

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 26 NOVEMBER 2018 LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

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

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Gordon Munro.

In attendance: PC Margo Darling, PC Lauren Mitchell.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Angus Hardie, Ben Macpherson MSP.

2. Police Report

Chief Inspector Gill Geaney now manages the local team.

Fire-damaged building at the bowling green: this has been securely sealed and local officers are patrolling after complaints of public urinating. Local residents are concerned about its future. CEC intend to carry out repairs and lease it to a charity.

ACTION: Cllr Booth will find out who CEC intends to lease the building to, and inform LLCC.

Obstructive parking: officers uplifted 6 vehicles and clamped 6 others in the Gordon St/Manderston St area. They also patrolled at St Mary's School twice and issued one person with a ticket. The streets immediately around the school are to be closed off at school drop-off times, but it is taking CEC a long time to implement this policy decision.

ACTION: Cllr Booth will raise the school parking issues with CEC Road Safety.

Fireworks Night: this went well. Police received 53% fewer calls than last year.

Christmas patrols: shoplifting and related crimes will be a priority.

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 29 October 2018 and Matters Arising

Proposed by Michael Traill; seconded by Andrew Mackenzie. Available at <https://leithlinksccl.org.uk/>

Outstanding actions

Bus stop markings: Two bus stops have not yet been properly marked. One on the west side of Links Gardens, nearest the traffic lights at Restalrig Road, one outside Great Michael House on Links Place.

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ACTION: Cllr Booth will chase this up.

John Rattray statue: the protective fence was damaged by a fallen tree but has been replaced.

4. Campervans and Caravans on the Links

An unregistered caravan at Links Gardens has been removed. The other caravans are there lawfully.

5. Local Democracy

Feedback from EACC

John and Chair attended the EACC AGM. John has been elected as Vice-Chair and LLCC will support him in this role. His election may signal a will for change in the group / change the dynamic. There may be new opportunities for EACC, particularly with regard to the Edinburgh Partnership.

NE Locality, Democracy Matters

John and Angus have not so far found a suitable date for a joint discussion meeting of NE Locality CCs, and there is no progress to date on formulation of a response to the the Scottish Government Democracy Matters consultation.

ACTION: Angus will be asked to draw up a draft response on behalf of LLCC, and circulate it for comments - the closing date is 30 November.

6. Parks and Green Spaces Committee

Jac has worked hard for this committee but is presently unable to attend meetings due to new job.

ACTION: Chair will email her in January to see whether she can carry on.

Leith Links Playpark upgrade

Evelyn Kilmurray had sent an email reiterating that the plan for the playpark is going out to tender.

ACTION: Chair will contact Evelyn for an update.

Litter

There are ongoing complaints of litter after events such as Leith Athletic football matches. It was noted that these problems should be dealt with by the event organisers themselves.

Toilets on the Links

It is unlikely that these could be installed, due to the expense.

ACTION: Michael, Gail & Sally will start to draft a set of FAQs for LLCC website on how to find out / complain about the Links, as this is currently confusing for people (no central contact point).

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Applications for use of the Links for events

No decision yet made about the Ladyboys/La Clique yet. Cllr Munro has told CEC that this event would have an excessive impact overall, as it would run for three weeks.

ACTION: Sally will email CEC to clarify the timeline for making the decision on this.

7. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee

New local developments

89 Constitution St: Andrew has asked for an extension to the deadline for responding as the current proposal needs clarification. Cllr Munro noted that CEC Transport Committee would be involved as the premises would be on the tram route.

Sundial development: Sundial will not submit planning application for Baltic Street before 2019.

Licensing – CC voice

LLCC submitted a comment to the earlier stage of consultation. The CEC Licensing Board has not till now notified community councils of alcohol licensing applications, but supposedly will do so from now on. **ACTION: Sally will check this – no sign of any such notifications so far.**

Trams – CCTT update

There are only two tender bids. The bids will be examined and debated at CEC March 2019. The CCTT group is next meeting the trams team on 6 December. The Constitution Street Residents' Group has met with elected Councillors and the trams team, and PoLH, with a follow-up meeting in January. The first meeting was positive but major practical problems remain unresolved. As the street is so narrow, the choice is losing either parking and deliveries / loading space, or losing pavement space and creating a 'shared space' that is potentially unsafe for pedestrians, and unsuitable for disabled people..

Buses

EBUG is drawing up a constitution and planning to hold a public meeting. There is to be a consultation on extending all bus lanes to 7am-7pm to relieve congestion and speed up journeys, which EBUG will support.

8. Seafield Sewage – Update

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LLCC had a worthwhile and informative visit to the plant. Managers expressed keenness to engage more with the community, e.g. on social media or Open Days. The plant can cope with the rising population of the city, but there are fears that odours might increase. It might be worth seeking funding for monitoring devices outwith the site, around in our community, as they cost only around £5,000 each.

9. Participatory Budgeting – Update

Leith Chooses 2018/2019 was launched publicly last week. Leaflets and poster will soon be available, including translations into various different languages. There will be support sessions in December and January, and a short video to explain the new voting system. Voting Day is 23rd February and volunteers for the day will be required.

10. Any Other Business

The Friends of Dalmeny Park group has been successfully reconvened and there are some funds remaining from its previous incarnation.

There will be no meeting in December. Chair thanked all attendees and wished them a Happy Christmas and New Year.. Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 28 January 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30