

## **Back Braes Comments**

(In alphabetical order by heading)

### **Disabled**

This would make a real difference and improvement. Very important. Especially for the disabled.

Make the whole area user-friendly, especially for the elderly and disabled.

Steel platform dangerous in icy weather.

How about a ramp rather than steps for buggies and wheelchairs?

### **Lighting**

Lighting should be installed between Station Road and upper bridge of Ferry Glen and also should continue from Bowling Green area of old railway line, and end at Ashburnham Estate.

Lighting path would be great to give a path for running/runners in the winter.

Lighting would make people more comfortable walking at night.

Put lights at top of Bowling Green path which leads to Station Road. It is too dark there.

Install lighting from Catherine Terrace eastwards along cycle path, to link to housing development (Ashburnham).

I am a keen cyclist but am put off going to the cycle path because of the scary dark entrance under the tunnel at Scotmid. Lighting would really improve this for me.

It could have sensitive lighting ie in glass blocks, even different colours. Don't lose the natural feel.

Lights along cycle path. Lights along Back Braes.

## **Paths**

Anything that can be done to encourage pedestrians in the town should be encouraged otherwise it has a dead feeling.

The Back Braes paths returned to be an attractive and safe route for getting round the Ferry on foot.

Don't want too many tarmac paths with railings being made as it looks too built up.

I walk here every day and would love to see improvements.

Wider paths which are safer to walk on.

What has been done to the Back Braes? As a former resident of SQ, this used to be a favourite walk. I tried to walk it with my own children and within a short distance had to abandon the task – too dangerous.

Pathways are very steep with very steep banks either side. At present it's dangerous for children.

Please make sure lower path is obscured from cycleway so people cannot throw things (even abuse!) at those below.

Would really like to see the waterfront connected with cycle path.

Paving slabs around Bowling Club are old/cracked/difficult or badly maintained. They don't look very nice and it would be good to see the path replaced.

Provide dog poo bins/bags to eliminate fouling on paths.

Tarmac would help underfoot. More litter bins and more emptying.

Sort flooding at Scotmid tunnel.

Improve drainage from Ashburnham path to cycleway.

Drainage at tunnel is poor.

As part of the new work, can flooding on the cyclepath under the tunnel at Scotmid be dealt with.

Very dangerous for walking with prams and wheelchairs. I personally fell over Back Braes. There are no rails to hold on to.

Permanent rubbish bin at the Loan, not one that vandals can tip down the slope.

## **Safety/Security**

Back Braes is dark, unsafe and uninviting at present.

Opening up the area would go some way to making the area one of less anonymity for vandals. I notice no walkers are going along the Back Braes.

Tidy up entire area then people will respect it.

Reduce vandalism and antisocial behaviour by creating an open, well managed attractive facility.

Action will also reduce the cover for vandals who now plague the Back Braes.

Mirror on corner of bowling green to improve blind corner.

Graffiti in the area should be removed.

Consider installing CCTV (with police agreement) to improve security and reduce vandalism.

More plain clothes police on Friday/Saturday nights.

## **Seating**

Seats for the elderly and not so elderly to enjoy the view.

Install many seats.

More indestructible seating.

Seating in the Back Braes would only be important if the Backs Braes were cleared of trees and the ancient views restored.

Seats would be lovely but vandalism so rife that I wonder how long they remain possible to sit on.

## **Signage**

Make entrance to Back Braes really noticeable and attractive with signs pointing to walkway and viewpoint.

Signage from the Loan (below Parish Church) could point to and tell people about the Back Braes, and interpretation boards could include distance/times for walks.

Improve signage at Dalmeny Station so as to indicate path leading to Back Braes especially for tourists.

More signs at Jacobs Ladder and Station.

Signage from Loan to Jacob's Ladder very important.

Indestructible signs, light not too bright.

Restore plaque by Scotsman/South African who sponsored original Back Braes improvement.

Signage to include directions to Bowling Club.

Signage needed from Newhalls Road.

Signage should include history of paths.

Notice to dog owners to pick up.

Cut back the overgrown bushes at the Scotmid tunnel so people can at least see the existing sign to the cyclepath.

## **Trees and shrubs**

Could you give priority when felling trees to retaining some of them that feel more native to Scotland, eg Rowan, Birch. There is also a lovely copper Beech near the metal bridge which would be a shame to lose. There are also some lovely flowering shrubs such as honeysuckle, fuchsia and pheasantberry which are a delight to see. Good luck with your efforts but please don't urbanise it too much.

Care needs to be taken that removal does not cause erosion – hence selective felling.

This area is important as woodland and natural habitat. Removing this would be detrimental to the amenity of the area.

Remove exotic (non native) trees and shrubs. Replant in native species to make this area attractive and attract wild life.

Please don't get rid of the nettles for the nettle caterpillars.

Would like to see as little tree felling as possible.

Replace trees with high density low height bushes.

Current problems have been caused by a lack of proper maintenance.

Tree felling to be kept to a minimum.

Trees felled or pollarded. Wild life should be encouraged by planting low growing native shrubs, eg holly, yew, cotoneaster, broom, wild rose, gorse.

Reduce diseased/poor specimens of trees along the entire cyclway.

We have been promised defensive hedging (hawthorn and holly) opposite Lilybank House for Stoneycroft Road because we are a target for vandalism. I hope any planned tree felling does not expose us further to this problem.

Consistent maintenance, proper management plan. Create viewpoints without major tree felling.

## **Views**

Overgrowing and poor maintenance are currently spoiling one of the key places for seeing Queensferry and the bridges in their spectacular setting.

A viewing area is a great idea rather than felling it all.

The Back Braes used to be a fabulous viewpoint which attracted both visitors and locals. It is a shame that it is so rundown now and this resource is no longer open to the community.

Upgrading would encourage local usage and could become another tourist attraction.

Wish to see the views reinstated as I can remember them when you could look over the Forth. It has to be managed.

No point in cutting down the shrubbery and the trees and then have it growing again.

Care needs to be taken not to overdevelop Point C (Catherine Terrace by Old Brickies).

Restore Back Braes to what it was in 1968 – a wonderful safe walk with excellent views to bridges, harbour and beyond. Fell all trees.

Remove all sycamore along the railway line and open the whole wonderful panorama, Plant new low-growing shrubs.

Beautiful views from path except vegetation is too high. Cut back on this is needed.

Pollard all trees which restrict views from Back Braes.

Fell enough trees along Back Braes footpath to reveal the lost panorama along the length of the walk. This will restore a community amenity, which was once prized for its beauty. Also reinstate all 7 seats.

I was born and bred in South Queensferry and feel it is a great pity to hide the beautiful views of the Forth which could be seen from the Back Braes, if the trees were cut back.

If the Back Braes was brought up to standard with views all along, we could maybe encourage visitors from the many cruise ships to walk, take in the stunning views and stay in Queensferry, rather than straight on a bus to Edinburgh.

Could have a circular walk up McIvers along Back Braes and down to High Street and back if the panoramic view is restored.

It is imperative that the panoramic view is restored. That can only be done by lopping trees or replacing with low growing native shrubs. As it is the area is a tangled mess and depriving South Queensferry residents and visitors of the areas' most outstanding feature. Its panoramic view from Cramond to the Campsies. Views of 25 years ago have now been lost.

Restore view at Bowling Club. Make path along back safer and better lit and not so muddy.

Views reinstated – this will greatly improve the tourist experience in Queensferry, not the invisible modern wonder of the world that we currently have.

Build visitor centre at the Brickies with story board and cameras fixed on bridge.

## General

The plan has been well thought through but there are issues with regard to ongoing management. The impact of this work on other areas should be a consideration.

There is no point in implementing the other proposals to encourage people to use the Back Braes walkway as long as there is nothing to see when they get there.

Encourage people to explore more of Queensferry, especially the area behind the Terraces.

Make it safe. Make it fun

Create things to keep people in Queensferry longer. Not enough things to do. Something for children and adults – maybe a park and a picnic area. A toddler play park is required.

Provide car park at east end of the town prior up from the Forts, similar to Beecraigs. This could link to pathways. Consider shuttle bus into the town as well.

New car park to the east of Queensferry for visitors.

Must try to bring in people outwith central village. At the moment SQ is like a Tale of Two Cities.

Liaise with Queensferry Ambition and Wil Tunnell.

This is an excellent community led project aimed at preserving and restoring one of the most beautiful views in Scotland. It deserves to be supported.

The proposals will be of great benefit for both locals and visitors alike and will improve the area.

Could there be a steel ramp pedestrian walkway on eastern side of bridge to allow access all way up Loan on one side? Children cannot walk (or adults) up/down from School to High Street without crossing the busy Loan at least twice.

If the wall was taken down in Scotmid the Loan bus stop people with messages from Scotmid would not need to walk up the Loan.

Long term solution needed.

Would like this done as soon as possible.

Let's work with the council to reach the common goal.

Reinstate the bleaching green.

Good luck!

Make it happen!