three centuries, each showcasing the highest civil engineering standards of their age. 2 The Queensferry Crossing, the longest three-towered, cable-stayed bridge in the world, settles into its place in the landscape. 3 This aerial view taken two weeks before the bridge opened clearly demonstrates the scale of the bridge compared with its predecessor. 4 A spectacular light show on 28th September launched a week of Opening celebrations. 5 "V" is for "very tartan" – and very spectacular! The Queensferry Crossing is an ideal canvas for magnificent floodlighting effects. 6 Flooded with light, the new bridge wears its name with pride.



## Queensferry Crossing Experience



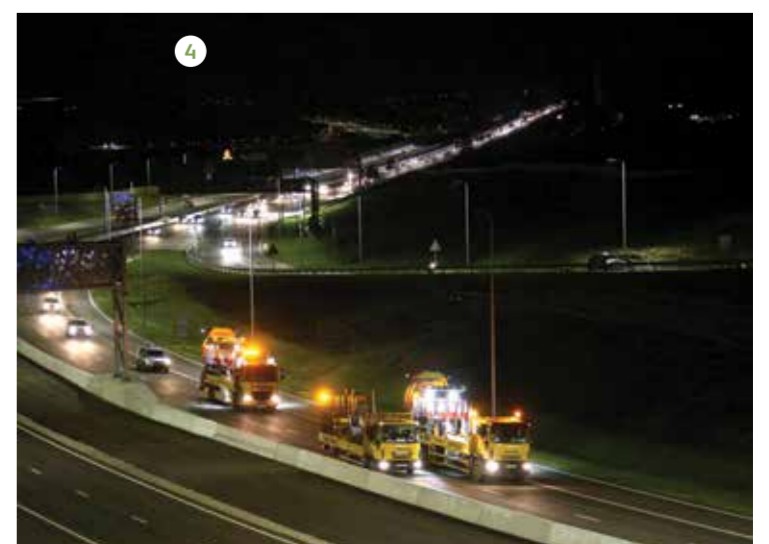
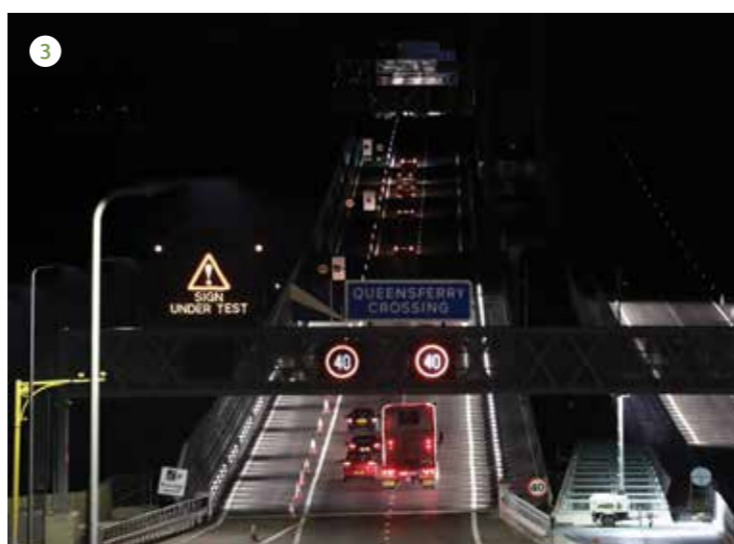
For two special days in early September, the new bridge became the largest footbridge in the world. The "Queensferry Crossing Experience" saw 50,000 excited members of the public from local communities and from right across the country who had been successful in the ballot for tickets take part in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk across the new bridge. Young and old, many raising money for charity, helped create a street party atmosphere on the road deck. Information boards and Queensferry Crossing ambassadors were on hand to answer questions and point out special features of the bridge. A truly memorable weekend.



1 A view along one of the 2.7km walkways inside the steel deck tubs beneath the road surface. 2 One of the steel panels which made up the South Tower temporary foundation caisson is removed allowing the sea to lap against the tower wall for the first time. 3 With the removal of the Central Tower cofferdam, Beamer Rock could be reinstated to its original appearance. 4 A delicate operation: in late August, a helicopter was used to remove lifting equipment from the tops of the three towers. 5 Windshielding panels are a prominent feature of the new bridge, helping to protect passing vehicles from the effects of the strong winds on the Forth. 6 The final surface is laid on the bridge's completed road deck in an operation called "echelon paving" where three paving machines pour the asphalt simultaneously to eliminate joints.



Wednesday 30th August: 1 Dawn on the first day of traffic crossing the bridge and the first rush hour approaches. 2 Fulfilling the bridge's function, traffic flowing across the brand new bridge. 3 1-30am: the moment when the bridge was opened to northbound traffic. 4 2-30am: the bridge is opened to southbound traffic.





## Contacting the FRC team

There are a number of ways you can contact us to ask questions, provide comments, make a complaint or find out more about the Forth Replacement Crossing project:

Call the dedicated 24 hour Project Hotline **0800 078 6910**

Email the team **enquiries@forthereplacementcrossing.info**

Look for us online:

 [www.forthereplacementcrossing.info](http://www.forthereplacementcrossing.info)

 [www.queensferrycrossing.co.uk](http://www.queensferrycrossing.co.uk)

 [www.queensferrycrossingarc.co.uk](http://www.queensferrycrossingarc.co.uk)

 @FRC\_Queensferry

 Or go to the Queensferry Crossing YouTube channel

Or drop into the **Contact & Education Centre**  
Adjacent Forth Road Bridge Administration Office,  
South Queensferry, Edinburgh EH30 9SF

### Opening times

Mon-Thu: 0900-1700, Fri: 0900-1600, Sat: 1000-1600



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