

Forth Estuary Forum E-News Bulletin April 2018

Forth and Tay Estuary Forums joint conference to be held on 28th September 2018

An important date for your diaries: the 2018 Forth and Tay Estuary Forums joint annual conference will be held on Friday 28th September at Chambers Street Museum, Edinburgh. Further details will follow as the programme is finalised.

Articles sought for next edition of Forthsight

The next edition of our biannual newsletter 'Forthsight' is currently being compiled. If anyone would like to contribute an article on a Forth-related matter, we'd love to hear from you! Past editions are available on our website to give an idea of content and article length; please contact Forum Manager Chris at chris.cutts@forthestuaryforum.co.uk for further details. Thank you.

New plans unveiled to design, commission, manage and operate new Edinburgh Marina

Camper & Nicholsons Marinas has announced its plans to develop a new, state-of-the-art marina in Edinburgh. The site will have six berths at 30m+, with linear berths allowing up to 60m.

The new Edinburgh Marina, which will form a core part of a new £500 million waterside development, will be located just a stone's throw away from the city centre. The marina will be situated next to new luxury residences and hotel facilities. Dan Hughes, chief operating officer for Camper & Nicholsons Marinas, feels that this new development is "probably the most important new and exciting marina development in Europe in the last 25 years."

According to Camper & Nicholsons, this new project will allow Edinburgh to tap into Scotland's ever growing marine tourist industry, expected to grow to £3.7 billion. Hughes reveals that the works are to begin in the next six to eight months. "The marine licensing is expected to be granted in summer 2018, with construction commencing thereafter," he says.

Further details can be found [here](#).

The game changing decisions that have put Forth Valley on the map

An interesting recent article on a host of major projects, from the Falkirk Wheel to the Kelpies, Falkirk Gateway to new educational buildings, which have transformed Falkirk and its surrounding area into a lucrative hub for tourism and more can be found [here](#).

East Lothian Council takes ownership of former Cockenzie Power Station in deal with Scottish Power

The former Cockenzie Power Station site has been sold to East Lothian Council.

The sale has been at the centre of lengthy negotiations with former owners ScottishPower, with bids being made by other interested parties. However, ScottishPower named the council as its preferred bidder in October last year and the two parties have been working on a deal ever since.

Councillor Norman Hampshire, deputy council leader, said: "I am delighted at this outcome. "This is a key site of huge importance to the economic future of East Lothian and for the communities that surround it. The council has been actively involved in discussions around the future of the site for a number of years now, since it became clear that Cockenzie Power Station was to be decommissioned and that plans for a gas-fired station would not be going ahead.

"Now that the future ownership of the site is clear, the council can move forward with marketing the site for commercial opportunities, which will form a key part of the planned economic growth within East Lothian. It is important to stress at this stage that community consultation will remain a key element of how we move forward and bring about more developed plans for what the site will be used for in the coming years."

The council commissioned a masterplan for the site last year which has been described as a "vision document" bringing together ideas from public consultations and meetings with community groups. It looks at various options to use the site, from creating industrial zones to leisure zones and green space.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Forth and Clyde Canal bridges require maintenance

Three bridges that open to let boats through are out of action on the Forth & Clyde Canal because of safety concerns. Scottish Canals has admitted it has insufficient funds to fully repair them.

A bridge near the end of the Union Canal in Edinburgh has also shut two days a week. Operating times on both canals have also been reduced, which the Inland Waterways Association said will have a "significant" impact on the hire boat trade. The group has called for the bridges to be repaired "as a matter of urgency" because it said Scottish Canals has a statutory requirement to keep the waterways open.

Scottish Canals said detailed investigations of the three shut bridges were planned within weeks "to determine the scale of repairs required and allow us to work up technical solutions." Its spokesperson said: "We are confident we will be able to implement a short-term fix to allow occasional operation of the bridges while we work to source funding necessary for long-term repairs.

"At Bonnybridge, we will explore an approach that will either allow the bridge to open on a one-off basis or on very rare occasions. It is unlikely we will find a solution that allows normal use until additional funds are available.

“However, these works will ensure any boat owner who is currently affected can move to a different location should they wish to do so.” It is hoped a short-term repair at Twechar “may allow us to safely operate the bridge for this season on a limited basis.

“With 250-year-old assets and a repair backlog in the region of £70m, it’s clear we need considerable additional investment in the infrastructure.”

This year, Scottish Canals will receive £11.6m Scottish Government funding.

Read more at: <https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/concerns-over-forth-clyde-canal-future-as-repair-bills-mount-up-1-4720540>