

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

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

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Gordon Munro.

In attendance: PC Margo Darling.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP and Ben Macpherson MSP. Chair congratulated Community Councillor Jacqueline Rogers, in her absence, who has just been appointed Head Teacher of St. John's Primary School.

2. Police Report

Annual statistics for the North East area: There have been significant decreases in serious assaults and robberies, but an increase in minor assaults, compared to last year. Hate crime and housebreaking remain at similar levels. Break-ins and theft from cars have greatly decreased.

Recent speed and road traffic check initiatives, Claremont Park and locally: Officers issued a HORT-1, a speeding ticket, and 35 warnings, a drink-driving ticket, and checked 15 commercial vehicles for authorised ID. *Joint DVLA operation:* a van loaded with fireworks and 11 cars were removed for lack of road tax.

ACTION: Officers will readdress the ongoing prostitution problem once the fireworks initiative is over.

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 24 September 2018 and Matters Arising

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

ACTION: Angus will contact the other North-East Locality CCs about a joint, open meeting on Local Democracy.

4. Campervans and Caravans on the Links

CEC are removing those caravans that are parked illegally on Links Gardens. A TRO is being obtained in order to get the two remaining bus stops properly marked. This is an ongoing problem. Cllrs Booth

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and Munro have looked into whether signs could be installed to deter overnight parking, but this seems difficult / requires a traffic regulation order. The abandoned Jaguar has finally been uplifted from Summerfield Place.

ACTION: Cllr Booth will investigate whether it would be feasible to apply for a TRO and install signage.

ACTION: Sally will compile a 'history' of prior complaints to show that this is a long-running problem, not just a recent 'blip'

ACTION: PC Darling will investigate a caravan which has been recently dumped on Johns Place.

5. Local Democracy matters

Feedback from EACC & Update from Edinburgh Partnership

John is standing for Vice-Chair of EACC, and a vote will be held in November. Ross Murray, Governance Officer of CEC, spoke on the review of community councils. A draft scheme will be available in January 2019. CEC is focusing on creating a clearer code of conduct, standardising constitutions, and re-allocating resources in the Local Governance Review. The draft Update from Edinburgh Partnership will be available from November 2018. The new locality structure in the city affects community councils, and boundaries could change. The role of EACC is being explored.

ACTION: LLCC (John, Angus) will invite the other North East community councils to meet on 29 November, for local discussions.

6. Parks and Green Spaces Committee

Leith Links Playpark upgrade

Funding of £293,000 is now in place and work is expected to start on the playpark in March 2019.

Toilets enquiry

A member of the public has complained about footballers and supporters urinating on doorsteps and in the Links. Public toilets on the Links are unlikely to be feasible. Complaints should be directed to Leith Athletic, the Parks Officer, and the police. Crops and Pots has reported similar problems. Police Scotland has been informed.

ACTION: Cllr Booth will speak to Environmental Wardens. Cllr Munro will contact Leith Athletic.

Applications for use of Links for Leith Festival Funfair, and Leith Festival Gala Day 2019

Leith Festival is concerned about increasing charges for use of the Links. However, CEC Licensing Dept. has agreed that local community events should be charged less than commercial events, so this problem should be resolved.

Mela

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Chrissie is collating a list of complaints received from members of the public, about noise, parking and insufficient bin provision in order to forward these to the organizers.

ACTION: Sally will send Chrissie additional complaints received, to complete the list.

John Rattray statue

The landscaping has been carried out, with marram grass and wildflowers on hummocks. Another £25,000 of funding is needed for the statue. Cllr Munro is investigating whether CEC will adopt the statue when it is finished (re maintenance costs).

Dumping

Construction materials (fencing?) have been dumped on the Links (beside the Just Eat bikes).

ACTION: Cllr Booth will report the dumping.

7. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee

Stead's Place: The LLCC Sub Committee has put in an objection to this application to demolish and redevelop. *Barratts* are applying to build affordable and rental housing on Baltic Street, which looks quite attractive. *Sundial* is proposing to develop the old Leith Gas Works but there may be soil contamination, which could affect viability. There is a pre-application meeting in the Malmaison Hotel on Wed 1 November, 3-7pm to outline their plans to the public.

Coatfield Lane: there is a planning application to demolish flats and lock-ups. 15 objections have been put in so far. It is not in the LLCC area but community councillors might object as it will remove trees and reduce greenspace, and may not be compatible with issues raised by the trams designs.

Trams: CCTT update

Rory Garriock is on sick leave so there has been a lack of updates on the tram plans. CEC has extended the planning period for by three months, to ensure that all tenders take full account of what will be required.

There are two designs for Constitution Street (but only one was made available for public view at some recent consultations). One, responding to local residents' concerns about lack of access to their homes, takes out the western footpath completely, creating 'shared space' for trams, pedestrians and all other traffic, but allowing limited delivery / loading/parking. The other is the original alignment allowing walking and cycling, but with severe restrictions on general traffic, with no parking or loading. The second has been accepted by the Access Panel and Active Travel organisations. There may be a strategic review of zone parking along the tram route.

ACTION: LLCC will put in a response to the consultation which closes soon, as well as contributing to the CCTT response, and individuals also responding.

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Edinburgh Bus Users Group (EBUG)

This now has a Twitter account, @EdinburghBug. The group's current business includes responding to various CEC consultations, developing a Constitution, and planning future activity.

8. Seafield Sewage

Complaints are still regularly being made on the website. LLCC Councillors will visit Seafield at 10am on 17 November to be shown round the site.

9. Participatory Budgeting – Update – Sally

Leith Chooses 2018/2019

The steering group meets weekly. The launch on 20 November will be advertised online and by poster. Applications must be in by 21 January 2019, Voting will be on 23 February 2019. There is £44,000 available this year. Only constituted groups can apply. The maximum grant will be £5,000.00 There will be no online voting, as CEC lacks suitable IT. The themes address inequalities: (1) food, including alcohol; and (2) supporting vulnerable people. Engaging with minority ethnic communities is a key aim.

PB Festival

LLCC made a video for the Festival, now available on the PB Scotland website, interviewing a small sample of last year's participants.

10. Any Other Business

Fracking

Falkirk community councils need to hire a QC to represent them, to try and object to Ineos' plan to introduce fracking in the Central Belt of Scotland (which could also affect Edinburgh & Leith Links). The Scottish Government still supports a moratorium, but not an outright ban – and Ineos is a rich and powerful opponent. There was a motion for LLCC to take a position against fracking; carried 11-1 abstention. A second motion supported sending a small donation of £100. 11 supported the motion; one abstained.

ACTION: LLCC will send a donation of £100 to the Falkirk CCs.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Date of Next Public Meeting: 26 November 2018, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6:30