

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 29 MAY 2018

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE NEW KIRKGATE

Councillors Present: Stephen Brennan, Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Adrian Graham, Angus Hardie, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Chrissie Reid, Jacqueline Rogers, Jim Scanlon (Chair), John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair), Michael Traill.

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Adam McVey.

In attendance: Caroline Galloway (Comprehensive Design Architects), Catriona Gray (Comprehensive Design Architects), Rob Levick (Leith Harbour & Newhaven Community Council), PC Lauren Mitchell, PC Chris ??, Jamie Parish (Comprehensive Design Architects), Keith Stark (Enterprise/City Car Club), Danny Teague (Teague Group), members of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from David Igoe, Eileen Simpson, Ben Macpherson MSP and Cllr Gordon Munro.

2. Police Report

Operation Close Pass

This education project deals with vehicles passing too close to cyclists. Officers carried out an initiative on 21 May on Bonnington Road, where there have been complaints. 12 drivers stopped.

Drugs

A significant seizure of heroin and crack cocaine worth £300,000 was made last month thanks to the surveillance team. There are more initiatives coming up next month related to drugs.

The Safer Communities team from Glasgow came to Leith last month to carry out high visibility patrols, particularly in the Kirkgate area. There were several stop and searches and warrant executions for drugs seizures, yielding a significant amount of drugs. Complaints in the Portland Street area led to another successful seizure of drugs.

Prostitution

One male seen on the Links, was charged.

Anti-Social Behaviour Day of Action

This was announced on Twitter: it focused on bicycle theft and damage to benches in the Kirkgate.

Road check

An initiative in Leith and Craigmillar led to 57 cars being stopped with owners not in possession of appropriate documents.

Doorstep crime

A Day of Action focused on a visit to the Over-50s Club in Leith Community Centre, speaking to attendees about police work on targeting doorstep crime.

Chair thanked the officers for attending.

3.0 AGM 2017-2018

See separate Minutes

Cllr Booth chaired the AGM, 7.00-7.45pm

4. Minutes of previous Meeting

No Minutes were presented at this meeting, due to the the AGM. April 2018 Minutes will be approved at June meeting

5. Visiting Speaker 1

City Car Club/Enterprise Car Club: Keith Stark (Manager for Scotland)

Cllr Booth and Gail Clapton declared an interest, being members themselves.

The Enterprise Car Club, formerly known as the City Car Club, aims to offer a genuine alternative to car ownership. Members can book an appropriate car for any period - from half an hour upwards to as long as they need. Enterprise was recently re-appointed to run the City Car Club for the next five years. Under their control, the membership prices have dropped by 60% and the utilisation costs have dropped by about 40%. The Club now has around 185 cars in Edinburgh and is moving up to 200 cars.

Leith bays

New developments in Leith Links include a new bay in Wellington Place (as well as Vanburgh Place, Elbe Street, Salamander Street). Keith confirmed that they seek the support of the community councils when making any new applications for bays. There are around ten bays in the neighbouring areas of Leith: Assembly St., Cables Wynd, Casselbank St. New bays have been added in Balfour St, Dalmeny St..Cars are put down in clusters within around five minutes of each other to enable greater choice.

Booking app and membership

One of the innovations introduced by Enterprise has been a new online app enabling car booking in less than 30 seconds. The app advises users of the closest location of cars. Cars can be booked for either immediate use or up to a year in advance. There is a card reader in the windscreen of the car: this opens the car and activates the pin pad which contains the keys The Club now only costs £20 a year to join and there are around 7000 members in Edinburgh. Since prices dropped, Car club utilisation has gone up by around 100%. A member can also pay a supplement to reduce the insurance excess.

Vehicles available

There is a mixture of automatic and manual cars available: one difficulty for those drivers used to manual cars is that 30% of the fleet is hybrids for environmental reasons, and these are only available as automatics. Enterprise do offer informal introductions to using automatics for those unfamiliar with them. The Club also offers vans, with the nearest located in Salamander Street and Cables Wynd.

Two-way journeys

A member of the public noted that it is only possible to leave a car in the location from which it was hired and asked if there were plans to provide alternative options for returning cars to other locations. Keith explained that the problem with one-way trips is that these encourage car use, rather than encouraging people not to own cars.

Fuelling and electric charging

The driver can go to any fuel station to refuel and doesn't pay, but uses the Enterprise card to record mileage and pay for fuel. The Enterprise car club then charges his/ her account 15p a mile to cover fuel costs.

Electric charging points are not in use by the Club at the moment but a paper offering three options is being considered by the next CEC Transport Committee. The Club has had several electric vehicles but there are few charging points in the city at present and the Club is loath to hog these at the expense of private electric vehicle owners. Keith did however note that the Club has 25-30 users for each electric vehicle, so each one serves a much greater number of users than a private vehicle would. Some electric vehicles do have suitable charging locations: Edinburgh University has charging points in George Square and High School Yards and this arrangement works well. At present, however, the Club is focusing on plug-in Prius hybrids, which have very low emissions when using fuel and are much more versatile.

Chair commented that he had once seen a user of an Enterprise vehicle pick up a street prostitute and Keith responded that although he was unaware of this, it could be reported to police as this would be a police matter.

Chair thanked Keith for his interesting presentation and for answering questions. More details at: www.enterprisecarclub.co.uk

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Visiting Speaker 2

Teague development on Salamander Place: Caroline Galloway and team

Accompanied by Danny Teague of Teague Homes, Caroline Galloway, the architect for the design team for the central portion of the Teague development on Salamander Place, brought a team to speak about greenspace development and the public art interpretation scheme, within the next phase of the development (which already has planning permission in principle). Caroline explained that they are

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

currently focusing on the central portion of the site. This will include large apartment building, lower density buildings, a new central park and an extension to the existing allotments. There are to be 161 housing units in total; this particular phase includes 60 of that total.

Park space and allotments

James explained that within the central area there are to be three key landscape elements. One is a central park space of 40m x 70m. It will be framed by trees and blocks of hedges which will separate it slightly from Leith Links, and will contain a seating element. The proposal includes a natural play area using materials such as felled trees. There will be a mixture of hard and soft surfacing for play, a large lawn, and a hard space which could contain football goals and/or other similar resources.

The extension to allotments will be connected to Leith Links via a new cycle path. There will also be a new pedestrian access point. The extension will provide a 28% net increase on the existing allotments. Some older allotments are lost but owners are OK with the replacement e.g. Edinburgh Leisure plot works with people with disability, and the new one will be more accessible for them.

History and landscaping

There are a number of interesting historic elements that the team wants to emphasise. The varied history of the site includes a rope works and a smallpox hospital. The gate used to access the allotments will be designed in remembrance of the Dig for Victory allotments.

The most striking part of the planned new public square is the Victorian chimney which will be restored and highlighted for events such as a 'market square' or gathering space. It is overlooked by the colony housing and allotments. It will be open to the public but the factoring costs will be met by the residents. Tree species may be columnar oaks, to reference the chimney, and Katsura trees, whose leaves have a candy floss scent in autumn. The trees finally chosen, whether native or non-native, will be suitable to thrive in the sand-based soil, and local tree disease risks will be taken into account.

There was discussion about the historical origin of a planned golf memorial. The original rules of golf were drawn up in Leith, as recorded in the City Archives. The second hole on the third tee was marked by a cairn within the space that Teague is developing, and Teague are going to provide a memorial. James offered assurance that discussions would be held with Leith Local History Society and representatives of Cairns Landscaping as regards the park memorial.

A member of Leith Local History Society commented that they have received planning consent for a statue to John Rattray of the Honourable Association of Edinburgh Golfers on Leith Links, to be located on the site of the original first hole. Teague has offered a donation towards the costs. The statue has been cast and is in storage. £37,000 is still however required for the remaining costs.

Chair declared an interest, being a member of Leith Golf Club.

Chair commented on foul language being used by the builders and Danny responded that this was unacceptable and asked for an email to be sent.

ACTION: Chair will email Teague as regards builders' language.

Impact on local services

A member of the public asked about the impact on schools. Danny responded that a specific education contribution is required of Teague by law and is paid in phases (every 12 months or at the completion of any phase in the 12 months when new residents have moved in). Link Housing is part of this: it is providing two sets of affordable houses (145 affordable housing units and 200 at mid-market rent). Phase 1 is 81 private flats of which 60 are already sold off-plan. Phase 2 is 80 flats available in July. The final phase / last units are (estimated) to be completed by 2021.

Details of the proposal

Planning permission is given only in principle for the masterplan (e.g. location and height), and so the detail of the proposal will probably be made available in June 2018. Chair asked whether Teague would take account of the fact that this is summer holiday time and Danny assured LLCC that later comments could also be taken into account.

Parking spaces

There was a discussion about the need for parking spaces. There is a concern over whether there will be sufficient parking spaces. Flats will have ground level parking with landscaped decks above and driveways provide the houses with parking. Some Enterprise Club bays will be made available, but Danny acknowledged that most residents would probably still prefer to own a car. However Teague has been discouraged by CEC from offering parking above minimum requirements. Future provision for electric car charging will be required but CEC has not yet specified what will be required. Secure cycle parking in cages will be a significant part of the provision.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LLCC understands that CEC wants to discourage car ownership and use, but is concerned that insufficient parking provision in the Teague development could impact on residential streets in the surrounding area which already suffer from parking “dump” and are effectively a park and ride, which could worsen when the tram is completed. Cllr Booth rejected this view and observed that the very high quality of public transport and cycle infrastructure in Leith has successfully encouraged a car ownership level there of under 50%.

Caroline distributed feedback forms to encourage attendees to comment further.

Chair thanked the Teague team for contributing their time to give their presentations and answer questions.

There followed more general discussion about parking, tram, and recent accidents on Salamander Place

ACTION: Chair will be meeting CEC councillors to discuss Salamander Place traffic problems and whether it could be made one-way.

ACTION: Cllr Booth will ask the Transport Manager to look into recent incidents and accidents on Salamander Place.

6. Leith Festival Gala Day stall

Gala Day is on Saturday 9 June. A joint pitch for LL and LH&N CCs has been booked. Chair called for volunteers to cover the stall throughout the day. There was a brief discussion about what activities could take place alongside general engagement with the public, particularly promoting the idea of the “2-Minute Litter Pick” where people pick up litter regularly e.g. on their daily commute. Dog poo bags could also be given away at the stall. Members to email in with ideas and note their availability for the day.

10. AOCB:

Play Park Designs

These were made available in Leith Library and online. Over 200 people have commented. Jacqueline noted that the visit to St Mary’s Primary School was very successful, and that the children were particularly keen on the proposals for children who have disabilities.

Place Matters (NE Locality) workshops in June and July

The aim of these is to help Leith present itself as a place in its own right.

ACTION: John will attend on behalf of LLCC.

Trams consultation

There is to be a series of workshops, the first on 14 and 27 June. This one focuses on Elm Row and Pilrig Street down to the foot of Leith Walk. Later workshops are hoped to include Constitution Street.

Businesses have been invited and it is hoped that members of the community will also participate. The designs have been changed quite significantly as a result of the public consultation, and the next stage is to explore these further and encourage feedback.

ACTION: Sally will collate the dates of these and other events and circulate them. A representative from LLCC should attend both workshops.

ACTION: John will register to attend the first workshop.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 9pm.

11. Date of Next Meeting: 25 June 2018, 7pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate



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