

# LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

*Edinburgh's only elected Community  
Council celebrates a busy year.*



**SMELLS around Leith Links!**  
from the Seafeld Sewage plant  
**DON'T GIVE UP**  
**PLEASE ALWAYS COMPLAIN!**



**Smell sewage?**  
Phone: 0131-469-5841 (office hours)  
0131-200-2000 (24 hours)  
Email: publichealth@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Just to register a complaint:  
Give your location, date and time, and a description of the smell and how strong it is.

**Smell 'burning rubber'?**  
That needs reporting as pollution to SEPA.  
Phone: 0800-80-70-60 (24 hours)

And - watch this space - Leith Links Residents Assoc. will be circulating an update on a simpler 'single point of contact' for complaints as soon as this has been established.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
www.leithlinksc.org.uk  
@LeithLinks\_CC  
/LeithlinksCC

**QUIZ THE CANDIDATES**

If you live in Leith Ward 13 you are invited to come along to our election hustings to find out more about the candidates and ask them questions.

All the candidates standing in the Ward are being invited to take part.

This election is to elect three Councillors who will represent our community on the City of Edinburgh Council.

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**  
**18:30**  
**LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (KIRKGATE)**

**Are you registered to vote?**

To vote in this election by post or in person you must be on the Register of Electors.  
To be added or to check you are registered call 0131 344 2500.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
www.leithlinksc.org.uk  
@LeithLinks\_CC  
/LeithlinksCC

**ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER?**



**BALLOT BOX**

To vote in this years City of Edinburgh Council elections you must be on the Register of Electors.

To check you are on the Register of Electors:  
Telephone: 0131 344 2500  
Or  
To be added to the Register of Electors:  
Telephone: 0131 344 2500  
Website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

**DEADLINE;**  
**MONDAY 17 APRIL 2017**

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
www.leithlinksc.org.uk  
@LeithLinks\_CC  
/LeithlinksCC

## Foreward

Welcome to Leith Links Community Council's Annual Report for 2016/17. This has been a tremendous year for the Community Council.

Early in 2016 the number of Community Councillors had dropped and our future was uncertain: we had to hold an interim election just to survive. Many thanks to the four new Councillors who stepped forward at that time, Phil Attridge, Adrian Graham, Linda Hutton, and Michael Traill. Grateful thanks also to long-time and committed Community Councillor Angus Miller, who stepped down in the course of the year.

The Community Council organized a very successful campaign to encourage people living in the Leith Links area to get involved and to stand for election, see Page 4. We are very proud to say that we are now truly democratically elected! Thanks in particular to Community Councillor Michael Traill for his hard work and media skills which played a major part in the success of the election campaign, and helped us to modernize communications: we now have new logos, very active FaceBook and Twitter accounts, and a newly revamped website.

Thanks too to our elected representatives from Edinburgh City Council, and to local MSP Ben MacPherson, for their active support to the Community Council throughout the year. Also thanks to Police Scotland and our local Community Policing Team.

On top of our newly revitalized 'ordinary' preoccupations, LLCC was successful in attracting a 'Community Choices' grant from Scottish Government, which provided £16,000 for local community projects – read about our fantastic Community Links Fund PB initiative on Page 7.

I hope you can take time to read this report - in a new format for the first time – giving you a flavour of what the Community Council has been doing for you over the last year. We will continue to fight for you during 2017/18. And you will be very welcome if you'd like to get involved.

*Jim Scanlon*

Chair

*Sally Millar*

Secretary

# We are Leith Links Community Council

Since the election in October 2016, our Community Council is composed of twelve elected members, pictured below.



Jim Scanlon  
Chair



John Tibbitt  
Vice Chair



Sally Millar  
Secretary



Abu Meron  
Treasurer



Jac Rogers  
Parks & Green  
spaces Secretary



Stephen Brennan



Angus Hardie



David Igoe



Andrew McKenzie



Christine Reid



Eileen Simpson



Michael Traill

Additionally, we have one member nominated by a local community group: Gail Clapton (no photo provided), representing the Leith Links Residents Association (LLRA).

The Community Council has more 'spaces' available: if you are an established, constituted community group operating mainly within this area, you may be eligible to nominate someone.



Additionally we have 'ex-officio' members (elected politicians representing our area). Pictured here are local City of Edinburgh Councillors for Leith Ward 13: from the left, Councillor Gordon Munro (Labour) with Jim Scanlon (LLCC Chair), Councillor Adam McVey (SNP) and Councillor Chas. Booth (Scottish Greens)

## Election success

Our three year term started with a bang as we became the only Community Council in Edinburgh with an election of members. We don't believe that this was by chance - members of the previous Leith Links Community Council were very active in trying to attract new members.

In summer of 2016 we hand-delivered over five thousand leaflets through letterboxes in our area encouraging people to think about standing. This generated discussion and interest, with seventeen members of the community being nominated for twelve seats.

To support the election we held a successful public 'Meet & greet the Candidates' event. We published (online) a candidates booklet containing a picture and a brief election statement from every candidate.

On polling day, 586 members of our community cast 4652 votes); this represents a 6.9% voter turnout.

We hope that during our next elections we can increase the number of candidates and – especially - the number of voters taking part.





# What we do

Leith Links Community Council is a voluntary organisation set up by statute by the Local Authority and run by local residents (who are all unpaid volunteers) to act on behalf of its area. As the most local tier of elected representation, Community Councils play an important role in local democracy.

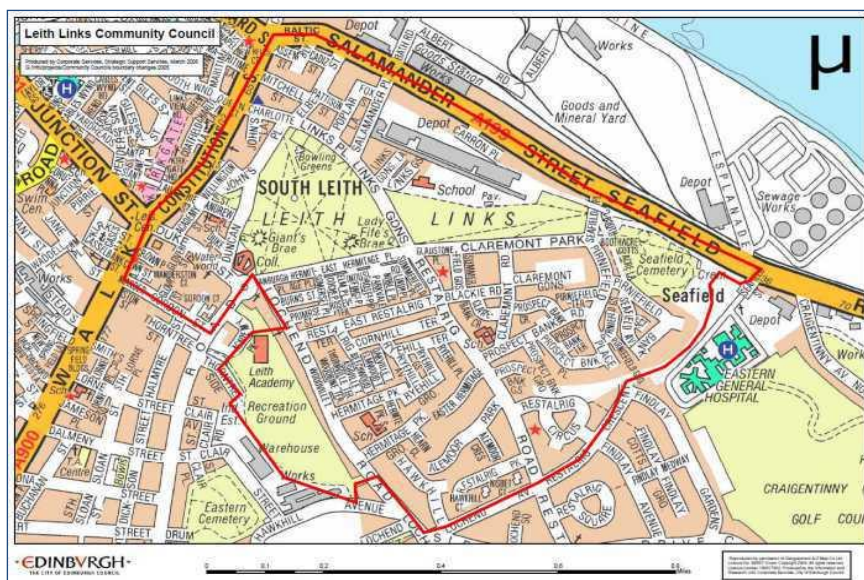
We care about this community and work to make it a better place through direct action and / or by acting as a representative voice of our community. We try to engage with the community in different ways. We consult you for your views, and pass these on as relevant. We take part in partnership work and undertake our own projects. See <http://www.communitycouncils.scot/what-is-a-community-council.html>

We meet in public on the last Monday of every month in the Leith Community Education Centre at 7pm, except in July and December. All of our meetings are open to the community. Some meetings are for discussion of the 'business' of local issues, but at some meetings we have 'guest speakers'. Interesting guest speakers recently include, for example, a talk by NHS and charity workers who work with women locally involved in street prostitution. We also had a City of Edinburgh Council speaker explaining how the Council allocates temporary accommodation to homeless people. If you have suggestions for other speakers you'd like to hear (or offer), please get in touch.

We also hold special events, meetings and sub committee meetings

throughout the year, promoted locally.

The area within the red line on the map shows the area we cover.





**community links fund**

[www.communitylinksfund.net](http://www.communitylinksfund.net)

## **Community Links Fund Project 2016/2017**

The biggest single project we have undertaken to date was our participatory budgeting process that ran from December 2016 – March 2017, with an overall budget of £21,000 to benefit our community.

We were the only Community Council in Edinburgh & Lothians to receive funding from the Scottish Government's Community Choices Fund to deliver our own participatory budgeting process.

And what a success it was!



Although LLCC managed the process, ultimately it was our own local community that decided which projects would or wouldn't receive funding. Every project applying aimed to benefit our community - with a very wide range of projects, from community clean ups, to girls rugby shirts, to theatre performances, fitness, building a skate park, mental health, and more – 33 very worthwhile project applications in all.



We ran a very successful Saturday social voting event in March, and online voting. A total of 920 members of the community cast 5481 votes, ultimately selecting 15 projects to receive a total of £16,466.66 in community funding, in grants of up to £2500.

More information about this great project is available on our website.





**community links fund**

[www.communitylinksfund.net](http://www.communitylinksfund.net)

## Projects which received funding

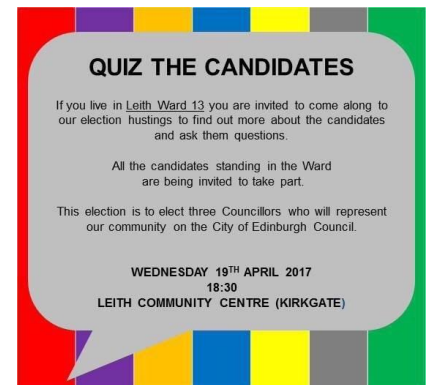
The Dry Dock	The Dry Dock Recovery venue on the Links promoting wellbeing + socialising	Music & theatre project.	£400.00
St. Marys Primary Eco Group	Poo The Musical	St. Mary's Eco Group will stage performances of "Poo The Musical" to help the local community learn how important it is to pick up dog fouling on Leith Links.	£300.00
Theatre Imperative	Ladies Day Project	Working with locals, put on a comic play highlighting the serious messages of challenges faced by women in recovery from substance/ alcohol abuse, in social situations.	£400.00
Leith Community Crops In Pots	Leith Community Crops In Pots	Croft information / interpretation board within the existing croft.	£400.00
Jai Adami	Lets revive Restalrig Road	Lets revive Restalrig Road with clean up events during 2017 along Restalrig Road and the Railway Path promoting individual responsibility for disposal of litter.	£400.00
Projekt 42	Projekt 42: Free boot camps in the Leith Links	Free boot camps using the space in the Leith Links (participants can choose to donate a small amount if they'd like).	£400.00
Leith Primary Parent Council	Leith Primary After School Activities	Providing a range of after school activities for pupils at Leith Primary School.	£400.00
Bonnies Community Cafe	Free meals at Bonnies Community Cafe	Hop on the 21 bus for a free lunch! Vouchers for Leith Links area residents particularly those experiencing challenges and difficulties to come and find out more about us.	£400.00
Leith Academy Parent Council	Girls Rugby Club	Leith Academy Parent Council would like to purchase kit and equipment for the girls rugby club, consisting of a rugby jersey that can be worn in all weathers.	£898
Bright Light	Relationships matter in Leith Links	Our project will provide face to face counselling sessions to people living in Leith Links who are experiencing loneliness. Through this they will identify their needs and achieve key life goals.	£2,400
Leith Community Archers	Outdoor archery events	A day of outdoor archery put on by Leith Community Archers - a day for all ages and abilities to enjoy a fun and inclusive activity.	£2,000
Police Scotland	Safer Schools Safer Links	The project will be a fun and inclusive way of promoting the serious message of road safety.	£1,063.66
Leith Primary Parent Council	Outdoor learning at Leith Primary	Giving our city kids the opportunity to participate in outdoor learning challenges is a key part of their education. The Leith Primary P6 visit to Benmore can do this.	£2,500
Creative Electric	Sinking Horses - Theatre created & performed by females exploring mental health.	Sinking Horses explores mental health informed by real life experiences. Woman from Leith will create the show and perform Sinking Horses at Leith Theatre as part of Hidden Door Festival.	£2,500
Leith DIY Skate park	Leith DIY Skate park	For the community to build a skate park in a derelict site in Leith. This facility will be created by anyone who wants to be involved and is ultimately for use by all.	£2,000



# Council Election Hustings

## April 2017

To support our community in playing an active role in local democracy we organised a hustings for Leith Ward 13, chaired by Jim Scanlon.



Four candidates attended from the Conservatives, Greens, Labour, & SNP. (Lib Dem candidate was invited but did not attend).

Over forty people from our community attended, including six Community Councillors.



Each candidate gave their answer to all twelve questions from the audience, on subjects as diverse as poverty, rubbish collection, libraries, the benefits system and the local environment.

A full report of the evening is available on our website.





## **Working with other Community Councils**

At Leith Links Community Council we recognise the value of Community Councils working together on areas of shared interest. Many issues could impact on Leith as a whole and even wider, not just on the very small corner that is Leith Links – for example, transport links, big developments that propose to build new housing but may not fully consider the overall local infrastructure – schools, transport, GP services etc.

We have a long history of working with other Leith Community Councils and we look forward to developing this further in future.

With recent changes to how public authorities in Edinburgh deliver local services, we now find ourselves within the 'North East Locality' area and view this as an opportunity to progress closer working / communication arrangements with our peers.

Since we were elected in 2016 we have organised various joint events;

- January 2017 - Leith Community Councils social evening
- February 2017 – Licensing training event for North East Edinburgh Community Councils.
- February 2017 – Scottish Government Planning System review/consultation; information evening for Edinburgh Community Councils.
- March 2017 – Planning training event for North East Edinburgh Community Councils.
- March 2017 – Policing 2026 consultation event for Edinburgh Community Councils.
- June 2017 – We are planning a joint 'stall' with Leith Central and Leith North and Harbour CCs, at the Leith Festival Gala Day on the Links. Come and meet us there!

# Seafield smell

Our community is regularly affected by odour nuisance from the local sewage plant; this problem is frequently discussed by our Community Council.

LLCC continues to play a role in seeking a resolution to this issue. We attend 'Stakeholder' meetings with the plant operators to scrutinise their work and fight for improvements, and we write to campaign for more effective action. We urge those affected by the disgusting smells always to report nuisance odour occurrences, so that it cannot be claimed that the smells have 'gone away'. In support, we delivered leaflets to over five thousand local homes, providing contact numbers and advice (also distributing this info via our social media channels).



## Street prostitution

The Community Council regularly discusses this known ongoing issue that is very disturbing for local residents, and continues to report local concerns to both Police Scotland & elected representatives, routinely challenging them on the action they are taking to address issues associated with street prostitution.

## Planning - new building in Leith Links area

# LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING SALAMANDER PLACE DEVELOPMENT


Leith Links Community Council will be receiving a presentation from Theodor Development's Holder Planning regarding their application to develop a housing & non housing development at the former 8-25 Salamander Place.

This meeting will assist in informing the Council and Leith Links Community Council of the planning application to the city of Edinburgh & the capacity of statutory committee.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and will be permitted to ask questions & pose comments. Staff questions, answers & comments may be included by the Community Council in its formal report.

Please note that the deadline for members of the public to submit comments into the planning process has passed (17/10).

<https://www.leithlinkscc.org.uk/publications/online-public-consultation/leith-links-communitys-response-to-theodor-developments-proposed-development-at-8-25-salamander-place>



### MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016

18:30

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (Kirkgate)

LLCC is a statutory consultee on big Planning decisions (we also send in comments on smaller applications for Planning Permission). We take a proactive approach, working with developers and the community to share information, explore concerns and convey these to Planning authorities. While new homes are obviously needed, we try to represent you in ensuring that any proposed new developments in our area are suitable, and that infrastructure issues are addressed.

**SMELLS around Leith Links!**  
**from the Seafield Sewage plant**  
**DON'T GIVE UP**  
**PLEASE ALWAYS COMPLAIN!**



**Smell sewage?**

**Phone:**

0131-469-5641 (office hours)

0131-200-2000 (24 hours)

**Email:**

Just to register a complaint:

[publichealth@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Give your location, date and time, and a description of the smell and how strong it is.

**Smell 'burning rubber'?**

That needs reporting as pollution to SEPA.

**Phone:**

0800-80-70-60 (24 hours)

**And - watch this space - Leith Links Residents Assoc. will be circulating an update on a simpler 'single point of contact' for complaints as soon as this has been established.**

**LEITH LINKS**  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



[www.leithlinksgcc.org.uk](http://www.leithlinksgcc.org.uk)



@LeithLinks\_CC



/LeithlinksCC



## MEET US, CONTACT US

Come along to a meeting – the last Monday of every month, except July and December, in the Shore Room, Leith Community Education Centre, New Kirkgate, 7 – 9pm.

In addition to coming along to one of our regular events / meetings, you can easily follow our work and find out more information about us online. 'Like' us on FaceBook, comment, respond; 'Follow' us on Twitter and retweet; sign up for email alerts every time a new post is added to our website.

Additionally we routinely publish leaflets & posters which are distributed across the local community.



[www.LeithLinksCC.org.uk](http://www.LeithLinksCC.org.uk)



[/LeithLinksCC](https://www.facebook.com/LeithLinksCC)



[@LeithLinks\\_CC](https://twitter.com/LeithLinks_CC)



[contact@LeithLinksCC.org.uk](mailto:contact@LeithLinksCC.org.uk)