

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 24 June 2017
LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEW KIRKGATE)

Councillors Present: Gail Clapton, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair), Michael Traill.

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Gordon Munro, Councillor Adam McVey.

In attendance: Adrian Graham, PC Fiona Brown, PC Niall Corrigan.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Stephen Brennan, Deidre Brock MP, Angus Hardie, Ben Macpherson MSP, Abu Meron, Cllr John McLellan, Tommy Sheppard MP, Jacqueline Rogers, Eileen Simpson.

2. Police Report

PC Corrigan explained apologetically that crime statistics had not been published since February. He gave an oral update on local policing activity during June:

- **Community Alcohol Partnership:** Community officers have partnered up with Tesco locally, who have made staff and training resources available to smaller businesses to help detect proxy purchasing (i.e. buying drink for those underage).

- **road safety around schools:** PC Brown provided feedback on the LLCC / CLF funded project awarded to St Mary's and Leith PS. P6s and 7s have painted planters with road safety artwork and filled these with flowers, displayed around the school entrance. There are regular complaints about anti-social driving by parents around schools, and initiatives such as this, led and managed by the children, are found to be effective.

- **re-establishing community policing:** To build local rapport, PCs had met with the Sea Cadets, who assist young people from difficult circumstances, and had visited a care home.

- **Gala Day:** There was no trouble at this event.

- **street prostitution:** There was a successful enforcement / deterrent operation at the Links, and an intervention to assist a long-established sex worker trapped in a chaotic lifestyle.

- **disruptive individuals:** A particularly disruptive social housing tenant in the Commercial St/N Junction St area, has with police help been moved to the Royal Edinburgh for detox and is likely to move on to supported accommodation.

- **vehicle accidents in the Newkirkgate area:** Cllr Booth enquired about these. PC Corrigan explained that they had been misrepresented as hit and run. In one case a man had staggered into the road and fallen down. On the other occasion there had been a fight outside one of the bars; while pursuing the victim, one of the assailants had got into his car and then ran into one of the other assailants by accident.

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 24 April 2017 and Matters Arising

Proposed by Sally Millar; seconded by David Igoe.

Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

Outstanding actions: There were two outstanding actions to report on.

- LLCC has not yet heard back about the number of beds for homeless persons available in the Leith Links properties, and will chase this up.

ACTION: Sally will enquire whether the information is now available.

- Cllr McVey had arranged a Gordon Street bins walkabout as promised at the last meeting but had made an error in his timing, for which he apologised: he is arranging a second visit.

ACTION: Councillor McVey will organise a second walkabout with Darren Ryan, the local transport & environment manager.

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Issues raised by members of the public:

Communal bins on Links Gardens: Cllrs McVey and Booth were asked whether the bins could be moved to the other side of the road and placed beside the recycling bins on the Links side. This is needed partly because of the bad smell that residents suffer but also to encourage people to use these for general rubbish when exiting from the Links. At present, passers-by from the Links put general rubbish into the recycling bins instead. Cllr McVey confirmed that this is currently being investigated.

Emptying of communal bins in the ward: There have been several incidents of overflowing bins, especially on/near the Links in good weather. Complaints do usually get acted upon, sooner (especially if reported 'officially' by Community Council office bearers) or - sometimes - later.

Children's Orchard: The gates have been removed but it is not yet clear why. There have been enquiries / complaints about the Children's Orchard being used as a 'private' area for dogs.

ACTION: Jim will email Charlotte Encombe to find out about the gates.

Public toilets near the Links: the Dry Dock's toilets are now accessible to the public 12-5, 5 days a week.

4. Leith Festival Gala Day - Community Councils stall

John thanked colleagues for taking part in the successful Community Councils information tent. Around 180 people took part in commenting on a map of the Links - on uses of the Links, how important these were to them, and any other thoughts. The four most commonly identified issues were litter, dog fouling, child play facilities and toilets. These four were also rated as the highest priority. Provision of a defibrillator, personal safety, and park maintenance were also rated as high priority.

It was thought important to make the results available to the public, and to consider what LLCC itself could do in response, indirectly via a meeting with the Council Parks Officers, and potentially, directly e.g. Clean-up Day on the Links. It was felt pointless to duplicate the work of bodies such as Leithers Don't Litter and Not On Leith's Watch. A representative of LLCC Parks and Green Spaces Committee could meet with these bodies to develop a joint action plan for the Links.

ACTION: David will liaise with Jac re an early as possible next meeting of LLCC Parks and Green Spaces Committee, to get all this progressed.

5. Seafield Sewage – update

Chair reported that the previous week he had met with stakeholders including Scottish Government Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham and Scottish Government officials Rob Kirkwood of Leith Links Residents Association, Ben Macpherson MSP, and SEPA and Scottish Water. The Minister had been questioned about the 'Crew' Report report commissioned by the Scottish Government and produced by the University of the West of Scotland, which had inaccurately suggested that there was no smell problem in Leith. It had been pointed out that no-one had consulted with local communities and that the report was inaccurate on a number of points.

As a result of this, Roseanna Cunningham has announced that Seafield will be subject to a strategic review by an independent body. Its terms of reference will need to be determined before inviting consultants to tender for the work but will include site controls, the operation, design and maintenance of Seafield, and, crucially, identify what capital expenditure / work would be needed to tackle the smell problem for good. There will also be a review of the code of practice concerning odour nuisance.

6. Participatory Budgeting

LLCC bid to Community Choices 2017/2018

This Scottish Government funding has been announced again for next year, with a closing date for applications of 21st July 2017. The model and the form are similar to last year's, though they will take previous successful applications into account, and require evidence of added value. There was a discussion about whether to apply. It is a great deal of work both to apply and to deliver the programme. There will be more competitors for the funding this year. On one hand, there are now more community councillors and there are partner organisations who could be involved. On the other hand, a larger group might increase administrative workload.

It was agreed that LLCC would not do the same as last year. A start was made on discussing different ideas and different models.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The funders' primary focus is deprivation and inequality, and sustained engagement with the community. Funders are probably looking for some element of innovation. It is important to look at the national picture, of PB, where various different approaches are being tried.

ACTION: it was agreed to hold a separate meeting on Thursday 6th July at 6.30pm, to discuss and vote on whether / how to take this forward.

LLCC position on future of £eith Decides

It had been suggested in an Evening News opinion piece that £eith Decides might not continue, or might be online only. However, Cllrs Booth and McVey maintained that it is not in fact under threat. Neighbourhood partnerships are under review, and the new Localities still in development, they explained, but £eith Decides is not at risk. Despite problems with online voting, last year was its most successful year, and it has cross-party support.

However, community councillors pointed out that none of the meetings, planning or practical preparations had yet taken place for 2017.

ACTION: Cllr McVey, who is currently still convening the Neighbourhood Partnership, will look into £eith Decides plans, and report back.

7. Open Forum

Events on the Links: CEC has requested permission for the Chinese State Circus to operate on the Links in mid-August. The Mela may be on the Links on 2/3 September, so will not clash.

The circus visit was a popular and well-managed event last time. The only concern raised was employees driving and parking their vehicles on the grass outwith their event area.

ACTION: Jim will communicate approval in principle, while drawing attention to the vehicle & parking concerns.

Picnics in Parks: 38 Degrees online is coordinating these, on Sunday 8th July, 11.30am-1.30pm. Leith Links is included.

Climate Change Fund: this is a funding opportunity currently open.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 9pm.

Date of Next Public Meeting: 28 August 2017, 7pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate



 @LeithLinks_CC

 /LeithLinksCC

 www.leithlinksc.org.uk

 contact@leithlinksc.org.uk

Next Public Meeting: 2017, 7pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, New Kirkgate