

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEW KIRKGATE)

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

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Deidre Brock MP, Councillor Adam McVey.

In attendance: PC Callum Clark, PC Margo Darling.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Gordon Munro, Chrissie Reid, Jacqueline Rogers and Eileen Simpson.

2. Police Report

Drugs: A large amount of drugs and money were seized from business premises, thanks to information from the community.

20 mph limit: Complaints are still coming in regarding drivers not respecting the 20mph limit, particularly around Restalrig Road/Lochend Road and Claremont Park. Officers are planning another traffic check to capture various offences such as speeding and uninsured/untaxed driving.

Bike marking: this will take place again on 18 October, 11am-2pm, at the Ripple Project at the Hub. Children's bikes can also be marked and registered.

Bonfire Night: Police are preparing for 5th November (Operation Pumpkin) especially carefully after last year's problems. Officers will check fireworks sellers' licences and are hoping for information from the community on where bonfires are being built, stockpiling of fireworks, selling to underage customers, etc.

Attacks in the Links area: there have been reports on social media of 'near' attacks on two women, although these have not yet been reported to the police. Officers are giving the area extra attention.

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 27 August 2018 and Matters Arising

Proposed by Michael Traill; seconded by Gail Clapton. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

4. Campervans and Caravans on the Links

One caravan has been removed after police investigation but some remain, as owners have come forward. There has been a caravan and cars parking on an unmarked bus stop. Cllrs Booth and McVey have raised this and CEC is now seeking a Temporary Traffic Order in order to remove vehicles and get the appropriate road markings painted.

Police were once again asked to help to deal with the car with an overseas plate abandoned in Summerfield Place for well over a year, as CEC Parking Dept. have not acted.

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ACTION: PC Clark will check out the abandoned car, and the caravan parked on the bus stop.

ACTION: Cllr McVey will contact Darren Ryan about repainting bus stop markings again.

5. Consultations on Governance and Community Planning Arrangements

Democracy Matters & EACC

John Tibbitt reported that Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) had suggested reorganising into a new governance structure, linking with localities and emphasising its importance to the Edinburgh Partnership. However discussions had foundered inconclusively. LLCC felt that an enhanced role for EACC could be controversial, as many Community Councils do not participate (18/47). Michael Trail put forward a motion to notify EACC that LLCC no longer intends to participate, as LLCC is instead focusing on work at locality level. Motion rejected. MT then put forward a motion, seconded by Stephen Brennan, that John stand in the October 25 EACC election. Motion carried.

Geoff Pearson (Northfield & Willowbrae CC) is suggesting a joint meeting of NE Locality CCs if practicable. Agreed that LLCC would be willing to participate.

ACTION: John will stand for election to the EACC committee.

ACTION: Angus will contact other CCs in the North-East Locality about an open meeting discussing Local Democracy.

Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership meeting and Local Governance Review

Cllr McVey summarised the recent Partnership meeting, which had agreed to focus on three key themes: enough income for a good quality of life, a home and a good place to live in (including public transport), and access to education, work and training. The next step for community planning is to link this to localities in a meaningful way, and to look at how communities can be better represented, engaged, and empowered at a more local level. Current structures are not right and could get over-complicated. The Partnership aims to come back with improved ideas in October. The role of Community Councils has not yet been discussed in depth, though Cllr McVey personally favours giving them enhanced decision making powers on local matters.

6. Parks and Green Spaces Committee

Consultation on Ladyboys/La Clique

LLCC's online consultation on the Ladyboys using the Links throughout August 2019 received 56 formal responses and many more informal comments. On balance, respondents were opposed. LLCC sent a summary of responses to CEC. LLCC asked CEC for clearer information on how decisions are made and was directed to a 'Manifesto' and 'Rules for Events' (both out of date). CEC has confirmed that a Section 11 exemption is needed for activities of 6 days or more, so the event would need community consultation and formal approval from Scottish Government. Chair had discovered that the bond last paid by the Ladyboys for using the Meadows was £20,000.

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7. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee

Transport and Environment (City Mobility, Low Emission Zones, 'Edinburgh Transformation')

Sally & Jim are attending a workshop on 22 Oct. Closing 12 November, individuals should please all fill in Online Survey at: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/connecting-our-city-transforming-our-places/>

New local developments – Steads Place, Barratts, Sundial etc.

Steads Place: Comments by 28 September. LLCC is sending in an objection, as resolved by an earlier vote. Community Councillors may also comment as individuals.

Barratts, Salamander Street: LLCC members attended a pre-application meeting for this major development of reasonably priced (mid-market) homes, with one block of 'affordable rent' homes to be administered by a housing association. The full planning application is pending.

Sundial, Baltic Street: Sundial specialise in listed buildings, and plan to create housing and business units at the old Leith Gas Works. **ACTION: LLCC members will attend PAN meeting, to see details.**

Licensing

There is a consultation open currently, with particular focus on overprovision of alcohol in Leith.

ACTION: Sally & Andrew will draft and submit LLCC response.

Point of Information - Geoff Pearson of Northfield & Willowbrae CC has been co-opted on to the CEC Licensing Forum and has invited inputs from Community Councils.

Trams

The next round of public consultation opens 1st October – 28th October, focusing in more detail on the whole route. Meanwhile tenders for the work are already in and being assessed. The Constitution Street Residents Group has met with Steven Jackson and Darren Wright of the Trams Team to put forward its ongoing concerns about plans for South Constitution Street, especially re lorries, deliveries, safety, and access for children and people with limited mobility. The Coalition of Leith Community Councils (CCTT) has also met with the Trams team (monthly meeting) and continues to raise questions and seek answers on several concerns. CCTT is now seeking an extension to consultation period. The full Council 'decision' meeting on trams is on 13 December.

Planning Democracy

This organisation is fighting hard to amend the new Planning Bill which is in committee stage, and doing a good job of convincing committee members. Currently there are 360 amendments on the table, mostly opposing the Government position. Demonstration 26th Sept. at Holyrood outside Parliament as Committee discussion proceeds (10am).

8. Seafield Sewage – Update

Ben Macpherson MSP sent the good news that Seafield is in the next Scottish Government programme for major investment in infrastructure. Scottish Water will review future waste water treatment needs. Deidre Brock MP will chair the 28 September stakeholder meeting. Rob Kirkwood

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warns that any focus on the cheapest option may not solve the problem. A private donor is paying for Professor Jackson to contribute his specialist expertise.

9. Participatory Budgeting

Leith Chooses 2018/2019

This will take place again, with £44,000 funding for projects available from CEC. Planning meetings are under way.

Scottish Government Community Choices Funding

Feedback had been supplied on LLCC's unsuccessful application. Sally Millar proposed and Jim Scanlon seconded a motion to submit an application for a 'Support Grant' of £3,000, focusing on (1) minority ethnic group participation, and removing barriers to participation, generally (2) publicising and supporting PB, to be used to support the current Leith Chooses project. Motion was carried.

ACTION: Sally will draft and submit an application.

PB Festival

This was only very recently announced and will take place on 24-25 October.

<https://pbscotland.scot/festival> Sally invited suggestions as to how LLCC might make a contribution.

The Leith Chooses team is hoping to make a short video celebrating Leith successes, which may go on the PBScotland website.

ACTION: Sally will coordinate any other suggestions made by email.

10. Any Other Business

Open Forum: Leith Community Centre Management

A new management committee has been formed and Michael has agreed in principle to stand as Chair. 120 groups and 3000 people a week use the Centre; finance is secure; and support is available for small initiatives. The priority focus is 'business as usual', for now, and to focus on people who face challenges in using the Centre.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Date of Next Public Meeting: 29 October 2018, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6:30



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